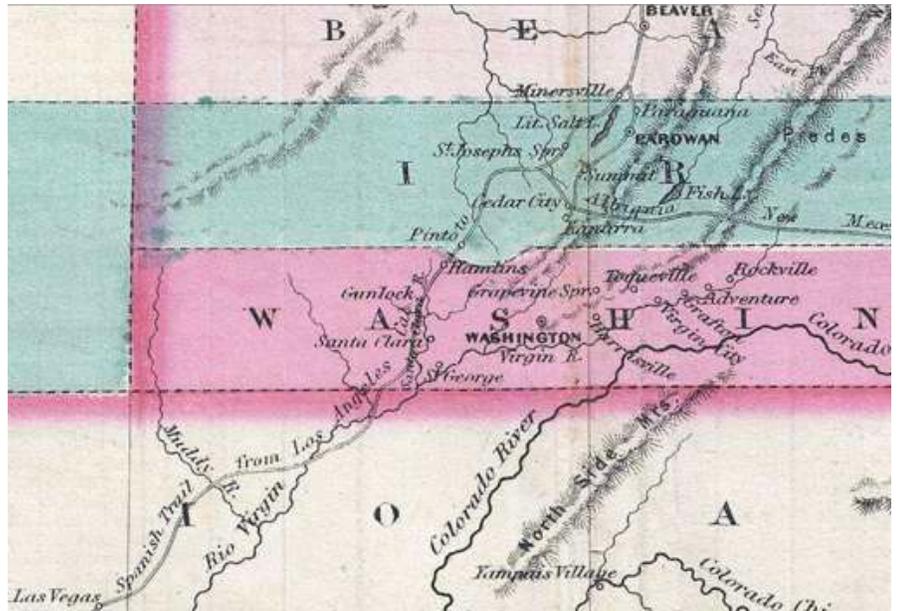


In December of 1859 Nathan Tenney with four families from Pocketville settled Grafton.

**ANOTHER NEW SETTLEMENT.**—By letter from Mr. James McFate we are informed that a new settlement has been commenced on the Rio Virgen, above Virgen city in Washington county, called Grafton. A dam across the river has been built, and the water taken out to irrigate the land, intended principally for the production of cotton, as it is said to be well adapted to the growing of that useful article; other crops had been put in which looked well on the 28th ult.

All was peace in that region and many of the Lamanites were at work, assisting the farmers in their agricultural labors.



May 23, 1860 *Deseret News*

In May, 1861, Grafton's Bishop, N. C. "Tinney" reported progress planting wheat, growing cotton, cane and fruit trees. On the 29th of May, 1861, President Brigham Young addressed the Grafton settlers.

There were 79 families living in Washington County in 1861. Santa Clara, 20, Virgen 11, Toquerville 10, Grafton 6, Adventure 6, Gunlock 4, Harrisville 2.

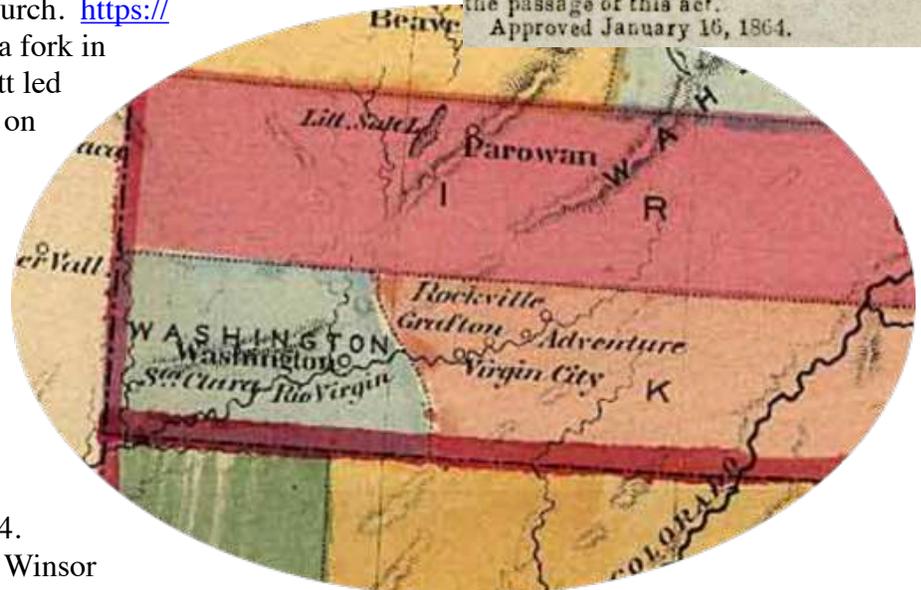
Apostles Erastus Snow and Orson Pratt led the 309 families that had been called to "Dixie" at that October's general conference of the church. <https://wchsutah.org/towns/st-george.php> At a fork in the road before Toquerville, Orson Pratt led about 50 families who elected to settle on the upper Virgin, above the Hurricane cliff. Orson's family went to Adventure. Miles Romney and James Andrus chose Grafton. Erastus and the main group arrived at Saint George in early December 1861. <https://wchsutah.org/towns/grafton-history-jones.pdf>

Sec. 3 Be it further enacted that all that portion of Washington county lying east of a line running north from the southern boundary of the Territory, passing through the largest mineral spring at the mouth of the Rio Virgen kanyon, until it reaches the summit of the dividing ridge between the Leverkin and Ash creek, thence north easterly along said dividing ridge, to the line of Iron county, be and the same is hereby detached from Washington county, and shall hereafter be known as Kane county, and the county seat is hereby located at Grafton.

Sec. 4. That the Probate Judge, when elected, shall proceed, as soon as practicable, to organize the county.

Sec 5. All judicial proceedings pending in any county previous to the publication of this act are hereby continued in full force and virtue, and shall be adjudicated and determined in the county in which they are included by the passage of this act.

Approved January 16, 1864.



Kane County was organized by the territorial legislature in January of 1864. Grafton was the County seat. Anson P. Winsor was the county's first Probate Judge.

These Indian massacres, which were generally accompanied by raids on cattle, rendered it necessary for the inhabitants of Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Millard, Iron, Beaver, Kane and Washington counties to guard their stock with mounted, armed men.

In January, 1866, a band of Indians made a descent upon the Pipe Spring ranch, in Kane county, killing J. M. Whitmore, the proprietor, and Robert McIntyre, and robbing the ranch of cattle and sheep. The rancho of Pahreah was also robbed, and besieged for several months. Peter Shirts barricaded his house, and by strategy and unceasing vigilance, with the aid of his family, managed to evade the blow aimed at him until relieved by Captain James Andrus and a company of mounted volunteers from Grafton.

April 2nd, Robert Berry and wife, with his brother Joseph, were waylaid and massacred at Short creek, Kane county.

*December 2, 1868 Deseret News*

The threats of Indian raids on settlements and livestock herds caused the Kane County seat to be relocated from Grafton to Rockville in 1867. In 1869, the Kane County seat was moved to Toquerville.

Martha Sonntag Bradley, a professor at the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Utah, wrote a full history of Kane County in 1999. <http://www.riversimulator.org/Resources/History/UtahCounties/HistoryOfKaneCounty1996Bradley.pdf>

Kane County was named after Colonel Thomas L. Kane a long time non-Mormon friend and ally of Mormon emigrants. When Utah was granted territorial status in 1850, President Fillmore asked Kane to be the first governor. He declined and suggested Brigham Young. <https://wchsutah.org/people/thomas-l-kane.php>

On February 25, 1858, Colonel Thomas L. Kane arrived in Salt Lake City. He had made a long and dangerous journey from New York via the Isthmus of Panama to Los Angeles and then to the stronghold of the Saints for the purpose of helping to bring about an amicable agreement between the Mormons and the Federal Government.

The work of Colonel Kane was effective. Coupled with other forces, he was able to convince Brigham Young and his people that Governor Cumming was a fine man and that the "Expedition" would not make war upon the Saints.

On March 12, 1858, Colonel Kane arrived at Camp Scott with a letter to Governor Cumming from Brigham Young "accrediting him as a negotiator in the existing difficulties." Kane convinced Cumming that he should come to Salt Lake and assured him a cordial reception. The Governor accepted the invitation and journeyed to the Mormon Mecca. Upon arriving there, he was amazed at the hospitality shown him.

"Governor Cumming reported to Washington the true state of affairs and the deliberate falseness of Drummond's charges."

Several United States senators and some of the leading newspapers of the East took up the cause of the Mormons and strongly protested the action of President Buchanan in sending the army to Utah. They demanded an investigation of the whole affair, which resulted in the President appointing a commission to come to Utah for the purpose of offering the Mormons peace.

The peace commission reached the stronghold of the Saints on June 7, 1858. It had a proclamation of pardon from the President, which declared the Mormon leaders to be in a state of "rebellion" and "treason", but the government would grant a pardon to all who were willing to accept the authority of the United States.

Brigham Young definitely maintained that none of the Mormons were guilty of treason nor rebellion, but they would accept the pardon.

*August 3, 1840 Deseret News*

The upper Virgin settlements of Kane County were returned to Washington County in 1882, at a time when there was a concern that the large gentile population of Silver Reef could dominate Washington County elections.



*In Old Arizona* Director Raoul Walsh 1929

In 1929, A quartet of soldiers sang *Bicycle Built for Two* with the Grafton schoolhouse as backdrop. Forty year later B. J. Thomas sang *Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head*, while Newman and Ross rode past the same spot. Worth comparing.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqMvm-fr\\_5MM&t=860s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqMvm-fr_5MM&t=860s) (at 9 minutes in)

<https://www.facebook.com/tcmtv/videos/raindrops-keep-falling-on-my-head-from-butch-cassidy-and-the-sundance-kid-69/803524560139227/>



See <https://graftonheritage.org/grafton-news-2019/>

And <https://graftonheritage.org/history-settlement/>

You can watch the full George Roy Hill movie at <https://archive.org/details/butch-cassidy-and-the-sundance-kid-1969>  
You'll remember they used dynamite to rob trains.

June 2, 1899 Wilcox, Wyoming train robbery  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxWrMczsNho>  
August 29, 1900 Tipton, Wyoming train robbery  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdKveFZd40A>



Born in April 13, 1866, Robert Leroy Parker was the real Butch Cassidy. Raised in a Mormon family, he had lots of connections to Washington County. The first of 13 children born to Maximillian and Ann (Gilles) Parker. He was a grandson of Robert and Ann (Hartley) Parker, who joined the Mormon church in Lancashire, England. They came across the great plains in a handcart in 1856, and settled in Beaver, Utah. <https://wchsutah.org/people/robert-parker.php>

In 1865, Grandpa Rob was called to help build the Cotton Factory in Washington City. When it was done he returned to Beaver. In 1873, Robert opened a co-op store next the Relief Society building on Telegraph Street in Washington. In 1878, he was appointed postmaster. His travels between Beaver and Washington included stops at Silver Reef. He was regularly appointed election judge for the Washington precinct.

Then in 1886, Robert Parker, at age 66, married his second wife. Twenty year old, Jensine (Sena) Madsen, who was born in Norway. This polygamous union made him a target for federal marshals.

#### Arrested and Escaped...

On Saturday Robert Parker, of the co-operative store at Washington City, was arrested by Deputy Armstrong, on the charge of polygamy. Shortly afterward, while he was in a room, in custody of the officer Mr. Parker made his escape by getting out of the window, and has not since been rearrested.

Miss Sena Madsen, the young lady who was arrested in this city, and who was alleged to be Mr. Parker's plural wife, was released from custody on Saturday evening.  
—Deseret News, Oct. 3.

October 3, 1887 Deseret News

The deputy followed him into his store/post office, after he received the mail pouch from the stagecoach driver. His escape was supported by the friendly Mormon townsfolk.



In April of 1891, Robert Parker, now a notorious fugitive was arrested while attending services at the Salt Lake Tabernacle, and held on a \$1,000 bond. After pleading guilty in Beaver, he received a one year suspended sentence, because of his age and lack income.

**HE WAS FROM BEAVER.**  
**Robert Parker Injured in Explosion at Sherman, Wyo.**  
(Special to The Herald.)  
Cheyenne, Wyo., Feb. 21.—Robert Parker, one of the men injured in the dynamite explosion at Sherman yesterday, came from Beaver, Utah. He submitted to the amputation of one of his legs. While he is making a hard fight for life there are few chances for his recovery. He is now at Laramie.

February 22, 1900 Salt Lake Herald Republican

**THE BEAVER COURT.**  
**Judge Anderson Adjourns in Order to Meet Harrison.**  
BEAVER CITY, May 6.—[Special telegram to THE HERALD.]—The first matter when the court opened was the People vs. Stewart, appealed. The demurrer to the complaint was sustained.  
William King, formerly of Kingston, Plute county, now of Foote, pleaded guilty to unlawful cohabitation and was fined \$100.  
Robert Parker, indicted years ago for polygamy, pleaded guilty. The court, after thoroughly reviewing all the circumstances of the case, stated it was the court's duty to enforce the laws. The defendant being without means and in his seventy-second year, no good would occur by sending defendant to prison. The court, therefore, suspended sentence for one year to prove defendant's future good behavior.  
At 1 p. m. the court adjourned till Monday, at 2 p. m., Judge Anderson going north to meet President Harrison.

**ROBERT PARKER IS DEAD.**  
**Victim of the Union Pacific Gravel Pit Horror Passes Away.**  
**Death Came to the Unfortunate Man on Thursday Night—Third Death from the Dynamite Explosion.**  
[SPECIAL TO THE "NEWS."]  
Cheyenne, Wyo., Feb. 23.—Robert Parker, of Beaver, Utah, one of the victims of the Sherman gravel pit horror, died last night.

February 23, 1900 Salt Lake Herald Republican

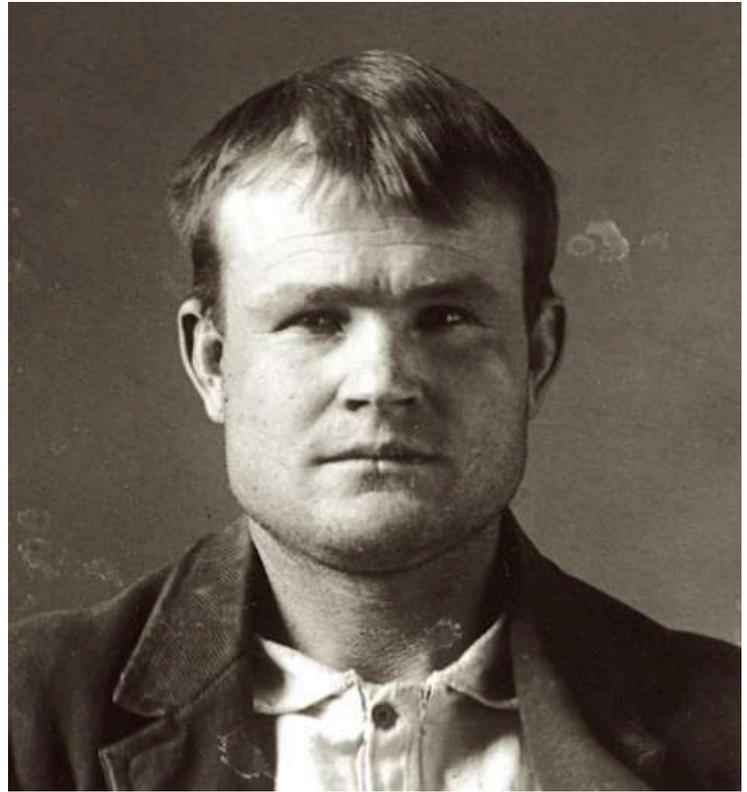
So, Butch Cassidy's 80-year old grandfather died in Wyoming, working for Union Pacific with dynamite. Isn't that where they robbed the trains. The obvious question ... Butch where did you get the dynamite?

Daniel Sinclair Parker, Butch's younger brother also became the notorious stagecoach robber "Tom Ricketts". <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11667435/daniel-sinclair-parker>

It should also be noted that two of Robert Leroy Parker's aunts lived in Leeds. Ada Parker McMullin, wife of Brigham McMullen and Caroline Parker McMullin, wife of David McMullin. And another lived in St. George, Martha Alice Parker Woodbury, wife of John Woodbury, a member of the St. George stake high council.

Another of Butch Cassidy's romantic acquaintances, Ann Bassett of Brown's Hole, Daggett County, Utah lived in Silver Reef later in life, in the Rice Bank building. A comparison of photographs of Ann Bassett and Etta Place convinced University of Utah historian Paul Reeve that they were the same person.

<http://www.silverreefutah.org/BUILDINGS---GROUNDS.html> <https://amberandchaos.net/?p=503>



Underpinning this 1969 western, is a premise with roots in the late 19th century persecution of southern Utah's residents by federal officials. That premise was aligned with the sentiments of young anti-war protestors in the late 1960s being jailed for mostly peaceful protests and demonstrations.

Prosecution for unlawful cohabitation, confiscation of Mormon church property and entrenched congressional action opposing Utah statehood and self-governance led many locals to feel "*that all a righteous citizen could be was an outlaw*".



***Back & Forth (A Ghost Story)***

*Red Rock Rondo  
at Grafton Graveyard*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guDODqaCThc>

In 1927, a 12-year-old girl named Vilo Demille was playing in a graveyard in Grafton, Utah (a remote town once used as a hideaway by Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid) when she saw the ghosts of two girls who had died in a terrible accident in Grafton in 1866. Hear the story told in song for Vilo by members of the musical ensemble Red Rock Rondo - Charlotte Bell, Phillip Bimstein, Hal Cannon, Harold Carr, Flavia Cerviño-Wood, and Kate MacLeod - at the Grafton cemetery in front of the grave of the two girls.

***When the Rooster Crows***

*Red Rock Rondo  
with Rockville Watermaster Leon Lewis*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9PtIV9r9Mc>

"I milked my first cow when I was five..." Leon Lewis was teacher and principal at the two-room Springdale (Utah) Elementary School for more than 30 years. A lover of poetry, which he commits to memory and often recites. When he retired to his farming Rockville, the county named its local library after him. This song is based on things Leon told Red Rock Rondo composer Phillip Bimstein while taking him on a tour of his farm. *Historic Ditches of Rockville* Richard Kohler, 2010 <https://wchsutah.org/towns/rockville3.pdf>

***Hay Colored Leaves***

*Red Rock Rondo  
with Springdale Resident Louise Excell*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z21hgJQm2oE>

When Louise Excell was growing up in Springdale, Utah, there were fruit-bearing mulberry trees lining both sides of the street all the way through town. They were full of fruit—white mulberries, black mulberries, red mulberries—which attracted huge flocks of birds. The children's hands would turn purple with the juice from those mulberries. But one by one, the trees were cut down for development. Louise said that, sadly, there's no place for mulberry trees in Springdale anymore.

***Rocks on Fire***

*Red Rock Rondo  
Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel (1928)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGZwlcjQ6o>

Rocks on Fire tells the story of the mile-long tunnel that was blasted through a mountain in Zion National Park in 1928. An engineering marvel, it connected the two sides of the park, and from that point on, tourism flourished—but not until after the miners could blast the uneven places or, as they said, "shoot the tights." It was hard and dangerous work; two men died, one from inhaling too much sand and dynamite fumes. Today visitors drive through the tunnel in comfort and see all the wonders of Zion, thanks to those miners who drove through that rock with shovels, sweat and dynamite.

**Don Falvey Waltz**  
*Red Rock Rondo*  
*at Grafton Graveyard*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oF6TYlfbz8>

Thirty years ago, when he was collecting folksongs from Utah, Virgin City resident Hal Cannon recorded a Springdale harmonica player named Larkin Gifford. Larkin played a traditional tune he called "The Don Jolley Waltz," named after Zion's first chief ranger. Hal later recorded this tune with the Deseret String Band. When Phillip Bimstein served as mayor of Springdale, the town forged an award-winning partnership with Zion National Park and its superintendent, Don Falvey. Phillip adapted "The Don Jolley Waltz" and gave it words that honor this relationship and the work done by Don Falvey to preserve the nature and quiet of the park and the Virgin River (originally called the "Pa'Rus" by the Paiute Indians).

Former Springdale Mayor Phillip Bimstein organized the performers of the Zion Canyon Song Cycle at his home. You can watch a 55 minute video that combines good history with great music here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXyZr5aUxw8>

***"You are riding on my bike, in some Arabian countries that the same as being married."***

