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January marks St. George's 138th birthday

Happy Birthday, St. George!

I am sure that many of you did not know that this week marks 138 years since the city of St. George received its charter and became an incorporated city. Remember that 138 years ago it was January 1862.

In the October conference of the LDS church in 1861, Brigham Young, the leader of the church, stood at the podium and called out the names of 309 heads of families and gave them a charge to come to the southern



Dan McArthur

Letter From The
St. George
Mayor

part of the Utah Territory and establish the Dixie Cotton Mission. The name Dixie because cotton was raised in the southern states and that was known as Dixie, so the cotton mission in this area became known as

Utah's Dixie.

The first pioneers arrived in the valley in late November and early December of 1861. They came into the valley by way of the southern end of the east black ridge and set up their camp in the area where Dixie College is located. Now we have a monument in the Encampment Mall dedicated to remembering those who gave so much to give us what we have today.

They remained in this camp until the city could be laid out and lots drawn for each family to

settle on. In early January of 1862 the town council sent a petition to the Territorial Legislature asking to be recognized as an organized city. On the 17th of January, they were granted their request and thus became one of the first cities to be chartered in this now great state.

Why do I tell you this? Well, because I think that all those who now live here need to know their history. Knowing it can help them to become an integral part of this community, taking pride and ownership in this, their city.

This week we are celebrating the beginnings of St. George. All the activities during the week's events are free to the public, including programs, a free day of swimming at the Sand Hollow Aquatics center, demonstrations, story telling and work shops.

This is a chance to mingle and get to know more about your history and the reasons that this is such a special place with a special feeling that is hard to describe, but is known at least to me as the DIXIE SPIRIT. Lets catch it!