

Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:: "A Project of Interest": The Civilian Conservation Corps' Washington Fields Project, 1937-1938, Dr Michael Shamo, presenter

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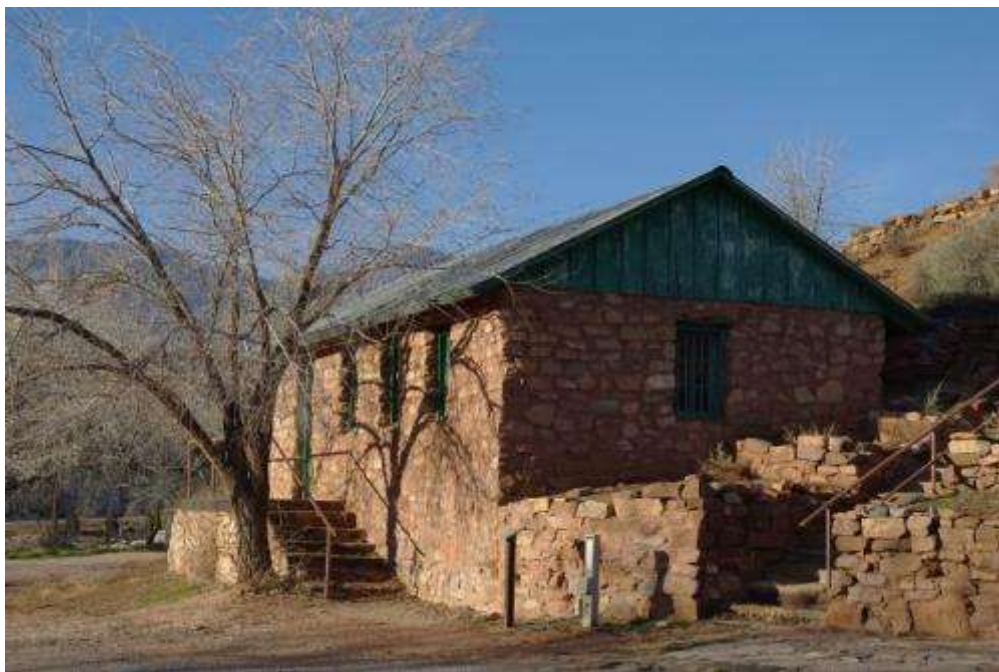
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Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:: "A Project of Interest": The Civilian Conservation Corps' Washington Fields Project, 1937-1938, Dr Michael Shamo, presenter



Title: "A Project of Interest": The Civilian Conservation Corps' Washington Fields Project, 1937-1938

Date: 10/12/2017 (Thursday)

Address: Leeds Town Hall, 218 N. Main Street, Leeds, UT 84746

Location: Leeds, UT

Hours: 7pm-8pm

Cost/Cover: FREE- sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/WashingtonCountyWorks>

Web Page: <http://www.ArtstoZion.org>

Free <http://tinyurl.com/WashingtonCountyWorks>

Registration:

Contact Info: Silver Reef Museum museum@silverreef.org

Details: "A Project of Interest": The Civilian Conservation Corps' Washington Fields Project, 1937-1938

Although the Civilian Conservation Corps' primary purpose was to provide work for many young single men, many of their projects fulfilled the needs of the communities they served. Residents in the small southern town of Washington sought the CCC's assistance to protect their community's most precious resource, the irrigation water for their fields. In the spring of 1937, leaders of the St. George and Washington Canal Company invited an engineer from the federal Soil Conservation Service where they discussed plans to upgrade the Washington Fields Canal. The engineer encouraged them to petition the service to assist in protecting the canal. Within the year, members of the local Leeds CCC camp swarmed the hillsides constructing several structures intended to minimize the damage caused by flash floods, soil erosion and debris. Since Washington's founding in 1857, residents fought constantly with the untamable Virgin River. Annual flooding destroyed dams and silted up ditches resulting in frustrated

farmers frantically digging out and repairing the irrigation systems to restore the water's flow before the desert sun left their crops shriveled and dead. The Soil Conservation Service showed these farmers their canal was part of a more complex ecological system. This scientific approach was the impetus behind new technologies the CCC used in the hillsides overlooking the canal. The CCC boys used a series of dikes, terraces and rock spreaders to slow and disperse flood waters while at the same time forcing it to drop sediment and debris before they reached the canal. This project illustrates how science and technology helped solve an environmental problem that plagued Washington residents for several decades. This lecture is also a case study of how local residents were able to work with and influence federal agencies during the New Deal.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER:

Michael Shamo is a PhD Candidate of western American and environmental history at the University of Utah working on a dissertation titled "Federal Playgrounds: Tourism and Community on the Colorado Plateau." He has worked at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Church History Library and as a researcher for the American West Center at the University of Utah on projects for the U. S. Forest Service, the State of Utah, and local Native American groups. He also teaches courses on American and LDS Church History at Utah Valley University and Brigham Young University.

These FREE lectures are sponsored by City of St. George and Arts to Zion / Southern Utah ! (registration is suggested, space limited - sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/WashingtonCountyWorks>)

For more information about Washington County Works! Historical TOUR! visit www.ArtsToZion.org

This event is part of Washington County Works! Historical TOUR and celebration of work that accompanies the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street traveling exhibition The Way We Worked , stopping in Leeds from September 16 to November 4, 2017 at the Silver Reef Museum

The Way We Worked, a traveling exhibition created by the National Archives, is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street and Utah Humanities, is touring in partnership with the Silver Reef Museum and Arts to Zion / Southern Utah.

For more information about the traveling exhibit, see www.utahhumanities.org.

Event is: One Day Only

Audience: All Welcome

Category: Lecture

Sponsored By: Arts to Zion / Southern Utah