

Hurricane Valley Chapter Newsletter

August's Activities:



Trek to the Man Who Knew: Ten of our group gathered at the home of Dan Zaleski in the early morning of August 8th, and boarded a 15 passenger van to begin our trek to the northern hinterlands of Utah, or to the small town of

Clarkston, which is just below the Idaho border, and north of Logan, Utah. Those boarding the van were the Dan Zaleski's, the Chris Woodbury's, the Gail Hinton's, the David Hinton's, and the Larry Hutchings. The van was rented from Small Town Auto.

We proceeded to Fillmore, where we bought gas and had lunch. From there we traveled to Ogden, where we had rented an Airbnb home that would house the group. Dropping our belongings there, we again proceeded to Clarkston, where



we participated in a marvelous dinner, provided by the town of Clarkston for the pageant attendees. There we met up with the Tom Hirschi's, the DeMar Gubler's, the Than Naegle's, the Darwin Leavitt's and the Richard Black's!



From the dinner, we drove over to the Clarkston graveyard, which is where the pageant was held, in a wonderful amphitheater which they have built there. The atmosphere was very festive, and members of the cast roamed through the audience visiting with those who had come. The pageant itself portrayed

the life of Martin Harris from the beginning of his relationship with Joseph Smith, until shortly after his receiving the heavenly confirmation of the truthfulness of what Joseph had been doing. It gave greater insight into Martin's life with his wife, and others in the community of Palmyra. Also, it gave the audience a better understanding of Martin's interest in what was happening in the restoration, and the pain and suffering both he, Joseph and his own wife, Lucy, had to endure.



After the pageant, we drove to Ogden to stay the night, had a family style breakfast the next morning at the rental, then continued our journey home. In Provo, at the request of Gail and Nita Hinton, we stopped to see the SUP Pioneer Village. That was such an incredible visit, one that will long be remembered. Thank you George Albert

Smith and Brigham Young Chapters for your foresight in setting up this fantastic Pioneer Village!

It was full of original pioneer homes, several tool sheds and blacksmith shop, and a school house. There will be more about this visit on the www.hvsup.org webpage in the next few days. Please come and visit, you will be glad you did. We then completed our trek home with one more stop in Beaver to get some cheese at the cheese factory. Thank you Dan and Asenith for your planning.

August Dinner Meeting:



We were pleased to again have a marvelous dinner, and listen to the wonderful story of the Scholzen family's contribution to the building up of the Hurricane Valley. Most of the time was spent on Henry's life in the military as a cook, and how he expanded on that talent working for the government. While



working in Zion National Park, he brought other items into his business, until he left the poultry section and focused on building supplies. Henry became a strong force for good in this area, as he supported the building up of all of the National Parks in the area as a Railroad Executive. He was instrumental in organizing the American Legion Post, and earned the Post #100 through a lot of extra effort. He was a leader in many of the civic organizations in the area, and really was concerned about his fellowmen. He was a great man...a pioneer of Southern Utah...but not a "Mormon Pioneer". Although this fascinating story focused on Henry's business, it really centered on the fact that "Families Can Be Together Forever".

Calendar of Events:

September 14th - 16th: THE NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL BE HELD IN CENTERVILLE, UTAH. We should be registering now to go. An application is found by going to www.sup1847.com. Click on the Calendar Link that will take you to their upcoming events. Click on, "Go to the 2017 Convention" page on this website for more details. Scroll down to Two Registration options, then click on which way you wish to register. After hosting last year's convention, we should understand better than any, the importance of registering early.

September 21st: Our speaker Eric Stevens has had to withdraw until a later date, so Dawn Humphries, wife of our chapter member Buck Humphries, will speak to us on the Mountain Meadow Massacre. Our dinner will be pot-luck, and will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Legion Hall.



October 19th: Our speaker will be John Naegle. He grew up in Toquerville, and attended school in Hurricane. He teaches Institute at Dixie State University. He will speak on his family line that helped to settle the area. Our meal will be pot-luck and will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Legion Hall.



November 16th President James McArthur from St. George,



will speak to us in the Legion Hall at 6:30 p.m. He served as the Temple President in Nauvoo from 2013 through 2016. He also served as the president of the Fukuoka Japan Mission from 1997 – 2000, and the Japan MTC Mission President from January 2008 until December 2009. He grew up in St. George, Utah. The dinner will be pot-luck.

December 1st: Our annual Christmas Dinner will be held at the Hurricane Stake Center on the first Friday of the month. It will begin at 6:00 p.m., a half hour earlier than our regular meetings. There will be wonderful entertainment. This fabulous dinner helps us raise funds for various events and scholarships. Our new board for 2018 will be sworn in.

History of LaVerkin, a Continuation:

Troubles continued throughout the decade. The stock company had no choice but to get crops and orchards started in the early 1890's and hope the water would flow. The land had been divided into ten-acre blocks separated by streets two rods wide (Rod=16 feet) with one that was designated "Main Street" four rods wide. Acres of almonds, peaches, apricots and grapes were planted. Fifty acres of cotton were planted among some of the young trees. Thomas Judd had widespread investments, including an interest in the Washington Cotton Mill. The cotton went to the mill, cotton lint came back to be used for caulking cracks in the flumes.

The tunnel seemed determined to thwart the operation. Keeping water flowing was sometimes a literal nightmare. Irrigation was a twenty-four hour a day process. Someone had to sleep just at the mouth of the tunnel with his ears tuned to the soft rustling of the water; like a mother monitoring her baby's breathing. If the rustling stopped, just as if the breathing changed; either sentry must awaken and take action. The water might have eaten a new hole through a weak spot, or more likely, it had cut its way around the head of a flume somewhere in the depths

of the tunnel. In any case, the sentry alerted the other workers and they took lint, bagasse left over from making sorghum molasses, planks, etc. , and worked to restore the flow.

A crew of men worked the fields by day and were on call at night to repair breaks. Elizabeth, the wife of John Riding, a member of the crew; cooked for the men in exchange for room and board. She had an infant at the time who must have been a patient, robust child. Elizabeth would fix lunch for the men, put it in a large can with a waterproof lid, then wade up the canal to where the men were working, pulling the can along behind. Meanwhile, strapped in his jumper at the house, Baby Riding looked after things. Later, Mrs. Riding marveled at her negligence--but it had seemed reasonable to her at the time. The men built a lean-to on the main building so Elizabeth and the child could have privacy--and maybe so they wouldn't have to hear the baby cry in the night.

The Dixie villages were isolated from the country at large, but national events did have their impact. An economic panic in 1893 deflated silver prices that severely crippled what was left of mining at Silver Reef, and closed mines in Nevada. This was a severe blow to Dixie farmers who had enjoyed a good market for much of their produce, and it boded ill for the LaVerkin Fruit and Nursery Company. There was some compensation though: skilled unemployed miners worked on the nearby Hurricane canal for little more than room and board. Their skills were vital to the successful boring of some of the canal's tunnels. Good houses were available at Silver Reef at practically no cost. A number of LaVerkin's early homes came from there. They were disassembled and the lumber hauled to the new site.

Poor markets, plus continuing tunnel maintenance costs, spelled the end of the stock company and almost forced Thomas Judd into bankruptcy. But this opened the way for LaVerkin to become a community. The company was effectively dissolved in 1897. Some shares were sold to help meet expenses and shareholders took the remaining property in accordance with their previous holdings. About this same time, Thomas who owned the largest share of the property, mortgaged his St. George home to obtain funds to keep the operation going.

Just as he was adapting to these developments, Thomas received a mission call. On February 20, 1898, President Wilfred Woodruff asked him to take charge of the Whitewater, Nevada, colonization mission. President Woodruff promised Thomas that he would be better off spiritually and financially if he accepted the call. Thomas made preparations to leave; the most important one being to lease his holdings to good caretakers. In fulfillment of President Woodruff's promise, men

who could make the project a success were identified. James Pectol, an employee, was willing to stay on temporarily. He recommended his wife's brothers... Joseph, who had previously worked for Judd; and Henry Gubler of St. George to help out. In addition to being a leasee of the property, Henry Gubler became Thomas' land agent with a charge to sell property to prospective residents.

Henry and Joseph kept the floundering canal operation alive by being two places at once, twenty-four hours a day. They made countless forays up the tunnel and canal to do emergency repair work. They also tended the crops and orchards. When Thomas Judd returned from his mission, Henry and Joseph each bought property for twenty-five dollars an acre and began building their own homes. The fact that they were able to buy land for its original appraised value, indicates the general lack of confidence in the project's success. Had there been no problems with the canal tunnel, land might have sold for three or four times that amount.

Settlers

Henry and Joseph Gubler became LaVerkin's first permanent citizens. They, plus their families, established residence early in 1899. Henry, his wife, Susanna, and their first son arrived January first. Joseph came at the same time as Henry; but his wife, Mary (May, or Aunt Mae), had a new baby, so she waited a couple of months until a home could be made ready. Toward evening of moving day, they pulled up to the south bank of the Virgin River to be greeted by a raging flood. Joe unhitched the team and began waiting patiently for better fording conditions. May though, wasn't to be denied her new home. She gathered up her children, hiked upstream along a primitive trail to the hot springs, groped her way across the flimsy foot bridge that spanned the flood, trudged on up to the town site, and spent the night in her own bed. Sadly, the baby died some weeks later. It was buried in St. George.

William Hardy, with his wife and children, became the third family to take up residence. Others, such as Arthur Woodbury, Allen Stout, Byse Ashby, George Jones, Marcellus C. Wright, and George Judd, son of Thomas; gradually followed. Although Thomas remained involved with the canal company for some years, he made St. George his permanent home. He and his son, Joseph, established the Judd Store on Tabernacle Street in 1911. Four generations of Woodward School students have now considered the store their home away from home. It stayed in the family until 1998.