
 WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

<http://wchsutah.org>



LaVerkin City (from www.laverkin.org)

THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Dear Members:

We are already through half of 2024! How time flies when you live in one of the most beautiful places on Earth! The Washington County Historical Society had a very productive second quarter. Our WCHS board has been incredible, and our new Board Member, Maureen Parks, has done a fantastic job initiating this quarterly report to our membership! As we wrap up this second quarter of 2024, we are thrilled to announce some exciting new projects that will be unveiled in the coming weeks! Our Community Meeting is held at 10:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday of each month at the Pioneer Museum, 145 North 100 East, St. George.

Remember you can always see current events on our WCHS Website Calendar at <https://wchsutah.org/calendar.php>.

As our third quarter begins, we will need many different talents. Please join us for fun projects and meet new friends who love history!



IAN CROWE
WCHS PRESIDENT

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YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ian Crowe
Secretary: Loren Webb
Treasurer: Teresa Orton
Webmaster: George Cannon
Vice Presidents: Brad Bennett, Chad Bennion, Richard Kohler, Maureen Parks, Jesse Stocking

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Website Committee



George Cannon, Chairman

In this report, we will focus on how to get started using the WCHS website. The website is very large with thousands of “webpages” containing a vast amount of data. Some relates to the operations of the WCHS, but most records the history of Washington County. The website is constantly evolving and getting better, so some parts are well developed and others are somewhat primitive.

The obvious first place to start is the “home page”, <http://wchsutah.org>. It gives you pull-down menus to take you to key areas of the website. If being accessed from a small display such as on a cellphone, the three horizontal bar icon will replace the pull-down list with all the links in the pull-down lists (but not the list titles). The home page also has icons to take you directly to the WCHS Calendar, Facebook Page, and YouTube Channel. Also, there is a search field to do a Google search on just the WCHS website.

There are two primary areas of the website that each have a unique look and feel. There are blue pages that have evolved from the original WCHS website. They are not optimized for small-screen mobile devices, but still can be accessed from those devices. They have a primitive design to support access to vast amounts of data. The other section is a first attempt at a more modern, user-friendly group of webpages aimed at the casual viewer and offering promotional material and current information about the Washington County Historical Society. To begin viewing the blue webpages, use the History pull-down menu (or Introduction on a mobile device). To begin viewing the modern webpages, use the Activities pull-down menu (or Welcome on a mobile device).

Since there are the largest number of webpages in the blue section of the website, it is worth learning some of the ways to find what you are looking for there. The Introduction webpage mentioned in the previous paragraph is a good place to start. You can go there directly at <https://wchsutah.org/index-history.php>. The Google search link on the home page is easier to use than the “Search WCHS Site” link on each of the blue pages. You can also use the “Find” feature on your browser to search for words or phrases on a particular webpage. The “Help” feature is just getting started and topic suggestions are appreciated. If you use the “Subject Index” feature and don’t find a subject that you think should be there, please let us know.

As always, if you have suggestions, questions, or need help, you can contact George Cannon at webmaster@wchsutah.org. If you would like to help advance the website, please contact us. Volunteers of all sorts are needed to speed up the work.

MUSEUM NEWS

WASHINGTON HERITAGE MUSEUM



Submitted by Linda Shogren
WCHS Member & Washington
Heritage Museum Volunteer

The initiative to scan all personal histories and books in the Washington City Museum is complete. Approximately 15,000 pages of personal histories (45 binders) and 10,000 pages of books (66 books) have been scanned and are available on the recently purchased laptop in the museum.

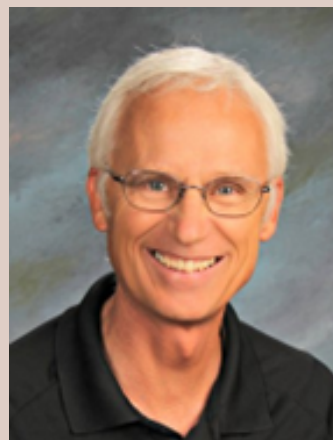
Along with the laptop there is also a printer and scanner. Patrons can email scanned files, print or copy them to a thumb drive, which is available for purchase at the front desk for \$2.

A huge thank you to Brooks Reese for diligently scanning all the histories.

The Washington Heritage Museum is located at 25 E. Telegraph, Washington. The hours are Monday thru Saturday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The museum would love to be open to the public a few more hours each weekday if it had a few more volunteers. If interested in volunteering at the museum, please contact Kathy or George Staheli at 425-628-1077.

MCQUARRIE MEMORIAL MUSEUM



Submitted by Loren Webb
WCHS Board Secretary

The History of Washington County

WHO: Loren Webb

WHAT: History of Washington County Lecture

WHEN: Saturday, September 14, 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum,
145 North 100 East, St. George

The lecture will cover an overview of the geology, culture and economic history of Washington County.

Webb is a retired educator and journalist as well as author of "Southern Utah Memories" chronicling the history, events and people who influenced the development of southern Utah communities.

He is a board member with the Washington County Historical Society and with the Sons of Utah Pioneers Cotton Mission Chapter. He also teaches local history classes through the Institute for Continued Learning (ICL) at the Dixie Campus of Utah Tech University.

SOCIETY NEWS

BYLAWS



Teresa Orton

MEMBERSHIP

The Washington County Historical Society now has four options for membership:

Annual membership for a single person is \$25.
Annual membership for a married couple is \$35.
Lifetime membership for a single person is \$250.
Lifetime membership for a married couple is \$350.

To join, go to <https://washcouthistory.org>, Membership, and follow the instructions on that webpage.

Board member, Teresa Orton, took on the task of reviewing and updating the current Bylaws for the Washington County Historical Society (WCHS) in May 2023. There have been discussions and suggestions made by current and previous Board members, but a final draft has not been submitted for review.

In January 2024, Chad Bennion was elected to the Board, and he volunteered to assist with the review process.

Hopefully, by the end of August 2024, a draft of the revised Bylaws will be presented to the Board. Once the Board has reviewed and made changes, it will be presented to the membership of the WCHS for a vote to approve.

This has been a long process, and we thank everyone who has contributed.

You can also join by giving a check made out to the Washington County Historical Society to any WCHS Board member or mailing it to Washington County Historical Society, P. O. Box 404, St. George, UT 84771-0404. Please include your name(s), address, phone number, and e-mail address.

If you have already joined as a single person for 2024, but would like to upgrade to another membership category, you can get credit for your \$25 membership and pay the difference to the category you would like. Go to <https://washcouthistory.org/> and enter the additional amount for the category you want. Leave a comment explaining what you want to do and fill out the rest of the information on the form.

WCHS is a non-profit (IRS 501c3) organization. Our tax-exempt ID number is 87-0465878. We appreciate the support of community members who are interested in the history of Washington County.



COMMUNITY MEETINGS SCHEDULE

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO ATTEND.

These monthly meetings are for WCHS officers, members, and any others with an interest in Washington County history.

It is an opportunity to hear about what is going on with the WCHS and to exchange ideas with others having similar interests.

Meet in the downstairs meeting room of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers (DUP) McQuarrie Memorial Museum, 145 North 100 East, St. George, UT.

For more information, check the website at <https://wchsutah.org>, e-mail info@wchsutah.org, or call and leave a message at (435)275-7409.

Washington County Historical Society Community Meetings schedule:

Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 10:00 am - Noon

Wednesday, July 31, 2024, 10:00 am - Noon

Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 10:00 am - Noon

Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

FIELD TRIP EVENT IN APRIL

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOINS SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS IN FIELD TRIP

The Washington County Historical Society members and friends joined the Sons of Utah Pioneers Cotton Mission Chapter in a field trip to the Hurricane Mesa Test Track, high above the town of Virgin, Utah, on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

Chris Woodbury of Collins Aerospace explained the facility is used to test military ejection seats. He showed a video that depicted the sleds in action and noted the sleds travel 1,100 feet per second along a 12,000-foot-long track.

The group walked parallel to the south end of the track to an observation area for viewing and taking pictures of the panoramic landscape.



One WCHS member wrote she and her spouse really enjoyed the field trip,
“It was a very unique experience and one we won't forget!”

Photos by Loren Webb, Secretary, WCHS Board of Directors

FIELD TRIP (CONT'D)



On the northeast part of the plateau is a double-wide modular office building and observation area to another vantage point for viewing Zion National Park and surrounding area. Inside the building were framed pictures of various sled tests.



Tony Allen checks out the unit used for testing ejection seats.

Thanks to Chris Woodbury for the presentation he gave at the Hurricane Mesa Test Track, to Reuben Wadsworth for his presentation and walking tour of the Hurricane Canal, to SUP Cotton Mission Chapter President Roy Taylor for his orientation and finally, thanks to all who participated. You made it that much more fun and interesting!

FIELD TRIP (CONT'D)

A group photo high above the desert floor.



The tour also included a lunch stop at Power Plant Park in LaVerkin where historic plaques, scattered throughout the park's paved pathways, interpreted the rich culture and environment of the area. The final stop on the tour included a lecture by local historian, teacher and writer, Reuben Wadsworth, on the history of the Hurricane Canal at a Hurricane Canal marker at 250 East 200 North in Hurricane. For those who were willing, Reuben later led the group on a walking tour of the historic canal that led to a flume and canal tunnel.



UPCOMING EVENT IN JUNE

SILVER REEF MUSEUM

Cosmopolitan Event

June 29, 2024-10am



Silver and China: Silver Reef's Chinese Community

Archaeology and history converge to uncover a largely forgotten story of the Chinese immigrant community in Silver Reef during the 1870s to 1880s. Recent archaeological discoveries help to better understand this community and connects to the broader history of Washington County and the American West.

About The Presenter: Merritt received his Ph.D. from the University of Montana in Anthropology in 2010, focusing on the archaeological and historical investigations of the Overseas Chinese. Before that, he received a Master's of Science in Industrial Archaeology from Michigan Technological University where he studied the trade and consumption of Mormon-produced pottery in Utah. Since 2004, Merritt has worked in a variety of professional archaeological settings including the United States Forest Service in Utah and Nevada, private archaeological contracting in Salt Lake City and finally as the State Historic Preservation Officer for the State of Utah. In addition to full time employment with the State of Utah, he is Adjunct Faculty at Salt Lake Community College and Weber State University where he teaches courses on Historical Archaeology and Cultural Resource Management.

Reservations suggested:
<https://tinyurl.com/ChinatowninSilverReef>
or 435.879.2254



Funded by
Utah Legislature



Utah Division of
Arts & Museums



Silver Reef Museum
1903 Wells Fargo Rd
Leeds, UT 84746

UPCOMING EVENT IN JUNE



Synopsis: Hollywood's infamous flop, "The Conqueror," stars John Wayne as Genghis Khan, embodying a slew of racist and sexist problems. Its enduring notoriety stems from the tragic fact that nearly half its cast and crew developed cancer, revealing a tale of government deception and negligent production choices, highlighting the devastating impact of nuclear fallout.

Plan to attend the screening at Pineview Movie Theater on June 29 at 7:00 p.m. Please click on the following link for tickets.

<https://www.megaplextheatres.com/film/H000003309/the-conqueror-hollywood-fallout>

UPCOMING EVENT IN JUNE



Come celebrate Utah's 100 years in film.

**In honor of Washington County's rich history and bright future in film,
come celebrate as we present showings of movies made
in Washington County.**

FREE MOVIES

**Limited seating at all venues.
Registration Required for FREE Tickets.**

GET TICKETS

UPCOMING EVENT IN JULY

GUNLOCK STATE PARK

WILLIAM "GUNLOCK" HAMBLIN



JULY 2ND, 2024
8:00PM

Noted Mormon pioneer settler, scout, gunsmith, missionary and prospector believed to be poisoned to death, will be the subject of a lecture by retired educator, author and journalist Loren Webb.

The free lecture, sponsored by Gunlock State Park, will begin at 8 p.m. at the large pavilion section of the park. Parking will be provided in the day use area of the state park.

UPCOMING EVENT IN JULY

Unfinished Journey William Gunlock Hamblin 1st Annual Commemorative Ride July 3 - 4, 2024



Coinciding with the famous Gunlock Rodeo, we will be enacting a commemorative trail ride from Barclay, NV to Gunlock, UT to bring the memory of William Gunlock Hamblin (Bill) home to the town and annual 4th of July rodeo that bear his name.

In the Spring of 1872, Bill was subpoenaed to testify in a mining dispute court case in Pioche, NV. While there, he was intentionally poisoned. After a few days of attempted recovery, Bill began his journey home to Gunlock, only making it as far as Barclay, NV, where he succumbed to the poisoning, dying on May 8, 1872 and being buried there.

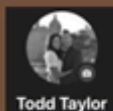
To remember the unrealized final wish of Gunlock, UT's founding father to make it back to his beloved Gunlock home and to recognize the remarkable accomplishments of a life well lived and of an honorable posterity, we will finish the journey that Bill could not.

Anyone interested in participating in this event is welcome. Whether you descend from Bill, have some connection to the town of Gunlock, or simply desire to honor a great pioneer, there are many ways to become involved.

For questions or expressions of interest and support, please contact Todd Taylor at:

wghride@gmail.com

FB Messenger: Todd Taylor



UPCOMING EVENT IN JULY

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Field Trip

to

Veyo

Saturday, July 13th

Meet at the Pioneer Courthouse at 9 am. caravan to Veyo, Family Dollar parking lot 9:30. Questions Sidney (435) 703 - 1934.



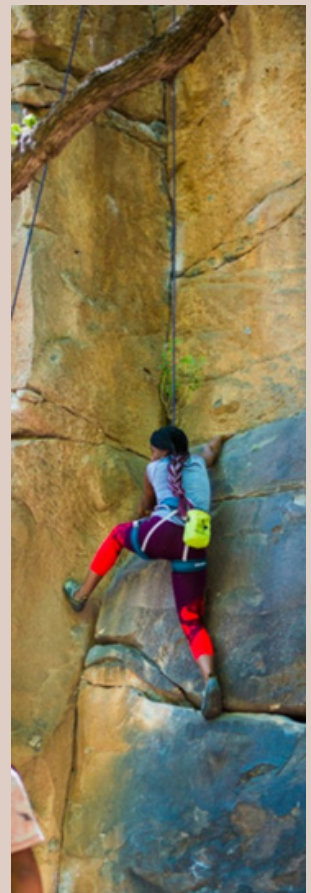
Veyo Arch Bridge (1957)



Veyo Pool (1927)



Veyo Rodeo Grounds (2011)



Veyo Canyon Climb



UPCOMING EVENT IN SEPTEMBER



HERITAGE DAYS 2024



Friday September 6th
Saturday September 7th
Ivins City Heritage Park
100N 100W Ivins, UT

PARADE • PIE BAKING CONTEST • LIVE LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT • VENDORS

CHILDREN'S GAMES • MINI MISS PAGEANT • PONY RIDES • FAMILY GAMES

CRAFTS • ART EXHIBIT • CLIMB WALL • SPONSORS • BINGO

INFLATABLES • OLD FASHIONED GAMES • COYOTE TALES STORYTELLING

Learn more and sign up to get involved at
ivinsutah.gov/heritage-days

EVENT THRU OCTOBER



**SILVER REEF
MUSEUM
PRESENT:**

**LAWMEN &
MUDDY RIVER
GANG**

Every 2nd
Saturday
of Each
Month

Starting:
11 am - 12 pm
Top of the Hour
March-October

1903 Well
Fargo Rd
Leeds, UT.
84746

KID FRIENDLY

**Old Wild West Shootout Shows
(with a bit of comedy)**

Western Reenactors

[Www.LAWandMUD.com](http://www.LAWandMUD.com)



**WANTED
VOLUNTEERS!**

IF YOU LOVE THE OLD WEST,
WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU AT THE
Silver Reel Museum | Ghost Town!

REWARD!

Call: 435-879-2254

GUIDED HISTORICAL HIKES ALONG THE HURRICANE CANAL

Reuben Wadsworth, aka "Ranger Reub," author of the St. George News Days Series (a series of historical features about interesting places in the area), has started a guided hiking business which leads three different hikes of varying lengths along the historic Hurricane Canal.



He is also leading hikes in Confluence Park, the Virgin River bottomlands between La Verkin and Hurricane.

All hikes are scheduled in the early morning to beat the heat. If interested, please check out the schedule at <https://rangerreub.com/>. If none of the hikes fit your schedule, please contact him to see if he could guide a hike that would fit your schedule.

If interested, you could also follow him on social media:

Instagram: @rangerreubadventures

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/rangerreub>



CHINATOWN WASH FLUME WITH HIKERS



CANAL GORGE PEACH DAYS HIKE

ST. GEORGE WALKING TOURS TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information about the St. George Walking Tours scheduled for the following dates:

- OCTOBER 5
- OCTOBER 12
- OCTOBER 19
- OCTOBER 26



PHOTO OF THE OLD DIXIE COLLEGE GYMNASIUM BUILDING