



# **MC QUARRIE MEMORIAL MUSEUM**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2023-2024**



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## Mission Statement of the Museum

*The Mission of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers McQuarrie Memorial Museum is to collect, preserve and display artifacts, photos and histories belonging to the Utah Pioneers who settled Southern Utah prior to 1900, and those artifacts, photos and histories which represent the Washington County communities. The donor-based collection represents the early local pioneer communities and serves as an educational research facility for both descendants of those early pioneers and the community.*

## Board President's Message – Sheryl Burnett



With a fair amount of fear and yet optimism I have committed to serve as our company board president on the heels of a great leader such as Jeanine Vander Bruggen. We have had a wonderfully successful year at the Museum! We have accomplished great things and had a lot of fun along the way. It is always satisfying to see the faces of those who visit our museum for the first time and meeting new people from every corner of the earth has been a great motivating factor in putting our best foot forward in the presentation and preservation of our local history and artifacts.

Pioneer Corner here in St George consists of the Pioneer Courthouse as well as our beautiful McQuarrie Memorial Museum of Daughters of Utah Pioneers. The Pioneer Courthouse closed indefinitely for major renovations and yet still, our museum attendance continued to rise in the ongoing wake of the worldwide COVID 19 pandemic. Our gift shop continues to shine! Donations to our gift shop from our members have resulted in a record amount of revenue received from sales. Our Docents continue to give of their time and talents so that this lovely Museum can stay open to the public free of charge. We are very proud of our Docents and staff and their faithful service. We continue to host events that enrich the community by teaching and bringing awareness of our rich pioneer history. This past spring we had a unique opportunity to participate in 'CROSSROADS: Change in Rural America'. This is a traveling exhibition created by the Smithsonian Institute and made possible by the Utah Humanities. We were happy to contribute to this important exhibition which was both educational and beautiful. We continued our participation in Historic St George Live and we participated in the Washington County Fair Parade. We continue to look for ways to be represented in our community. We look forward with excitement and optimism to our future because of the success of our past.

## History of Daughters of Utah Pioneers and the McQuarrie Memorial Museum

Daughters of Utah Pioneers (DUP) was organized April 11, 1901 under the leadership of Annie Taylor Hyde with 46 women, all of Utah pioneer descent. In September 1921, Washington County, Utah pioneer descendants, under the direction of Flora B. Horne, created their first Company, and immediately began collecting relics, photos and histories of pioneers who settled Washington County. The members were faced

with the handicap of having no building to house or display relics. A drive was launched to obtain one of the historic buildings, but to no avail. Priceless relics were being destroyed.

In 1936, Josephine B. Pace corresponded with a childhood friend, Hortense McQuarrie Odlum, relating the dilemma faced by DUP members. Hortense responded, stating she would be happy to help erect a pioneer hall in St. George as a gift to the city of her birth. Hortense funded the \$17,500 required to construct a beautiful edifice. She secured an architect to design the building and worked with the Washington County Commissioners to get the land donated for the project. The entire city joined in celebrating the dedication of the building on June 17, 1938.

Then in 1985, the building was expanded through the efforts of Ferol McQuarrie Kincade Moore, another descendant of the McQuarrie pioneers, who upon visiting the Museum, recognized its crowded condition. Ferol helped secure the \$90,000 needed to double the size of the existing building and add a new roof to the entire building. The new addition was dedicated in October 1985 at the annual District Convention of the DUP.

With the continuing support of the many DUP members in Washington County who serve as docents, the Museum is open five days each week from 10AM to 5PM, except in December, when the hours are 11AM to 3PM. There is no admission fee. The Museum is operated through donations by members, visitors and generous grants. All services rendered by Board, staff and Docents are volunteered.

### **Our Docents Shine!**

A docent, by definition, is a person who acts as a guide, typically on a voluntary basis, in a museum. Our docents love our museum and enjoy the opportunity to inform visitors about the museum exhibits. This is done through telling stories, sharing historical facts or relating reminiscences. School children are taught through guided tours and offered an opportunity to “touch” certain objects. Our docents ensure the collection and protection of artifacts, photos, and histories is protected, and is the welcoming face for those who enter our beautiful museum. A docent in our museum has the privilege and opportunity to help visitors understand and learn about the history of the Utah territory, specifically southern Utah, and the contribution early settlers made in building up the surrounding communities. Over 250 women volunteer as docents each year to keep the Museum open. They help this museum shine as the beautiful gem that it is!

### **Major Accomplishments June 1, 2023 Through May 31, 2024**

Our museum continued to make improvements this past year in many ways:

- A planned replacement on our HVAC system became necessary when one of our 3 AC units stopped working. We were able to replace 2 of the 3 AC units that keep our museum comfortable in the Southern Utah heat.
- Lights were added to show off our iconic Cupola on the roof of our building. She is a beauty.
- We made upgrades to some of our office computer equipment and software.
- Our museum docents now offer our visitors a chance to leave valuable feedback by means of an exit survey. This will help us learn what we are doing right and where we can make improvements.
- Our attendance continues to rise each year in the post Covid-19 pandemic time. This year our attendance increased to 128% of last year’s attendance.
- Refreshed displays in the basement level to improve and add interest for a better visitor experience.
- Added displays for new artifact acquisitions.
- Participated in Historic St. George Live tours.

- Finalized display of iron pile driver outside by the front fence.

**Total Visitors – 8,812**

Outside Washington County –	6750
Historic St. George Live Tours –	650
Participants in Group Tours (youth, family, etc.)	941
Number of states and/or countries represented	78

Below is a listing of the major activities and accomplishments completed by the Museum Board, Staff, and other DUP members.

**Grants Received**

- \$3,000 - Local RAP tax for Lights on Cupola
- \$8,711 - State Arts & Museum – Operating Budget
- \$38,876.40 - Private Trust Distribution

**Ongoing Activities**

- Holding Museum Board meeting on a quarterly basis.
- Participating in Washington County Historical Society meetings and activities.
- Receiving pioneer relic donations and determining their historical value.
- Receiving pioneer histories and photos for addition to our collection.
- Researching history of pioneers, buildings, communities to continually create awareness of contributions of early settlers.
- Responding to requests to teach groups about the history of Washington County, its people and heritage.
- Conducting special tours for families, youth groups and organizations.
- Participate in and support Arts to Zion activities.
- Organize unique monthly events at Pioneer Museum.
- Rearrange and refresh photos and furniture displays to keep our presentation of artifacts fresh and interesting.
- Enhance the interactive displays for visitors to get involved with items, thus learning more about pioneer life.
- Develop additional training for docents to help visitors use our information kiosk and our chairlift also to enhance our story telling for a more positive experience for visitors.
- Expanding gift shoppe merchandise.
- Expanding distribution of promotional materials through print and social media.
- Enlisting volunteers to support additional programs and fill board and staff positions.
- Provide videos of events for those unable to attend lectures.

**Enhancement Projects**

**Capital Projects Completed**

- Added lighting to the Cupola on the roof.
- Replaced 2 of the 3 HVAC systems in the building.
- Upgraded computer network and system.

### **Special Events**

- We held our 3<sup>rd</sup> Weekend event each month September 2023 through May 2024. Our average attendance was 50.
- We participated in 'CROSSROADS – Changes in Rural America' created by the Smithsonian Institution held March 9 through April 28, 2024. This was a display highlighting Quilting and its impact on community survival.

### **Docent Training**

- Training for all Docents on basic operations of Museum held monthly.
- Held additional monthly trainings to help docents tell stories, use the cash register, how to use the Reference Computer kiosk for histories and information regarding the artifacts in the museum, and how to use the chairlift.
- Continued to work on our Core Docent Program of experienced Docents who are trained more extensively to assist the Camp Docents each day and to act as a lead person.

### **Major Activities Planned for Year – 2024-2025**

#### **Grant Applications**

- Two local RAP tax grants that will be used for replacing the 3<sup>rd</sup> HVAC system and operating support.
- Utah Arts and Museum grant funds that will be used for operating support.
- The annual Trust Distribution will be used for the maintenance of our building.

#### **Special Events – 3rd Weekend Event - Scheduled**

- Monthly presentations scheduled from September 2024 through May 2025 on various topics relating to Pioneer life.

#### **Goals – Capital Projects**

- New display cases for dolls and guns
- Replace and upgrade computers in the office
- Design and implement a new logo for the museum.
- Refreshing or redoing the website and move to a different platform.
- New Training videos for the Docents.
- Replacing the carpet in Room 5
- Possible replacement of the HVAC system in Room 8

Below is a financial statement for the Museum for the past operating budget year. Additional grants to be written as need is determined.

### Assets and Expenditures for Fiscal Year Ending 5-31-2024

#### Assets

Current Assets	\$ 209,008.93
Accounts Receivable	--
Other Current Assets	2,364.98
Fixed Assets	
Furniture and Equipment	\$222,492.34
Acc. Dep – Furniture and Equipment	--
Other Assets – Leasehold improvements	--
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$433,866.25</b>

#### Expenditures

Liabilities and Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	\$ 1,564.11
Accounts Payable	\$ 92.38
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$396,332.26
Net Income	\$ 35,877.50
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$433,866.25</b>

Location - The Museum is located at 145 East 100 North, St. George, Utah 84770.

Hours - Open daily from 10AM to 5PM except Wednesdays and Sundays

Telephone Number - 435-628-7274 - Tours Offered

Website – [www.dupstgeorge.org](http://www.dupstgeorge.org)

Facebook – dup mcquarrie memorial museum

**Museum Board of Directors on 5/31/2024:**

President – Sheryl Burnett (Washington East Company President)

Vice President – Linda Lees (Washington Company President)

Secretary – Claudia Young (Washington East Company)

Treasurer – Dori Phillips (Washington West Company President)

Museum Director – Teresa Orton (Washington Company)

Member-at-Large – Marilyn MacLellan, (Washington West Company)

Member-at-Large – Rae Catlin, (Washington East Company)

Member-at-Large – Vickie Brooks, (Washington Company)

Docent Coordinator – Deborah West (Washington West Company)

Advisor – Kathleen Broeder, Southern Utah University- Special Collections

Advisor – Mariana Taylor, ISDUP, Regional Representative

Advisor – Irene Briggs, Financial