

Cedar City Chapter of Sons of the Utah Pioneers



SUP Monument Parowan Freedom Pole (Liberty Pole)

QR to get to this Location:



QR to List of SUP Monuments:



QR to get to this page:



Longitude: -113.825833; Latitude: 37.836111; Elevation 6,110'; 200 yards Northeast of, 95 West old Hwy 91, Parowan, Utah.



Liberty Pole

Cedar City Chapter of Sons of the Utah Pioneers



Parley P. Pratt

Parley P. Pratt was well qualified to lead the Southern Utah Expedition in 1849-50. He was converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1830 and served twelve full-time proselyting missions. In 1834, he accompanied Joseph Smith on the Zion's Camp expedition from Ohio to Missouri to reclaim lost Mormon lands. He was ordained one of the twelve Apostles in 1848. Pratt came to the Salt Lake Valley with his family in September 1847 and suffered with the small group who spent the first winter there. During 1847 and 1848, he explored the regions surrounding the Great Salt Lake. Pratt continued his role as an explorer when he was chosen by Brigham Young to lead the Southern Utah Expedition.

When the expedition reached Parowan, it was divided into two groups on Christmas Day 1849. Pratt took one part south to explore the regions around the Virgin River. The second group, under the direction of Dave Fuller, established a temporary camp at Heap Springs. While the Parowan group waited for Pratt's return, they explored the canyons in the area for natural resources necessary for future settlement. Pratt returned on January 8, 1850.

Under Pratt's direction, a liberty pole was erected on a hill to the east of this site. A white flag with one star and the words, "Great Basin" was placed on the pole. A red banner with the caption, "Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Labor and Freedom to the Saint" was attached to the flag. After this heroic expedition, Pratt served other missions for his Church. He was murdered in Arkansas on May 13, 1856, at the age of fifty.