

A Brief History of the General Steam Mill
Pine Valley Ranger District
Dixie National Forest.

Located in T. 39 S, R. 17 E. Section 6 is the remains of a project known as the General Steam Mill.

A Mr. Leroy Wilson of St George began the operations at the site in the 1920's finding and processing material he said had 81 vital minerals in the ore. He was found murdered in the hills southwest of Kanab on May 19, 1954. It was claimed that he was murdered for either the scam he ran at General Steam or because he jumped a Uranium Claim near Kanab. It was later found out that Mr. Wilson ran a scam inviting investors to the area to see what he was removing and getting them to invest in his mill and mines. Nothing was ever removed from the immediate area and he was known to have brought in minerals showing the gold and minerals he claimed were from the area just for the investors to see.

The letters found in the Dixie National Forest History Files state that Mr. Wilson was mining in the area of the Bull Mountains and moved his young Family and a couple of young men into the area to process the ore he was finding. Investors came from all over the world. There is some indication that he was building Steam engines intended primarily to power trucks and automobiles. There is an account that he drove a steam powered truck around the streets of St. George. The Files from the Dixie National Forest do not have any of this information in them just the dealings with the mining operations.

He built several building including a house for his family, a smaller house for his help, a warehouse with furnaces, a large cellar, and animal pens. A large orchard consisting of apple and pear trees with two very large walnut trees are found to the west of the main site. Large boilers, trucks, rollers, stamping machine, and bulldozer have been identified on site. Most of this material has been removed in the last few years from the site by unknown people.