

Chapter 16 Sons of Utah Pioneers

About 1982, we had moved back to St. George to take care of my wife's Mother who was suffering from Alzheimer's and bad health. I was working for KSL Television in Salt Lake City, working a shift of seven day on and 13 days off. We were happy to be able to get close to my Brother Orden and his wife Afton. They were very active in RV's (recreational traveling in motorized vehicles).

We were members of the Red-Rock-Road-Runners RV group that would travel monthly to different locations as a group. We enjoyed the opportunity of visiting different areas where we traveled, normally with in 3 or 4 hours travel from St. George. (See Chapter 19)



My brother held a leadership position in the Cotton Mission Chapter of the Sons of the Utah pioneers. I have previously been a member of an organizations called the "Mormon Battalion Association" in Salt Lake City.

The Mormon Battalion Association was formed to emulate the only unit in American Military history bearing a religious title and being comprised entirely of recruits from a single religion. The official history of the United States Army was "Mormon Battalion of Volunteers, Army of the West, U. S. Army the West"



The original 1846-47 Mormon Battalion was like no other unit to ever serve into the United States military. An independent battalion in the Army of the West during the Mexican-American War, it remains the only religious unit ever recruited from a single religion using a religious unit designation, the nickname of the Christian church from which it was drawn, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints .



Most of my participation was wear my uniform for parades and other activities honoring the memory of the Mormon Battalion.

My Great Great Grandfather. John W Hess and his Wife Emeline Bigler were members of the famed Mormon Battalion (see www.alfredbateman.org/history) I felt that it was an honor to in an organization honoring those like my great great grand parents.

I have always dedicated my life in honoring the great pioneering histories. My Wife Gaye had the honor of sitting on the lap of a Mormon pioneer, her **Grand** Father David H. Cannon Jr. and being told the stories of Settling St, George as a member of the original group settling in St. George, Utah.

We read in history records that her Great Great Grandfather David H. Cannon, Temple President of the St. George Temple was called to Logan Utah to help my Great Great Grandfather Marriner Wood Merrill set up the operation of the new Logan LDS Temple.



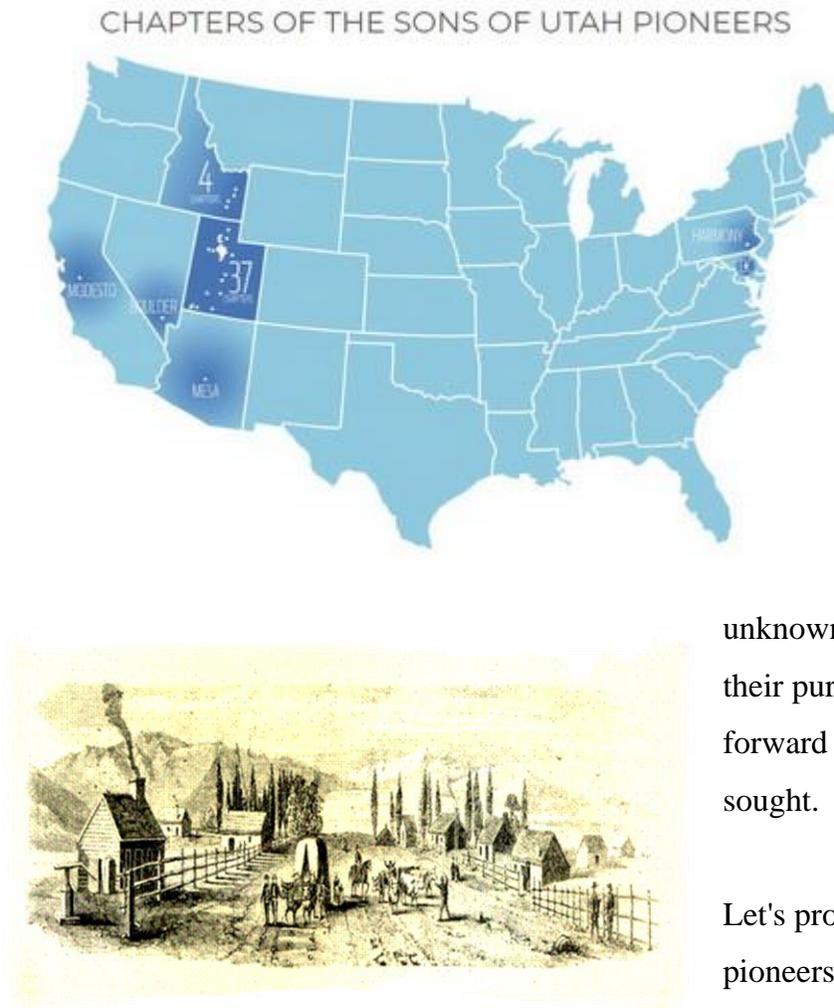
The Mission of the Sons of Utah Pioneers



Come to know our fathers and turn our hearts to them. Preserve the memory and heritage of the early pioneers of the Utah Territory and the western U.S. 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.

Mission



Our mission is to learn more of our venerable Mormon Pioneers who conquered the West. Understand more of their heroic struggle. Appreciate more their dauntless faith in God, their devotion to their church and to their families, their amazing courage and determination as they faced

unknown frontiers, and the integrity of their purpose that kept them moving forward until they achieved what they sought.

Let's promote the spirit of these early pioneers in the present day. Today's world urgently calls for the same faith

and purpose, the same courage and determination, the same values required of our pioneer forefathers. And what of Tomorrow? It was for their posterity that they persevered and overcame. Let us pass on to our posterity the virtues and values that made our forefathers' lives meaningful.

There are 44 SUP chapters of Utah pioneers, with 37 of them in Utah. The headquarters is located in Salt Lake City, Utah

The National Society of the Sons of the Utah pioneers located in Salt Lake City provides the over all leadership for the SUP, has a Board of Directors and electret's a new president each year. William Critchlow III shown on the far right in the Picture was also my Mission



Group of the past presidents of the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers

Director at the St. George Temple Visitors Center

Pioneer ancestors is not a requirement to have membership in the Sons of the Utah Pioneers. I

joined the COTTON MISSION

CHAPTER shortly after we

moved back to St. George. The

name of the chapter was named after the Historic Pioneer Cotton

Mission and Factory located in Washington, Utah.

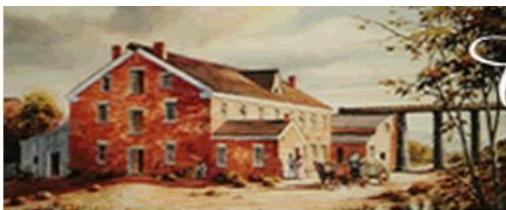


COTTON MISSION CHAPTER



Board of directors. My brother, Orden is in the light-colored jacket and I am hiding to the far left in the picture

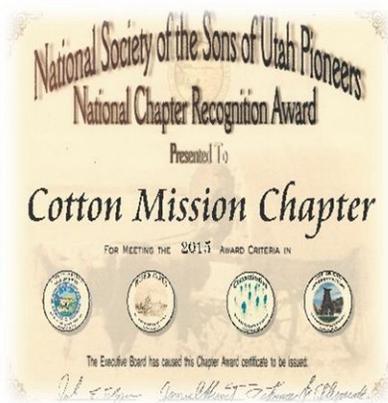
With my brother in a leadership position, it didn't take long before I was offered an assignment.



Cotton Mission Chapter
Sons of Utah Pioneers

My first assignment was to the Chapter Recognition wards annual submission. It included four categories:

1. PIONEER VALUES RECOGNITION
2. STRENGTHENING MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION
3. COMMUNICATION RECOGNITION
4. HISTORICAL PRESERVATION RECOGNITION



Based on the competition of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers Chapters, The Cotton Mission chapter was first for several years.



The St. George, Utah-based Cotton Mission Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers shares the mission of the National Society of Sons of

*COTTON MISSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
I am located on back row, second from the right*

Utah Pioneers, which is to: *Come to know our fathers and turn our hearts to them.

*Preserve the memory and heritage of the early pioneers of the Utah Territory and the western U.S.

*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.



Scholarship Program

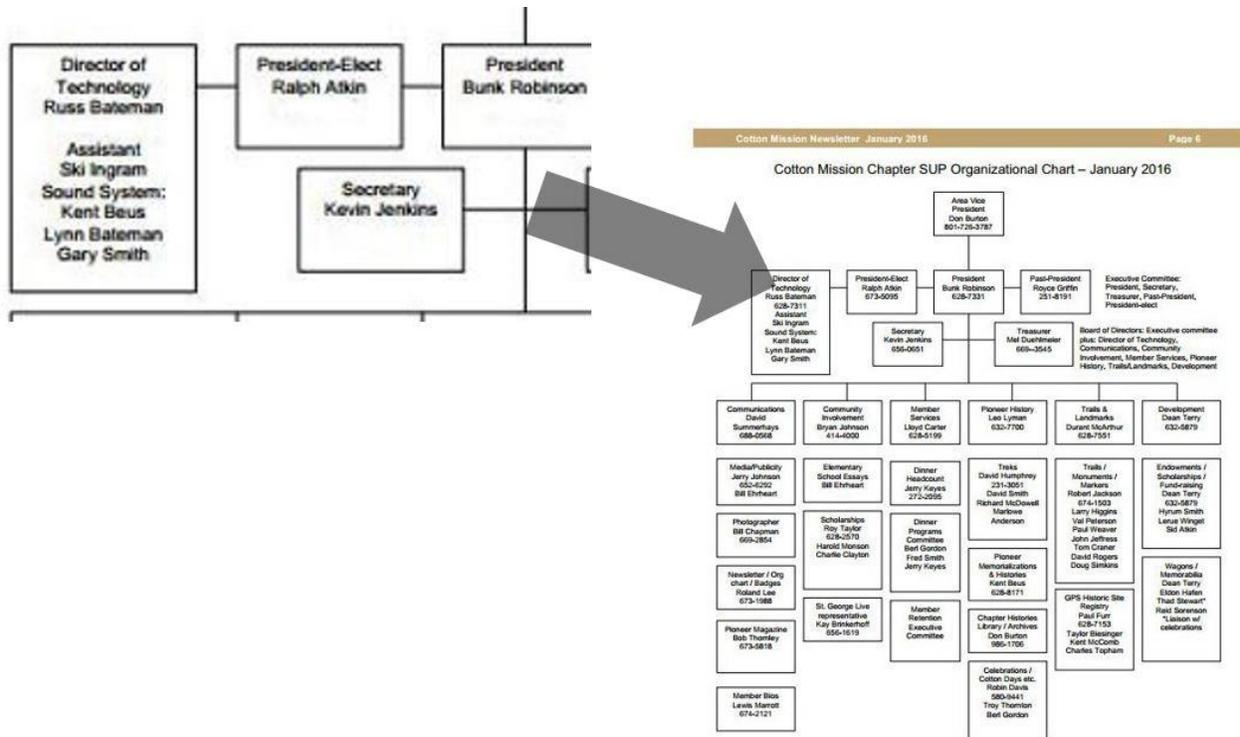
The Cotton Mission Chapter supports local students with an endowed scholarship program, awarded every



April to graduating seniors. In 2017, the Chapter awarded \$9,000 in scholarships.

I became a member of the SUP Cotton Mission Board of Directors, a position that I held for over ten years

Origination chart



At the time I resigned from the Board, due to my moving to Orem, Utah, I Served under the President Elect.

Our Chapter had about ninety members. Wives were invited to all activities but were not members of the Sons of the Utah pioneers. We had

Most LDS Church associated organization are required to submit an annual history. Each chapter of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers are required to write an annual history. I was asked to help digitize, distribute and submit our chapters annual history. We would send a CD disk and a hard copy to Nation. Two disks to the Dixie State University and one copy to the past chapter president.

High school scholarship

Each year, the Cotton Mission awards a Scholarship of \$1,000 to one student in each of the St. George Area High Schools. The Award is based on need and accomplishments of the Students. The chapter forms a committee to research and select the Student. The chapter sets the standards for the awards for the needs of the student.

4th GRADE STUDENT ESSAYS

Jacob Holtzclaw

By Jacob Jepsen

Do you know who built the first iron furnace in Virginia? If not, I'll take you behind the scenes of Jacob Holtzclaw, the greatest great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandfather in all time!

Jacob was born in Truppbach, Germany in 1683. He became a school teacher in Germany. He was twenty-five when he married his wife Margret. They later had two boys named Henry and John.

In April 1714, thirty-one year old Jacob and twenty-eight year old Margret took their two sons across the Atlantic to America with eleven other families. They settled in Germania, Orange County, Virginia. They built the first iron furnace and manufactured the first pig iron in American for Governor Spotswood. Jacob founded the first German reformed church in America also! After six years in Germania, Jacob Holtzclaw and the other families from Germany were able to have their own land farther to the north. They called the town they founded Germantown.

During their first year in Germantown, the colonists packed their provisions from Fundericksberg. Jacob and his family had to walk thirty miles. They raised their first crops using only hoes. There were no draft animals to help. Men and women worked hard. After a few years, they were able to purchase more horses and land. In fact, when Jacob died, he had three-thousand acres of land! He divided it up amongst his children and grandchildren, each getting two-hundred acres.

Their land was good and prosperous. They used their money wisely and soon became very comfortable. Jacob became mayor and one of the three founders of Germantown.

Jacob had a large family. They include John, Henry, Ann Elizabeth, Katharine, Hyrumm, Elizabeth, Alice Katharine, Jacob Jr., Joseph and Eve. Wow what a bunch of kids!

Jacob Holtzclaw's decedents have shown their loyalty to their country by serving in all the wars that been fought by the United States. Here's how they served their country. French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, Virginia Militia, North Carolina Militia, Mohawk War, War of 1812, the Battle of New Orleans, the Florida War of 1819, the Mexican-American War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam, Gulf War, Iraq War.

I'm proud that Jacob Holtzclaw had the courage and faith to bring his family to a new and strange world and how he helped build America into the fine nation it is today.

St. George had four elementary Schools. The Cotton Mission works with the school administrators to encourage 4th grade students to right an Essay on one of their pioneer ancestors. This was popular with school elementary 4th grade history program. The students who wanted to participate would return their ancestor history to the teacher and work with our Chapter 4th grade project manger. The essays would then be judge by the SUP chapter 4th grade committee and a winner from each school would be selected.

The winning essays would be given to me for encoding on the Chapter's web. The students would then be able to search the web for the ancestor and find their essay on the web. At the awards banquet, the winning student would receive an award certificate and a \$20.00 gold coin.



St. George Live



Many of the Cotton Mission members participated with the Historic St. George Live Program.

The St. George Live is a community program supported by the City of St. George and several other groups such as the SUP Cotton Mission. The program is coordinated by the St. George Art Museum located next to the Historic St. George Opera House. I was very active for several seasons in the Historic St. George Live program. My assignments including Web

STARTING LOCATION



The 2-hour tours begin at 10 a.m. daily on Tuesdays through Saturdays, June 1 through August 31, 2017. *One tour with a wool spinner, an Indian flute, and pioneer Chalkton's game is at 9:45 each day.

Master for the St. George Live Web Site which had the scheduling of the Historic Characters. Along with my wife, we took the part of President Erastus Snow and wife for the St. George Live visit at



the Famous Historic St. George Tabernacle. The roll playing Characters would dress like the original personage and tell the story as the Historic person would have told it. I served as the President Erastus Character coordinator for one season.

Visitors to St. George and residents too will meet Brigham Young, Erastus Snow, Orson Pratt, Jacob Hamblin, Judge John Menzies Macfarlane and a woman pioneer this summer as part of the Historic St. George LIVE! tours.

The SUP Cotton Chapter participated in many civil activities such as support of parades held in St. George, City of Washington and Enterprise. Member Dean Terry owned several refurbished historic equipment such as a Stage Coach, buggies, Etc.

Our Chapter took part in parades in St. George,



Washington City, Enterprise and Santa Clara.

Several times the Chapter put a float in the Pioneer Parade on the 24th of July in Salt Lake City

Washington City Days Washington City

The Pioneer Story

Days are dedicated to tell the Pioneer Story. Our chapter is very active in telling the Pioneer Story



with several exhibits.

Hand carts and stagecoaches the exact copy of the original pioneer units and the original unit was refurbished.



Schools were in session during Washington Day and many



elementary scheduled treks for their classes to the

exhibit. Members of the Cotton Mill Mission chapter were assigned the various exhibits. We

were also assigned to set up and take down of the exhibits. Large trailers were required to haul the large units back to storage.

Treks

Several Treks for the chapter are a major part of the Chapter projects. The treks are overseen by the board and assigned to the Board member assigned to Treks Chairman Member that is called to be Chairman of the particular Trek. All Treks are designed to be associated with Pioneer History.

Treks fall in various formats, clean up historic Cemetery, visit a location where a Pioneer Historic event happened, collect information to document, Etc.

HOLE IN THE ROCK

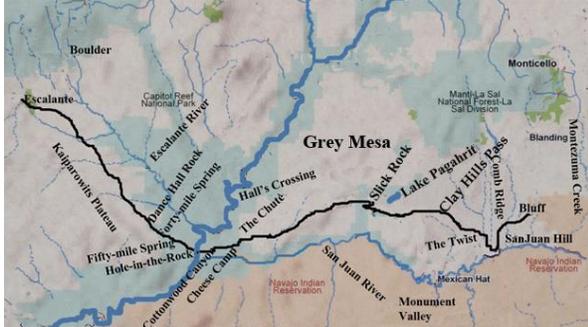


Hole in the Rock: An Epic in the Colonization of the Great American West is still a popular Book on Amazon. Another book. "The Undaunted, The Miracle of the Hole-in-the-Rock



pioneers stirs the interested in the Colonization of the South East area of Utah. A picture of our trek members was taken at the location called "Dance Hall Rock". Gaye and I paused for a picture where the Mormon pioneers danced on their trek to mostly unknown area of Utah.

Our trek chairman required that only 4 wheel drive vehicles be used. It was a long dusty drive from Escalante to the Hole-in-the-rock and back to Escalante and was a challenge to make the trip in one days



Restroom were “boys on the right and girls on the left. Your lunch and drink had to be something that you brought with you. There were no stores or other facilities available.



How did they get the wagons down the “whole”?



We are told it was too dangerous for the kids to ride down in the covered wagons, so they slid down.





Seeing the real conditions were certainly revealing the hardship then had in their

assignment to Colonization of the South East area of Utah'

Our chapter made many treks to a lot of historic sites. A lot of the locations required 4 wheel drive. Some times there was a dinner included and other times it was you bring your own,



*Sons of
Utah Pioneers*

2010 National Convention
SPONSORED
BY
COTTON MISSION CHAPTER
Oct 21-23, 2010 - St. George UT



GPS finders were very limited. I took the GPS reading with my unit, but later on equipment was available to obtain more accurate readings

I keep a master list of GPS readings and updated it when I could obtain a better reading



Gaye and I spent many hours exploring the back county in southern Utah, Northern Arizona and Southern Nevada. Our Yukon 4 wheel drive was the ideal vehicle. Most of the time it was with groups, but we made a number of treks by our selves. I received the Modern day pioneer SUP award for my many years of working on this project.

Brigham Young Sons of Utah Pioneers

July 25th, 2017, we relocated to live in Orem Utah, to live near our children and Great Grand Children. Leaving the Cotton Mission, where we had been so active, was a real adjustment. We were fortunate to

be able to move our membership to the Brigham Young, Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. We have appreciated how they accepted us into the new chapter, but now, we now members with no major responsibilities and just able to attend the meetings without responsibilities in organization and setting things up. We now can just come and

enjoy the meeting. Most of the meetings are held in the Utah Valley University Cultural Arts Center which was located not far from our home only about four blocks (as the crow flies). Other than a couple of neighbors, there are about not structures or building restricting line of site of the UVU Cultural Arts Center.





This is a beautiful facility.

The dining room is spacious and has good acoustics.

There are built in video with dual monitors and is used

for most meetings. The meals are prepared and served by the students and monitored by the UVU instructors. The table settings are a good as you could find any high-class restraint.



The guest speakers seem to be drawn from BYU Alumni and emeritus LDS leaders.

The Brigham Young Chapter had similar projects as the Cotton Mission. They are very active in the scholarship for needy senior's high school students that helps them get college education.

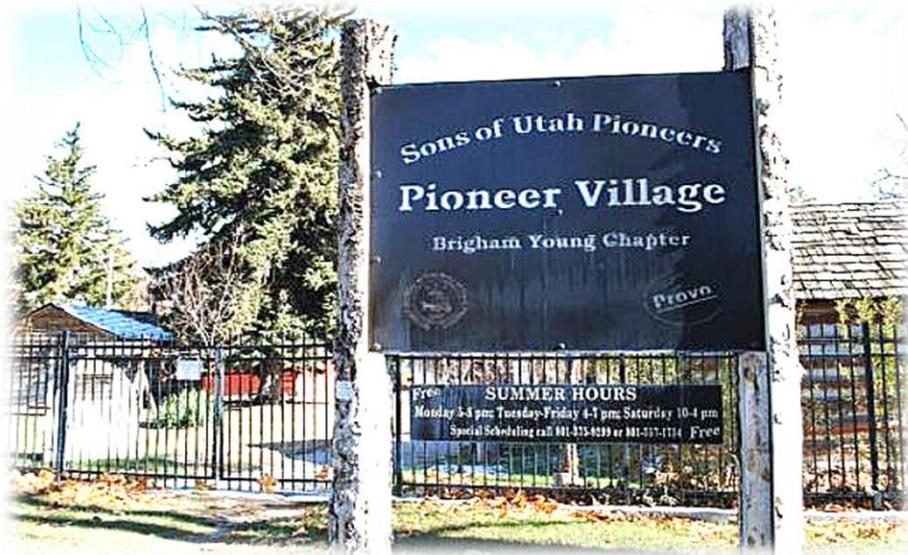
The primary project of our chapter is the support of the Provo Pioneer Village. Kind of like the mission at the St. George Temple Visitor mission There are historic pioneer relicts and other pioneer settings. Volunteers provide the guides and operation of the Village. In addition to the support of our chapter, the city and others participate in the Provo Pioneer Village.

Provo Pioneer Village

<http://www.provopioneervillage.org>



The Brigham SUP Chapter Primary project is the Provo Pioneer Village. SUP members and other LDS community members join with Provo City in support of the Provo Pioneer Village Project.



Project.

Experience the life of the pioneers as you walk back into the early days of Provo when the settlers of 1849 had to survive in isolation. The Pioneer Village

contains the original structures built by these pioneers, including the Turner Cabin, the Haws Cabin, the Loveless Home, a granary, school, woodshop, corn crib, outhouse, and more. The Pioneer Village also contains an ox shoeing stock, various pioneer wagons, a working blacksmith shop, authentic general store, pioneer games for the children, and a wide variety of historical artifacts and tools.

This Pioneer Village represents early Provo, a frontier community existing in large part in isolation. The pioneers' very survival depended on their own skills and the support of their neighbors and friends. What they ate, they grew; what they wore, they made; and what they needed, they manufactured, or they did without. Things were used and reused; little was discarded or thrown away.

Village Mission Statement

We, the Brigham Young Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers, are committed to preserving the memory and heritage of the early pioneers of Utah County by authentically preserving, developing, and interpreting the buildings and artifacts in the George A. Smith Pioneer Village. We are committed to using the Village as a resource to teach youth and preserve the memory of the early pioneers for the visitors and residents of Utah Valley.

