

## WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

<http://wchsutah.org>



## THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

As the Washington County Historical Society (WCHS) President, I invite you to attend our Community Meetings. (See Meetings Schedule in this newsletter.) Please reach out to family and friends who enjoy our Dixie history and invite them to attend, also. We are currently working on several fun new projects that will help share our rich Washington County history with the younger generations and the rest of the world. We will be participating in the Washington County Fair; please visit our booth and say hello.

Bits of our past are lost when they are not passed on or recorded. WCHS strives to minimize that loss!

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## MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ian Crowe  
Secretary: Loren Webb  
Treasurer: Teresa Orton  
Webmaster: George Cannon  
Vice Presidents: Brad Bennett, Chad Bennion,  
Richard Kohler, Maureen Parks,  
Jesse Stocking

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## BOARD MEMBER BIOS

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### Ian Crowe, President

Ian Crowe was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1969 and moved to Utah in 1976. He first lived in Logan for several years and then moved to Vernal where he was Student Body President and graduated from Uintah High School.

Ian first got involved with the Washington County Historical Society in 2011. While finishing his Bachelor's degree in Digital Media Production, he had the opportunity to direct and produce some documentaries on the early pioneer days and how early settlers struggled with water and healthcare.

At one point 35% of the Southern Utah babies died because early settlers unknowingly drank out of ditches that were contaminated with bacteria. In 2013 Ian directed and produced a 10-minute video, "100-Years of Caring" for Intermountain Healthcare's presentation at the 2013 Washington County Economic Summit. The video won several national awards and is available on YouTube.

Ian also directed and produced a video for the Washington County Water Conservancy district about the challenges of water in Southern Utah. "Liquid Desert" was a 22-minute video that covered major water project like the Hurricane Canal as well as some of the catastrophic flooding that hit the pioneers early in the Cotton Mission. This video is also available on YouTube.

In 2022 Ian returned to WCHS to complete some unfinished projects. One of the most exciting projects is about Silver Reef near Leeds. Dr. Robert Schuler, the archaeologist who originally excavated Silver Reef, returned in 2013 to catalog and explain the artifacts discovered there. Ian possesses 2 hours of footage of Dr. Schuyler's visit that needs to be color corrected and edited then will be available for viewing.

Among other things, Ian helped restore a building in the historic Shunesburg ghost town located on Trees Ranch in Springdale (information available on <http://wchsutah.org>) and donated many hours to multiple other historical projects in Southern Utah.

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## BOARD MEMBER BIOS

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George Cannon, Vice President & Webmaster



George Cannon got involved with the Washington County Historical Society (WCHS) early in 2007 when he saw a notice in a local newspaper about WCHS board meetings that were open to the public. He attended and was impressed by the wonderful history being shared. He also realized the information spoken of may possibly be stuck in the memories of a few people attending, but otherwise evaporating into the ether as soon as the meeting ended.

He got the vision of a website where all that history could be captured and recorded for anyone, anywhere, anytime. With strong support of the WCHS, he shepherded the development of the WCHS website to its present state. His vision includes what that website could evolve into in the future.

George started with no expertise in websites or history. However, he does have college degrees and many years of experience in engineering and management, and he is an expert in organization. He also loves history and appreciates our rich heritage.

Being retired since 2001, he has been able to devote a large amount of his time to the website and other WCHS work. He is committed to the success of the WCHS. Please go to <http://wchsutah.org> to see George's great effort and dedication.

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## BOARD MEMBER BIOS

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Teresa Orton, Treasurer



My name is Teresa Truman Orton. I am a fifth-generation descendant of the first pioneers who settled in St. George and a lifelong resident of St. George with the exception of 20 years living in California. My pioneer heritage is important to me, and I am proud that I have such stalwart ancestors like Erastus Snow, Jacob Mica Truman, Frederick Foremaster, and William Fawcett. I believe that we need to keep our history alive and share the stories with new generations and new residents of Washington County.

When I returned from California to help with family issues, I became involved with the Daughters of Utah Pioneers and became the Director of the Pioneer Museum in 2009. I still hold that position and work every day to keep our history alive and tell our stories.

I am also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and am so happy to be able to trace my family roots back to the American Revolution.

I believe we, as a community, need to protect our history and not let those stories be forgotten. We need to keep the photos, artifacts, and histories and re-tell the stories of those early pioneers who struggled and sacrificed so much for us to have the beautiful places we live. Without their faith and determination to carve out settlements in such hostile country, we would not be here today. The things they left behind, like the beautiful homes and buildings, remind us of their hard work and ability to look to the future.

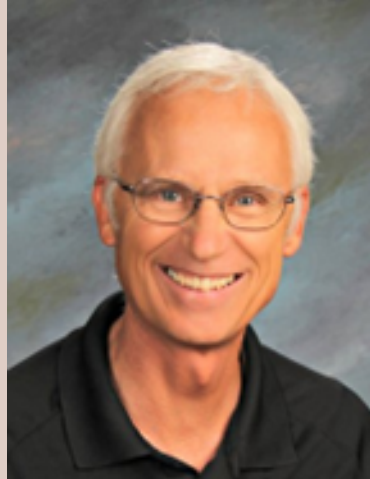
This is what we should strive to protect and prepare for the future of those things. Being a part of the Washington County Historical Society is a way to preserve, protect and share our history with the public and to the new residents in our area

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## BOARD MEMBER BIOS

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Loren Webb, Secretary



A native of St. George, Loren R. Webb serves as a board member of the Washington County Historical Society and teaches two classes through Utah Tech University Dixie Campus's Institute for Continued Learning.

He is a retired Clark County (NV) School District 7th grade U.S. History/World Geography teacher.

He has been a reporter in community journalism in Southern Nevada, Southern, and South Central Utah for 14 years and has volunteered at Great Salt Lake and Camp Floyd State Parks. He has worked as a summer maintenance employee at Sand Hollow and Gunlock State Parks.

He loves to hike, play tennis, and with his wife, spend time with their nine grandchildren.

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## BOARD MEMBER BIOS

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Maureen Parks, Vice President



Idaho Falls, Idaho, is where I was born and raised as number seven of eleven children. My husband, whose career was in nuclear research and development, and I are the parents of three children, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. When traveling south out of Idaho, St. George was the first city we came to with a significant weather change and retired here in 2010 after being snowbirds for a few years.

Other than the school of hard knocks, Idaho State University is where I earned a B.S. in Secondary Education and a M.Ed. in Occupational Training Management. I worked as a high school Business Education teacher for 16 years, then accepted a job administering a federal grant for 17 school districts in Central and Eastern Idaho.

Daughters of Utah Pioneers (DUP) is near and dear to my heart. I joined in 2011, and within a couple months was elected to the Washington West Company Board and have served as Secretary (6 years), President (4 years), Outreach Leader (2 years), and am currently in my second year serving as Treasurer. It was writing histories of my ancestors for DUP I learned one of my second great grandfathers settled Parowan, and one of my second great-grandmothers is buried in the St. George Cemetery.

I volunteered at Institute for Continued Learning (ICL) for one academic year and was asked to be Office Manager, which I did for three years, then was Director for two years.

Being a member of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) gives me the opportunity to meet with women who love our country as much as I do. I was elected to the Board shortly after joining and have served as Interim Secretary, Librarian, and am currently serving as Chaplain and Membership Committee Chairman.

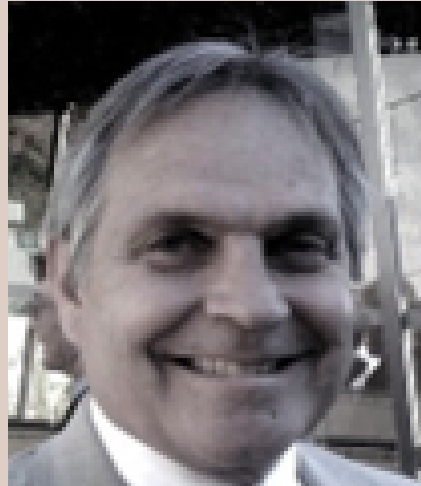
My husband and I are lifelong members of the Washington County Historical Society, and I was elected to the Board in January 2024. I am enjoying the challenge of learning about the Society and am currently serving as the newsletter editor.

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## BOARD MEMBER BIOS

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Richard R. (Dick) Kohler, Vice President



Richard R. Kohler is an architect/historian who served as president of the Washington County Historical Society from 2011 through 2018. He received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Utah and a Master of Architecture from the University of Hawaii, completing postgraduate studies at Harvard University. Richard and his wife, Jennifer, are involved with the DOCUTAH film festival held each September in St. George, Utah.

Richard is the author of a number of community planning studies. His most recent books are "[St. George: Outpost of Civilization](#)" published in 2011 celebrating the sesquicentennial of the founding of St. George by Mormon Colonists in 1861 and "[The Town Lot: A Little Piece of Zion](#)" published in 2013 and funded in part by a grant from Dixie State College and the Center for Education, Business and the Arts.

Richard Kohler's architectural practice [www.kohler-architecture.com](http://www.kohler-architecture.com) is geographically and technically diverse ranging from Park City, Utah to Las Vegas, Nevada. He has designed custom homes, lodging, resorts, resort communities, shops, shopping centers, city halls, county courthouses, schools, churches, parks, trails, pavilions, even chicken coops. Energy, water, landscape conservation together with historic preservation have shaped his unique approach to the art of design.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### Website Committee



George Cannon, Chairman

The WCHS Website Committee operates informally as a collaborative effort of people who want to and are willing to work on development of the WCHS website. Efforts are coordinated by webmaster, George Cannon.

Tasks include (but are not limited to) technical support of the website, gathering and submitting of historical data, refining of the information already on the website, and promoting awareness of and contributions to the website.

The WCHS website already contains a vast amount and variety of information, and it is continually evolving to have more and better information. You are invited to check it out. Go to the home page at <http://wchsutah.org>. The home page has pull-down menus to get you to various important areas of the website.

There is also a search box to do a Google search on just the WCHS website. Below that are icons to take you directly to our Online Calendar, Facebook page, and YouTube channel. When on the blue pages of the website, you can click on blue text to link to related parts of the website.

Consider volunteering to work on the website. You can start with your family's history or other subjects of personal interest. George will work with you on getting started. Your skills and labor are needed to make the WCHS website all that it can be.



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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### County Museum Brochure



Linda Shogren

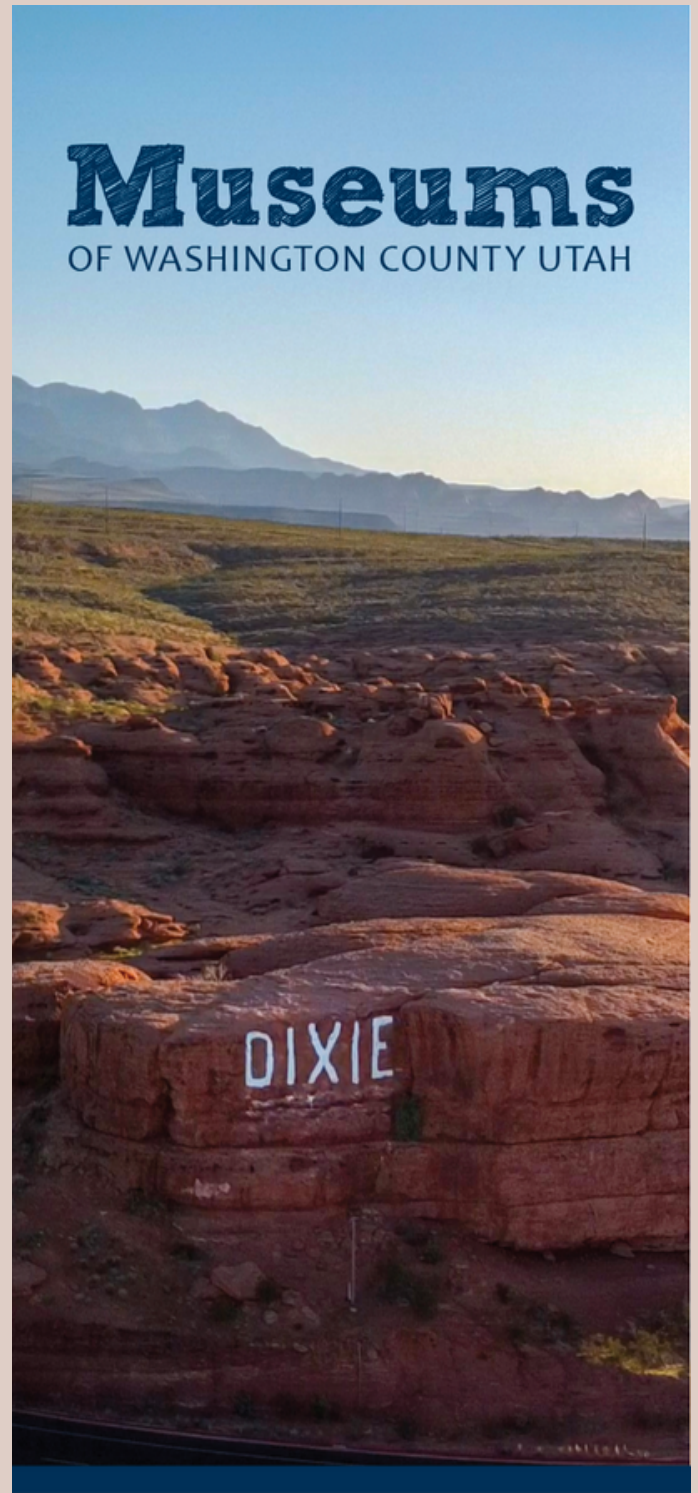
George Staheli at the Washington City Museum, (where I volunteer) asked me about getting an updated county museum brochure as the last one was done 18 years ago.

Funding from Greater Zion and Washington County Historical Society made it possible to pay for the designing and printing. The designer I chose to work with was Melanee Olsen, who I knew from the Washington City Arts Council. It was a challenge to find a printer who could print the long size!

I visited the museums and asked the directors for photos, logos and information about their museums. The full 20-panel brochure features 17 museums and a map showing the museum locations.

I'm hoping these brochures will encourage folks to visit more museums.

The brochures will be available at various locations throughout Washington County.



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## COMMUNITY MEETINGS SCHEDULE

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PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO ATTEND.

THESE MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE FOR WCHS OFFICERS, MEMBERS, AND ANY OTHERS WITH AN INTEREST IN WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORY.

IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THE WCHS AND TO EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH OTHERS HAVING SIMILAR INTERESTS.

MEET IN THE BASEMENT OF THE DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS (DUP) MCQUARRIE MEMORIAL MUSEUM,  
145 N 100 E, ST. GEORGE UT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK THE WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://WCHSUTAH.ORG](https://wchsutah.org), E-MAIL [INFO@WCHSUTAH.ORG](mailto:info@wchsutah.org),  
OR CALL AND LEAVE A MESSAGE AT (435)275-7409.

WEDNESDAY, 4/24/2024, 10:00 AM - NOON  
WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNITY MEETING

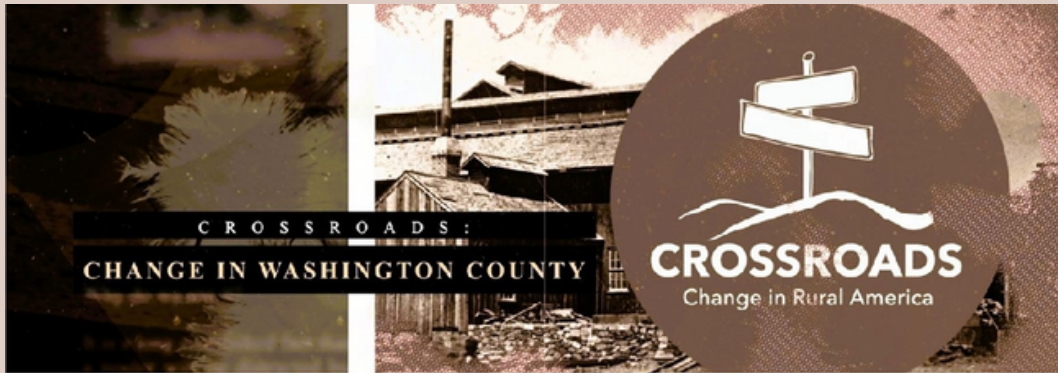
WEDNESDAY, 5/29/2024, 10:00 AM - NOON  
WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNITY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 6/26/2024, 10:00 AM - NOON  
WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNITY MEETING



“BIG RED MOUNTAIN” IN IVINS

# UPCOMING EVENT IN APRIL



## Washington County Decision Makers: Where are the Women?

Panel Discussion will be held at the  
**Boeing Auditorium 121 Udvar-Hazy, Utah Tech University**  
**Thurs. April 4, 2024 @ 7PM**

*Crossroads offers a chance to look at the role of Women over the past century - to highlight the changes women have experienced - and think about what's next.*

*Washington County is far more urban than rural at this point. This change from rural to urban presents opportunities and challenges. When does unbridled growth begin to confuse our crossroads with promises unable to be kept - creating an intersection that promises prosperity but at a speed that may erase livability. We are still determining if the growth we see will erase livability. Women's roles in this evolution from rural to urban will be our focus.*

Panel Discussion: **Kerry Kastler, Pam Gardiol, and Rachel Ramsay.**

**Moderator: Lisa Rutherford** is Public Policy Chair for St. George AAUW organization, serves on the board of UUI SU, and is a local writer. **Kerry Kastler** is Intermountain Health Southwest Region's Retired Chief Development Officer, past chairman of the St. George Area Chamber of Commerce, and St. George Planning Commission. Has served on several non-profit boards and has contributed numerous op-eds to area newspapers.

**Pam Gardiol** is president of Gardiol & Associates, serving public, private, and non-profit organizations in Utah and the West Coast for 30 years. For two decades, served on the faculty teaching organizational management at three universities. Served twelve years on the Ogden City Planning Commission, during which was the Chair. Currently serves on the Ivins City Planning Commission.

**Rachel Ramsay**, MFA, Associate Professor of Web & Digital Design - Utah Tech University, AAUW STEM/E Smart Chair, Educator, designer, and serial entrepreneur - Apple Distinguished Educator Class of 2019.

Crossroads: Change in Rural America is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and Utah Humanities, touring in partnership with Silver Reef Museum | Ghost Town in Leeds, UT from March 9 to April 28, 2024. For more information about the exhibit hours and additional details, please visit the museum's website at [www.SilverReef.org](http://www.SilverReef.org).

[www.utahhumanities.org](http://www.utahhumanities.org) | #UtahRuralCrossroads



"Crossroads: Change in Rural America" is a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition that provokes fresh thinking and sparks conversations about the future and sustainability of rural communities. The exhibit will be hosted at the Silver Reef Museum | Ghost Town in Leeds, UT from March 9 to April 28, 2024. For more information about the exhibit hours and additional details, please visit the museum's website at [www.SilverReef.org](http://www.SilverReef.org).

In addition, the Arts to Zion and Washington County Historical Society organizations have created "Crossroads: Change in Washington County" This project includes lectures, museum collaborative exhibits, and events throughout Washington County, UT. You can find more information about these events on [www.ArtsToZion.org](http://www.ArtsToZion.org). There, you will also find a Google Map for all of the collaborative events and exhibits, so that you can easily find them by placing the directions on your phone."

This lecture is sponsored by



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UPCOMING EVENT IN APRIL

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WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Field Trip

# Heberville-Bloomington

Saturday, April 6

Meet at the Pioneer Courthouse at 9 am. Caravan to Bloomington Park, meeting at 9:30... questions, call Sidney (435) 703 - 1934.



*Petroglyph Park in Bloomington*



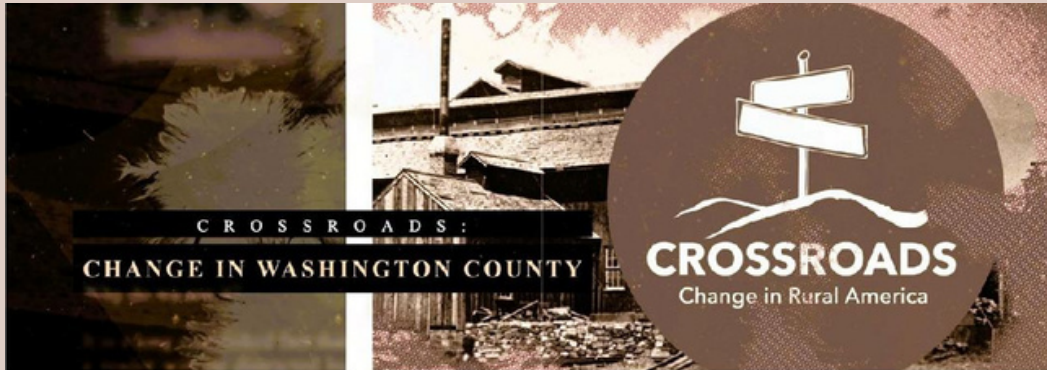
*Bloomington Schoolhouse, closed 1909*

The settlers at Heberville, for a long time, were compelled to drink this nauseous water. They dug a well, but, unhappily, found no better water. Finally, in the latter part of the season, their only relief was in finding a spring of better water in the dry bed of the Santa Clara, which they were under the necessity of hauling about three miles.

*Desert News, October 20, 1858*



# UPCOMING EVENT IN APRIL



Lecture will be held at the

**Boeing Auditorium 121 Udvar-Hazy, Utah Tech University**

**Thurs. April 11, 2024 @ 7PM**

## **What My Grandmother taught me-Navajo woman**

Her grandmother's teachings of cultural traditions and customs, education, self-reliance, service, kindness, and love are as important in today's world as they were back then. Her presentation is informative, educational, and entertaining with some humor.

### **ABOUT THE PRESENTER: Lucille Hunt**

Lucille Hunt is a recognized and respected traditional Navajo storyteller and translator. She loves and enjoys sharing her stories that have been taught to her from childhood. She was born and raised in eastern Navajoland. She lived in a hogan next to her grandmother Haazbaa', from whom she learned many of the traditional ways and stories. She was introduced to the English language at the age of six when she started school at the Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school in New Mexico. During her presentation, she will share some of her first encounters with this new world. As a child, she also learned the traditional dances as her grandfather beat the drum and sang the songs. She will share with you one of those dances. Lucille has been a member of the Utah Humanities presenters for many years and is a recipient of the Utah Humanities Council Road Scholar 2005 Merit Award. Her presentations have been under these titles: "My Grandmother's Teachings", "The Changing Navajo", and "The Navajo Way: Customs and Traditions, Past and Present". She has presented to audiences of all sizes in public schools and universities, as well as private and government organizations throughout the state of Utah and other states. Lucille is a professional translator of her Native Navajo language. She continues to work in translating materials for various institutions. She has written many short stories of which the most popular one is titled, "The Eagle Can Fly". It is a fable about an eagle who discovers the power of his heritage and begins to exercise that power. She's married to Calvin Hunt of Santa Clara, Utah, where they reside. She loves that on the day she married, 37 years ago, she became a wife, a mother, and a grandmother. She is now a great-grandmother.

Crossroads: Change in Rural America is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and Utah Humanities, touring in partnership with Silver Reef Museum | Crossroads: Change in Washington County

[www.utahhumanities.org](http://www.utahhumanities.org) | #UtahRuralCrossroads



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This lecture is sponsored by:



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## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL

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THURSDAY, 4/18/2024, 7:00 PM

LECTURE TO ACCOMPANY THE SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT AT THE SILVER REEF MUSEUM  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUED LEARNING (ICL).

MORE DETAILS WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

THIS LECTURE WILL BE HELD IN THE BOEING AUDITORIUM (ROOM I2I) IN THE UDVAR-HAZY BUILDING  
AT UTAH TECH UNIVERSITY

THE UDVAR-HAZY BUILDING (UHB) IS JUST NORTH OF 900 EAST & 400 SOUTH.

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND THE PUBLIC IS INVITED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE SILVER REEF MUSEUM AT (435)879-2254.

THURSDAY, 4/25/2024, 6:00 - 7:15 PM

ST. GEORGE LIBRARY LECTURE

"ST. THOMAS (LAKE MEAD GHOST TOWN)" BY REUBEN WADSWORTH.

FREE AND ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

DOWNSTAIRS IN COMMUNITY ROOM A AT THE ST. GEORGE LIBRARY,

88 WEST 100 SOUTH, ST GEORGE UT 84770

FOR INFORMATION, E-MAIL TREVOR M. COX AT TREVOR.COX@WASHCO.LIB.UT.US.

THURSDAY, 4/25/2024, 7:00 PM

LECTURE TO ACCOMPANY THE SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT AT THE SILVER REEF MUSEUM  
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FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY AND JUNE, PLEASE GO TO [HTTP://WCHSUTAH.ORG](http://WCHSUTAH.ORG)

Events are funded by grants from Utah humanities, St. George City RAP Tax, and Washington County RAP Tax.  
We appreciate their support of our activities.

