



# NEWSLETTER



## COMING SOON IN APRIL...



GAIL HOLMES PRESENTATION:

*"Winter Quarters & It's Survival Projects"*

*The first three of The Mormon Pioneer wagon trains reached the Missouri River June 14, 1846.*

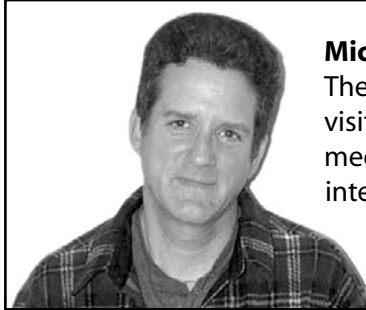
*Most stayed on the Iowa side of the Missouri River, scattering to places where individual wagon trains could find wood, water, and grass. Others built a ferry and started crossing into Nebraska July 1. On the Nebraska side of the River they moved first to Cold Spring Camp, then to Cutler's Park, and finally to Winter Quarters. Each of these separate groups had exhausted virtually all of the supplies they had brought with them from Nauvoo, Illinois. Thus, they all had to find some means to feed, cloth, and shelter themselves in the winter of 1846-47. Come and hear how the LDS pioneers handled adversity.*

PETER S. NELSON PRESENTATION:

*"Daniel H. Wells"*

*Peter is currently in a Clinical Anatomy graduate program at Creighton University. He is engaged to be married to Allyn Izu around August 6, 2004.*

*Daniel H. Wells was settled in the small village of Commerce, Illinois, later to become Nauvoo; there he was elected constable and then justice of the peace and was a military officer. When the Saints were driven from Nauvoo, he decided to join them and was baptized in the Mississippi River. Because his wife and son, Albert (age 9 or 10) would not join the church or go with him west, Daniel chose to move the rest of the way to Salt Lake alone. He was called to serve as a counselor to Brigham Young in 1857, and continued in that position until Pres. Young's death in 1877, when he was sustained as a counselor to the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.*



**Michael Landon** — historian and archivist for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — visited the Pioneer Heritage Society's March meeting. He is assessing the area's needs and interest for involvement in the historical preservation programs of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

## CALENDAR of Events

**April 27**, Tuesday, 7 p.m. Winter Quarters & It's Survival Projects by Gail Holmes. Daniel H. Wells by Peter Nelson.

**May 27**, Thursday, 7 p.m. LDS Roads, Bridges, Ferries and Use of Missouri Markets by Gail Holmes. Crandall Pioneers and Newel Knight Monument by Kent Crandall.

**June 26**, Saturday, 1 p.m. Cold Spring Camp & Nearby Council Hill Meeting by Gail Holmes. Historical presentation by Steve Nelson. 3 p.m. Tour of Council Hill Meeting Site, Parade Route and Meeting Square in Kanesville.

**July 27**, Tuesday, 7 p.m. Six LDS Pioneer Newspapers in the Middle Missouri Valley by Gail Holmes. Historical presentation by Brent Fredrickson

**August 26**, Thursday, 7 p.m. Herding, Guarding & Wintering Pioneer Livestock by Gail Holmes. Historical presentation by Wayne Beeson.

**September 25**, Saturday, 1 p.m. Cutler's Park, Indian Delegations, & Nauvoo Legion Reorganization by Gail Holmes. Job Taylor Smith by Paul Larsen. 3 p.m. Tour of the Reorganized Nauvoo Legion sites at Winter Quarters; Mormon Battalion sites (mustered grounds, Farewell Ball, Point aux Poules supply site).

**October 26**, Tuesday, 7 p.m. Iowa Counties Organized by LDS Pioneers; State & National Ramifications by Gail Holmes. Luke William Gallup by Jeanine Bingham.

**No meetings are scheduled for November & December.**

# WHAT HAPPENED IN MARCH?

**Michael and Joy Tibbits** of Sioux Falls, South Dakota talked about the Mormon Pioneers who lived with the Ponca Indians from August 1846 to April 1847 at their Ponca Indian Camp. These pioneers were an advance company that were sent out by Brigham Young to find a way to the Rocky Mountains from the Council Bluffs/Omaha area. They traveled up the Loup River to a deserted Pawnee village, but then received word that they should travel no further because it was too late in the year and winter would come upon them while they were in the mountains. While they were trying to decide what to do, 8 Ponca chiefs arrived who were seeking peace with the Pawnee Indians. They invited the Mormon Pioneers to winter with them in their camp on the

"Running Water" or Niobrara River further north where the Niobrara meets the Missouri River.

The Mormons accepted and traveled with the chiefs to an area near current day Niobrara, Nebraska, where a tribal council voiced acceptance of the invitation. A peace pipe was passed among the leaders of both groups as a sign of approval and support. Homes for the pioneers were built of native materials. The journals of the pioneers tell of the experiences they shared with the Ponca such as buffalo hunts, feasts, dances, and councils. The Ponca offered physical protection, housing, food and friendship. The Mormons shared their stored goods and tools. They lived together

in harmony through the autumn and winter seasons.

The rigors of life on the northern plains took the lives of about 23 members of the pioneer group. One of them was an early Mormon leader, Newell Knight. He died leaving his six young children and his wife expecting their 7th child. Later in 1908 near Niobrara, Nebraska, his descendants erected a memorial monument to mark the graves of Newell Knight and other pioneers who perished there.



CONT'D.



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*Visit us on the web at: [www.pioneerheritage.org](http://www.pioneerheritage.org)*

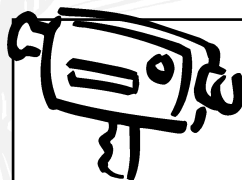
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## TIBBITS PRESENTATION, CONT'D.

Spring brought better weather and the Mormons returned to Winter Quarters about 150 miles south. In 1847 many of this pioneer group traveled with Brigham Young and others to the Salt Lake Valley in the Rocky Mountains but others needed more time to prepare for the westward trek and left years later.

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*The Tibbits have done extensive research about the Ponca Camp and showed many pictures of the pioneers and told individual stories about them. They have also gathered information about the Ponca Indians. To learn more, check our website — [www.pioneerheritage.org](http://www.pioneerheritage.org) — their presentation will be posted soon!*



## Videotapes Available

Videotapes of each meeting, including tours, will be made available beginning with the February 25th, 2004 session. If you are interested in checking out a videotape, please contact Wayne Beeson at [email@pioneerheritagesociety.org](mailto:email@pioneerheritagesociety.org).

## For More Information...

If you need information regarding membership in the Pioneer Heritage Society, upcoming presentations or the 90 communities we are researching, please send an email to [email@pioneerheritage.org](mailto:email@pioneerheritage.org).