

Cedar City Chapter of Sons of the Utah Pioneers



SUP Monument CC-4 Nellie Pucell Unthank

QR to get to this Location:



QR to List of SUP Monuments: QR to get to this page:



Longitude: -113.068889.; Latitude: 37.674444; Elevation 5,850'; On the Campus of SUU, Corner of W 200 S / S 450 W Street. Cedar City UT.



Ellen (Nellie) Pucell Unthank

Ellen (Nellie) Pucell was born November 6, 1846 in Tintwhistle England. At 9, she with her parents and Sister Margaret (Maggie), 14 began the trek from Iowa to Salt Lake Valley in 1856 with Edward Martin Handcart Company.

Early snows overtook the company, both Nellie parents died on the trail. Nellie feet were frozen. On arrival in Salt Lake Valley. She was strapped to a board, no anesthetics were available, both her legs were amputated just below the knee, with a butcher's knife and carpenter's saw.

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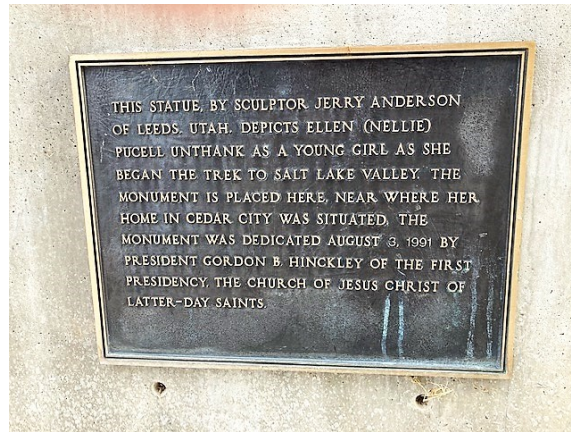
For the rest of her life she moved about on the painful stubs of her legs.

At 24 in Cedar City she became the plural wife of William Unthank. His income was small.

Beginning as a wife in a one-room log house with dirt floor, she kept her home spotless. Nellie took in washing, she kept knitted stockings to sell, she gave birth to 6 children. Her Bishop and Relief Society occasionally brought food to her family. To even the score, once a year she and her children cleaned the meetinghouse throughout.

Nellie died at 68 in Cedar City A noble representative of the rank and File of Mormon Pioneers.

This Monument Erected by the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers.



This statue, by sculptor Jerry Anderson of Leeds, Utah. Depicts Ellen (Nellie) Pucell Unthank as a young girl as she began the trek to Salt Lake Valley. The monument is placed here near where her home in Cedar City was situated. The monument was dedicated, August 3, 1991 by President Gordon B. Hinckley of the first Presidency, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.