

# Church History Department Research & Outreach Division

## Church History Department Topical Resources Series, No. 9— St. George/Southern Utah

This is a list of materials and products created by the Church History Department pertaining to the history of the Church in Southern Utah with a focus on the St. George area. [Links are provided for all resources accessible over the internet.](#)

For users who are not sure where to begin, we have provided some helps:

Yellow = an important primary source

Green = a good summary document

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## Resources to Visit

### **Brigham Young Winter Home and Office**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/learn/historic-sites/utah/brigham-young-winter-home?lang=eng>

President Brigham Young lived in this home in St. George, Utah, during the winter months from 1870 to 1877. The adjacent office was built to facilitate the work of preparing the sealing and endowment temple ordinances for the dead, conducted for the first time in the St. George Temple.

### **Cove Fort**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/learn/historic-sites/utah/cove-fort?lang=eng>

Cove Fort, located halfway between Beaver and Fillmore in south central Utah, was an integral way station that supported travel to settlements in southern Utah Territory as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints expanded from its headquarters in Salt Lake City.

### **Hamblin Home**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/learn/historic-sites/utah/jacob-hamblin-home?lang=eng>

The Hamblin Home in Santa Clara, Utah, is the place where Jacob Hamblin, president of the Southern Utah Indian Mission, lived with his family beginning in 1863. Because of Hamblin's service among the American Indians in the region, the home functioned as the headquarters for the mission. Today it is a historic site and is open for public tours. The home and furnishings have been restored to reflect their 1860s appearance. Tours of the home tell about Hamblin's lifelong dedication to serving American Indians and about his family and their life on the frontier of southern Utah Territory.

### **Mountain Meadows Massacre National Historic Landmark**

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/72002128>

About 32 miles north of St. George is the site of a horrific episode in Church history. On September 7, 1857, at a desert oasis called Mountain Meadows, local Latter-day Saint militiamen, along with some Paiute Indians they recruited, attacked a group of families and individuals traveling from Arkansas to California. This attack was the beginning of a five-day siege. The siege ended on September 11, when the militiamen led a massacre of the entire group. In the siege and massacre, about 120 people were murdered. Only 17 small children survived. Today the site honors the victims of the massacre. It includes memorials and interpretive signs that give a brief overview of the story and share insights about the victims. While Mountain Meadows is a national historic site, the Church History Department has been heavily involved in preservation efforts and archaeology at the site.

### **Pine Valley Chapel**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/learn/historic-sites/utah/pine-valley-chapel?lang=eng>

This historic meetinghouse of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was built by settlers of the valley in 1873. Latter-day Saints in the area continue to meet in the building each week for worship services. During the summer, tours of the building are given daily. These tours highlight the dedication of the early Saints in Pine Valley and the construction and ornamentation techniques they used during the building's construction. The tours also include a visit to the nearby tithing office, which was constructed in 1886.

### **St. George Tabernacle**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/learn/historic-sites/utah/st-george-tabernacle?lang=eng>

The St. George Tabernacle has functioned as a place of worship and a place for community gatherings since 1869—before its completion in 1876. Guided tours highlight features that illustrate the faith, unity, artistry, and industry of the Latter-day Saints in their efforts to create a holy building where they could worship God. Exhibits display artifacts used in the construction and ornamentation of the building.

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## Written and Visual Resources

Emily Utt, “Five Things You Should Know about the St. George Utah Temple” [April 2, 2019]  
<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/content/historic-sites/utah/st-george/five-things-you-should-know-about-the-st-george-utah-temple?lang=eng>

This article explains five interesting facts about the construction of the St. George Temple.

Aaron L. West, “A Gardener in the Parlor: Glimpses into Brigham Young’s Winter Home” [March 7, 2019]

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/content/historic-sites/utah/st-george/a-gardener-in-the-parlor?lang=eng>

This article describes various aspects of Brigham Young’s winter home in St. George, Utah, as well as what occurred inside the home.

Samuel R. Palfreyman, “Four Things You Might Not Know about Jacob Hamblin” [August 12, 2019]

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/content/historic-sites/utah/st-george/four-things-you-might-not-know-about-jacob-hamblin>

This article discusses Jacob Hamblin, one of the initial settlers in southern Utah in Santa Clara.

Samuel R. Palfreyman, “The Hamblin Home: Remembering a Faithful Frontier Family in Santa Clara, Utah” [April 30, 2019]

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/content/jacob-hamblin-home>

This article discusses the construction of the Jacob Hamblin home and the Hamblin family in Santa Clara, Utah.

Aaron L. West, “Earth and Heaven: Building a Tabernacle, a Temple, and a People in St. George” [2019]

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/story/historic-sites/utah/st-george/earth-and-heaven?lang=eng>

This brief illustrated essay discusses the construction of the tabernacle and temple in St. George, Utah. It contains quotations from Church leaders and residents of St. George.

**What to Expect When You Visit the Church’s Historic Sites in Southern Utah**

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/content/historic-sites/utah/what-to-expect-when-you-visit-the-church-historic-sites-in-southern-utah?lang=eng>

This article describes the different historic sites that visitors can see in southern Utah.

### Online Exhibits

Curtis Ashton, “The St. George Tabernacle: United Effort in Southern Utah” [July 2018]

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/exhibit/historic-sites/st-george/st-george-tabernacle?lang=eng>

Includes contemporary and historic photographs of the tabernacle, images of artifacts, people, maps and timelines associated with the building of the St. George Tabernacle.

***Saints Volume 2: No Unhallowed Hand, 1846–1893***

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/history/saints-v2?lang=eng>

The second in the department’s four-volume narrative history of the Church includes information about the settlement and development of the vicinity in and around St. George.

Chapter 26—pp. 385-388, 392-393

Chapter 28—pp. 425-427

Chapter 43—pp. 645-647

***Saints Volume 3: Boldly, Nobly, and Independent, 1893–1955***

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/history/saints-v3?lang=eng>

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The third in the department's four-volume narrative history of the Church contains information about Saints living in and around St. George.

Chapter 5—pp. 75-76

### Lost Sermons

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/collection/museum/lost-sermons?lang=eng>

The Lost Sermons series on history.ChurchofJesusChrist.org features excerpts from these recently transcribed sermons, punctuated to improve readability. The full transcriptions are made available to researchers via a link to the Church History Catalog website at the bottom of each sermon.

Brigham Young, September 1864

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/content/museum/brigham-young-trip-south?lang=eng>

Extracts from sermons given by Brigham Young at various settlements in Utah during a trip south in 1864, including St. George.

### Church Historian's Press—Publications

<https://www.churchhistorianspress.org/?lang=eng>

#### The Diaries of Emmeline B. Wells

<https://www.churchhistorianspress.org/emmeline-b-wells?lang=eng>

Emmeline B. Wells, who served as the fifth general president of the Relief Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was a prominent Utahn in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Her diaries reference individuals living in or traveling to St. George, as well as events that occurred in southern Utah.

#### The Discourses of Eliza R. Snow

<https://www.churchhistorianspress.org/eliza-r-snow?lang=eng>

Eliza R. Snow, second general president of the Relief Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was a prolific speaker and the most influential Latter-day Saint woman of her time. She taught religious doctrine, emphasized practical principles, shared her political opinions, and conveyed love and encouragement for church members in nearly twelve hundred discourses given from 1840 to 1887 in western Illinois and throughout Utah and Idaho territories, including St. George. Searching on geographic terms on this website bring up discourses she gave in southern Utah.

#### The First Fifty Years of Relief Society

<https://www.churchhistorianspress.org/the-first-fifty-years-of-relief-society?lang=eng>

This collection of original documents explores the fascinating and largely unknown history of the Relief Society in the nineteenth century. The story begins with the founding of the Nauvoo Female Relief Society in 1842. Minutes and historical summaries are included for Relief Society organizations in Southern Utah.

#### The Journal of George Q. Cannon

<https://www.churchhistorianspress.org/george-q-cannon/?lang=eng>

Cannon's record covers half a century, a period in which he served as an editor and publisher, a businessman, an educator, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, a territorial delegate in Congress, and a counselor to church presidents Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, and Lorenzo Snow. Numerous references to events in and around St. George are found throughout the journals.

#### The Journal of George F. Richards

<https://www.churchhistorianspress.org/george-f-richards?lang=eng>

The life of George F. Richards, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles for forty-four years, bridged the pioneer and modern eras of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. For seventy years of his life—from 1880 to 1950—Richards kept an almost-daily journal of his

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activities. The publication of these journals is not yet complete, but references to St. George and the surrounding area are in the volumes that are published.

### Church History Department Website

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/>

### Blog

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/blog-series?lang=eng>

The Church History Library's blog, *The Historical Record*, occasionally publishes a series of posts on a common topic. A few pertain to St. George and Southern Utah.

### Recently Digitized Collections – October 2018

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/blog/recently-digitized-library-collections-october-2018?lang=eng>

Brigham Young letter, St. George, Utah to John McCarthy, Cache Valley, Utah, 1871  
January 23 (MS 6183)

<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/346f738a-32c5-402a-83c3-11660c950671/0/0>

### Recently Digitized Collections – August 2020

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/blog/recently-digitized-collections-august-2020?lang=eng>

Daniel Tyler letter, St. George, Utah to Wilford Woodruff, 1881 March 3  
MS 24628

<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/0e361e87-f054-4877-a338-c74ce33ef092/0/0>

### Recently Digitized Collections – March 2021

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/blog/recently-digitized-collections-march-2021?lang=eng>

Copy of minutes taken in St. George Tabernacle, 1899 May 17 and 18 (MS 20787)

<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/record/623f3b0a-f5dd-437b-8992-1ea4ce346d8c/0?view=browse>

### Recently Digitized Collections – July 2021

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/blog/recently-digitized-collections-july-2021?lang=eng>

David H. Cannon letter, St. George, Utah to Wilford Woodruff, 1877 September 29 (MS 10086)

<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/60284210-afeb-463d-840a-4b7a618b9f2c/0/0?lang=eng>

### Recently Digitized Collections – September 2021

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/blog/recently-digitized-collections-september-2021?lang=eng>

St. George 3rd Ward Relief Society minutes and records, 1877–1894 / St. George 3rd Ward (1862–1895), St. George Stake (LR 7751 14)

<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9341179c-e8c8-44a4-84cb-637511945856/0/0>

### Recently Digitized Collections – February 2022

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/blog/recently-digitized-collections-february-2022?lang=eng>

St. George Temple papers, circa 1871–1882 (CR 343 79)

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<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/record/0ee0a221-a2d3-486c-be0f-aaae03d2f360/0?view=browse>

Faye Fischer, “New in Church History Library Collections” [June 21, 2018]

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/blog/new-in-church-history-library-collection?lang=eng>

### St. George Tabernacle Capstone Time Capsule and Contents, 1871

<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/record/39db89a0-451e-4922-841a-7e4a37807ca8/0?view=summary>

This collection was discovered during seismic upgrade construction on the St. George Tabernacle in 2016. The container and the records inside were placed in the tabernacle tower by Charles Lowell Walker, who worked as a stonemason. He included original poetry, including “Song on Dedication of St. George Temple Site,” as well as a photograph and his testament. The collection also includes photographs taken by the construction crew on December 20, 2016. This collection shows frontier craftsmen’s dedication to their work and the longevity and modern importance of early Church architecture.

### St. George Photograph Collection, 1874–circa 1900 (PH 2858)

<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/record/ad03e02e-6905-440e-809f-5555c8a94b52/0?view=browse>

Collection includes panoramic view of temple and St. George, Utah (circa 1890s to early 1900s), St. George Temple stone cutters at work (1874), St. George Temple wagon and female temple workers (circa 1890s), and St. George 3rd Ward school (1885); Washington Cotton Mill workers (circa 1880s), experimental farm near St. George and first house built in Hurricane, Utah (circa late 1910s); portrait of unidentified group that includes Anthony W. Ivins (circa 1880)

## Research Guides

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/collection/research-guides>

Church History Department staff have created online research guides to help people begin research on several topics of significance. A few of these guides contain helpful information about the history of the Church in St. George and Southern Utah. Pertinent information includes:

### Primary Organization Research Guide

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/training/library/primary-organization-research-guide/overview>

#### Online Resources

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/training/library/primary-organization-research-guide/online-resources>

Contains links to collection items in the Church History Catalog. One Local Unit Record for the Primary organization in the St. George 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward is included in this research guide.

### St. George 2nd Ward Primary Association minutes and records, 1880–1905, LR 7750 18

<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/record/f090f151-b2fe-4b79-9db2-c74daa2e4da6/0?view=browse>

Primary Association minutes for the St. George 2nd Ward, St. George (Utah) Stake.

### Young Women Organization Research Guide

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/training/library/young-women-organization/young-women-organization-research-guide-overview>

#### Online Resources

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<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/training/library/young-women-organization/online-resources>

Contains links to collection items in the Church History Catalog. One Local Unit Record for the Young Women organization in the St. George 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward is included in this research guide.

**St. George 2nd Ward Y.L.M.I.A. Minute Book "B," 1882 to 1883 (LR 7750 18)**

<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/6e7b2d75-7083-45fd-acbc-6385f8cca79a/0/0?lang=eng>

This collection contains attendance records and meeting minutes for the ward YLMIA.

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## Video Resources

### **Men and Women of Faith Lecture Series**

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/section/lecture-highlights?lang=eng>

#### **Kim Woodbury, “I Loved the Work: Stories of Faith from the Life of Ann Cannon Woodbury” [August 9, 2012]**

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/i-loved-the-work?lang=eng>

Kim Woodbury shares stories from the life of Ann Cannon Woodbury, sister of Apostle George Q. Cannon. Ann and her husband, Orin Woodbury, were called to help settle St. George, Utah. Her new surroundings were forbidding, but she devoted herself to making a life for her family there and building the Church and community. Living into her 90s, her faithfulness was an example to her family for generations.

### **Ministry of Lorenzo Snow: Leading the Church Out of Financial Bondage**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/video/2012-05-0506-ministry-of-lorenzo-snow-leading-the-church-out-of-financial-bondage?lang=eng>

While in St. George, Utah, President Snow receives direction from the Lord about the importance of obedience to the law of tithing.