

Cedar City Chapter of Sons of the Utah Pioneers



SUP Monument CC-28 Discovery of Iron

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Longitude: -113.216111; Latitude: 37. 736389; Elevation 5,490'; about 2 miles past Iron Springs Hotel on west side of Irons Springs Road, through gate, Cedar City, Utah



Southern Utah Expedition of 1849, Discovery of Iron

Cedar City Chapter of Sons of the Utah Pioneers



Realizing the limited resources for pioneer settlement in the Salt Lake Valley and surrounding settlements in 1849, and the potential of many more immigrants arriving in the next few years, Brigham Young began to search out possible new settlements. Based on reports of Jefferson Hunt, who had traveled through southern Utah in 1847 and 1848, one of the regions, which seemed promising, was the valleys along the Spanish Trail in southern Utah Territory. The November legislature authorized the establishment of the Southern Expedition to investigate such possibilities. The exploring party, which eventually consisted of fifty-five men, was led by Mormon Apostle Parley P. Pratt. This expedition and its subsequent report helped influence the creation of dozens of new communities in southern Utah. Among the first were the settlements of Parowan and Cedar City in 1851, in what would be Iron County. This is one of four monuments, which tell the story of this historic expedition. They are located at Iron Springs, Parowan Gap, Parowan, and Fremont Canyon.

The most significant accomplishment of the Southern Expedition was the rediscovery of iron in 1849, west of present day Cedar City. In the fall of 1849, as Mormons and gold seeking Forty-niners passed by Iron Springs area, they recorded in their journals the presence of iron ore. When the Southern Utah Expedition arrived at the Little Salt Lake Valley in December 1849, they divided into two groups. Pratt took one party south to explore the Virgin River drainage and the second group camped in what would be become Parowan, Utah. The Parowan group, under the leadership of David Fullmer, gathered many samples of iron ore as they explored the region surrounding the Little Salt Lake.

Two days after the Pratt group returned to Parowan, the expedition headed for home in Salt Lake City. Pratt arrived in the valley on January 31, 1850, with the ore samples and a report of the expedition's accomplishments and recommendations. The expedition's report led to the direct settlement of Iron County. By October 1850, plans were made and settlers were selected for what would be the Iron Mission. Parowan was settled in January 1851 and Cedar City in November 1851. Iron mining has been an extremely important part of Iron County's history and economy.

Erected- Cedar City Utah West Stake Young Men and Women- 1997.

Utah Pioneer Sesquicentennial Celebration Monument.

Sponsors- Cedar City Utah West Stake

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