

## New Monument To Memorialize Southern Indian Mission

Saturday: July 19, 2014

9:00/10: 00 AM New Harmony Library

On Saturday, 19 July 2014 the Cedar City Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers will join with the Washington County Historical Society and the Fort Harmony Historical Society to dedicate a memorial to the participants of the 1853 Pioneer “Mission to The Southern Indians.” The dedication will be held at Old Fort Harmony (adjacent to the New Harmony Library building) one mile west of I-15 on the New Harmony Highway. Mounting of the memorial plaque will occur at 9AM; dedication to follow at 10:00AM.

On October 6, 1853 Brigham Young called 21 men from their families and their homes in northern Utah for an unspecified period to minister to the Native Americans of Southern territories throughout Utah and Arizona, ... ***“that they (Native American Indians) might come up to inherit the blessings pertaining to them because of the works and promises of their Fathers.”*** The Southern Indian Mission was not a proselytizing effort, nor was it to influence or convert the Southern Indian tribes to Christianity. The focus of the mission was to learn the Indian languages and teach the indigenous tribes to sustain themselves by irrigating their lands and improving their circumstances.

May 20, 1854, at the site of the new memorial, specific instructions and directions regarding the location of a central fortification were given by Brigham Young to the assembled Pioneers and Missionaries. The charter of the Mission to the Southern Indians to learn from them and teach them new techniques was also affirmed at this location in the presence of the other Pioneers who had been called to settle in Harmony. Specifications for the fort were given to the assembled group at the same time, in the company of Truman Angel, church architect.

Construction of the monument memorializing the Southern Indian Mission was under the direction of Alva Matheson, SUP director of monuments and memorials. A synopsis of the importance and background of the Southern Indian Mission will be presented to those attending in a program under the direction of Karen Platt of the Ft Harmony Historical Society and representing the Washington Historical Society.

Dedication of the monument will be by Art Tate, President emeritus of the Cedar City Chapter of the SUP, under the direction of Neuman Duncan, who is the current President of the Cedar City Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers.