

Sons of The Utah Pioneers



*Tracing the Mormon Battalion Trip
September 22-27, 2003*

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September 22-27, 2003
Host: Kay Godfrey

September 22

Monday – SLC/Cedar City, Utah

DEPART: 9:00 AM (Bus)

11:00 AM Fillmore

Tour Territorial Statehouse

Lunch – On your own

2:00 PM Cove Fort

Tour Historical Cove Fort

4:30 PM Iron Mission State Park, Cedar City

Tour Visitors Center and Museum

Hotel/Dinner Cedar City, Utah

September 23

Tuesday – Cedar City/St George, Utah

Depart: 9:00 AM

10:00 AM Mountain Meadow Massacre

11:30 AM Pine Valley Chapel

Tour this very unique LDS Chapel built in 1868 by the shipbuilder, Ebenezer Bryce

1:45 PM Jacob Hamblin's Home

Visit the home of Jacob Hamblin "Friend of the Indians".

Lunch – Boxed lunch included

3:00 PM Brigham Young's Winter Home

Visit the winter home of the 2nd Prophet of the church from where he directed the building of the St. George Tabernacle and Temple.

4:00 PM St. George Temple

Tour Visitors Center

Hotel/Dinner St. George, Utah

(Temple session for those interested – 8:00 PM)

September 24

Wednesday – St. George/Las Vegas, Nevada

Depart: 9:00 AM

10:30 AM Lost City Museum, Overton, NV

Tour the Anasazi Indian ruins at this site.

Lunch – On your own

11:30 AM Valley of Fire State Park

Visit the Visitors Center and learn how this area was named.

1:00 PM Lake Mead

The surrounding desert area abounds with spectacular canyons and jagged mountains.

3:30 PM Hoover Dam

Tour inside the 727 foot-high structure, which used enough concrete to build a highway from New York to San Francisco.

6:00 PM ***View the beautiful Las Vegas Temple***

Hotel/Dinner Las Vegas, Nevada

September 25

Thursday – Las Vegas/San Diego, California

Depart: 9:00 AM

Noon ***Mormon Trail & Santa Fe Trail Monument***

1:30 PM ***Arrowhead Landmark in San Bernardino***

1:45 PM Lunch – ***"Worlds 1st McDonalds"***

(on your own)

3:00 PM ***Mormon Stockade Site***

3:30 PM ***View the beautiful Redlands temple***

Hotel/Dinner San Diego

(Temple session for those interested – 8:00 PM)

September 26

Friday – San Diego/Las Vegas, Nevada

Depart: 9:00 AM

9:30 AM ***Mormon Battalion Tribute***

Visit the center in Old Town San Diego

Take a Trolley tour of Old Town

Lunch – On your own

5:30 PM Las Vegas

Hotel/Dinner Las Vegas

September 27

Saturday – Las Vegas/Salt Lake City

Depart: 9:00 AM

9:15 AM ***Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort***

NOON Lunch (St. George) – On your own

5:00 PM Salt Lake City

Tour Includes:

- Round-trip motorcoach transportation from Salt Lake City/San Diego/Salt Lake City
- 5 Nights hotel accommodations
- Deluxe continental breakfast each morning
- Meals as specified in itinerary
- All historical sights with entrance fees included
- Taxes & tips

Not Included:

- Some meals
- Personal items including drinks, laundry, telephone calls, insurance

Tour Price:

- \$673 per person (double occupancy)
- \$624 per person (triple occupancy)
- \$600 per person (quad occupancy)
- \$82 additional single supplement

Reservations:

- A deposit of \$100 per person due at the time of booking
- Final payment is due August 6, 2003

Cancellation Policy:

- Up to 60 days prior to departure: Full refund
- 59 days or less prior to departure: Non-refundable

RESERVATION FORM Group Number: 283122

Tracing the Mormon Battalion Trip with Kay Godfrey
September 22-27, 2003

Name(s) as they appear on your identification (Drivers License): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone (with area code): _____ # in Party: _____ Roommate: _____

Special Requirement: _____

Complete and mail this reservation form with your \$100 per person deposit to:
Morris Murdock Escorted Tours
Attn: Carol Butchereit
240 East Morris Avenue
Salt Lake City UT 84115
(801) 483-6502 (800) 809-9910

Settlement of San Bernardino, California

In 1849, two years after arriving in the Salt Lake Valley, President Brigham Young assigned Amasa Lyman and Charles Rich of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles to go to California to determine where some Saints might settle. The settlement was to be a way station for missionaries and immigrants traveling to and from the Pacific Islands. Brigham Young also wanted a continuous line of stations and places of refreshment between Salt Lake City and the Pacific Coast. The colony was to be self-reliant, to attempt to manufacture olive oil, to cultivate grapes, and to experiment with growing sugar cane, cotton, and tea.

They concluded that the Chino Rancho, located at the Cajon Pass near current San Bernardino, was an ideal site. Isaac Williams, son-in-law of the owners of the adjoining San Bernardino Rancho, owned the Chino Rancho. Williams had agreed to sell his rancho to the Church, so some former members of the Mormon Battalion stayed behind to build a mill on the Chino Ranch.

By the spring of 1851, 437 men, women, and children gathered at Payson, Utah, ready to begin the journey to Chino Rancho. President Young had expected about 200 people, but many others had come to escape the harsh Utah climate and poor economic conditions, which made Brigham “sick at the site of so many of the saints running off to California,” so he left without bidding farewell to the company.

Andrew Lytle was captain of the wagon train, with Joseph Matthews and David Seeley as subordinate captains, the three each responsible for 50 wagons. Responsibility for the 150 wagons was further subdivided among twelve others. The company consisted of three members of the Twelve, a company of saints from Monroe County in Mississippi, who had arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on 23 July 1847, a day before Brigham Young’s company arrived. They had already planted potatoes and beans and settled in the Holladay area of the valley, but President Young asked them to lead out in the settlement of the San Bernardino area in Southern California.

They set out on 23 March 1851 with 150 wagons along the Old Spanish Trail, passing into Las Vegas, and into the harsh desert terrain with scarce water and feed, making this one of the most difficult trips ever attempted by a wagon train. The company’s most difficult challenge, however, was crossing the Cajon Pass through the San Bernardino Mountains. Although a trail had been established in the West Cajon Canyon, wagons had to be lowered with ropes. In addition, the entire company—including people, wagons, and animals—slide down the trail for a distance of 60 feet. They found a camping spot in a grove of sycamores with plenty of water and forages. Elders Lyman and Rich went to the Chino Rancho where they learned that Williams had changed his mind and would not sell the ranch to the settlers.

After a period of about three months, Lyman and Rich discovered that the Lugo family would sell their nearby ranch of 35,000 acres for \$77,500, and on 1 October 1851, the pioneers became the first group of colonists to settle in Los Angeles County after California became a state. 100 structures were erected within two months.

Summarized by R. Wayne Pace from the *Ensign*, February 2003, pp. 36-45.

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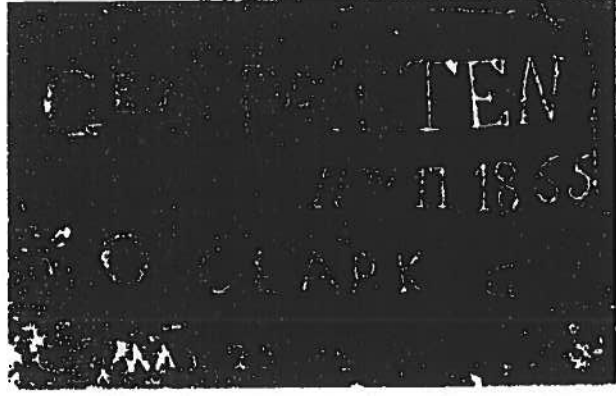
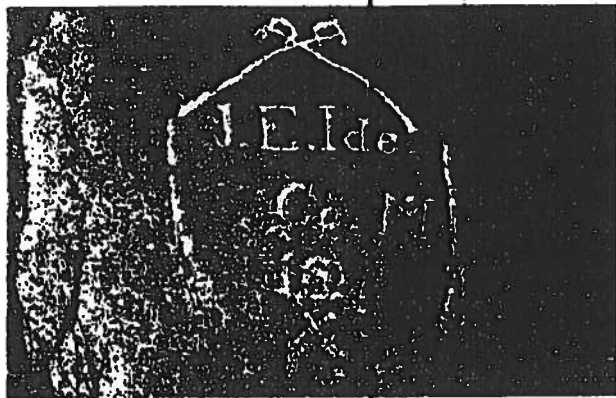
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ALL PHOTOS ABOVE: Pioneer register at Camp Spring. J. E. Ide was a member of the military expedition headed by George F. Price in 1864.

In 1854, Jacob Hamblin and other Mormons established a mission among the Paiutes downstream at Santa Clara, a short distance from the Spanish Trail. The success of the Indian mission at Santa Clara preceded the rapid settlement of the region by Mormons, who founded St. George in 1861, in the heart of what became Utah's "Dixie." Within a few years, John Wesley Powell and G. W. Ingalls undertook a thorough study of the Paiute Indians, living along the Spanish Trail and elsewhere, for the federal government.³

CAMP SPRING

At a point where the Santa Clara River makes a bend to join with the Virgin River, the Spanish Trail caravans left the river and started the climb over the Beaver Dam Mountains. Camp Spring, less than two miles

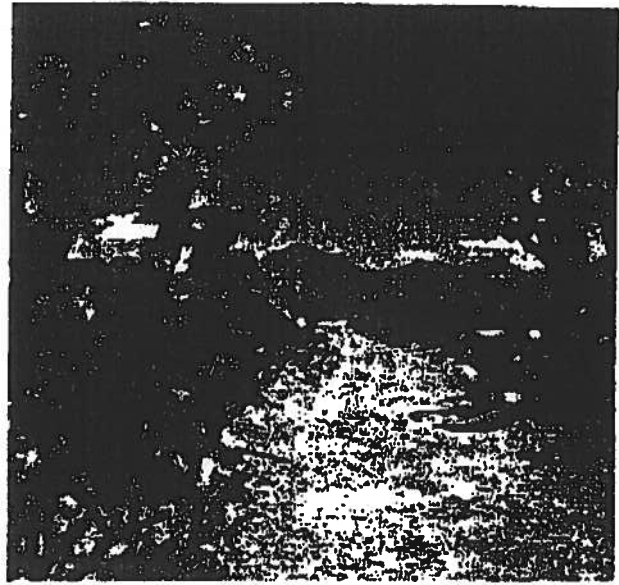
from the river, doesn't figure much in trail literature, but inscriptions on the rocks nearby have puzzled recent visitors. Doing some detective work, we consulted government documents and discovered the history behind some of the inscriptions.

It seems that in 1864, Colonel Patrick Edward Connor, commander at Camp Douglas in Salt Lake City, sent a military expedition under Captain George F. Price, Company M, Second Cavalry, USA, to open a military route to the head of navigation on the Colorado River. The command traveled in wagons through Mountain Meadows, where the soldiers erected a rock monument in memory of victims of the Mountain Meadows massacre. A few days later, after a long haul down the Santa Clara, the command made a

³ Powell and Ingalls (1874).

RIGHT: On Utah Hill, the Spanish Trail threads its way through a forest of giant Joshuas.

BELOW: An arroyo heading at lower right corner of photograph outlines the Spanish Trail for several miles beyond Camp Spring.



rest stop at Camp Spring, where some of the men took time to add their names and military affiliations to a pioneer register on nearby rocks.

With ailing animals, Price followed the Spanish Trail to Las Vegas, turned south and, after many hardships, reached Fort Mohave on the Colorado River. At that point, Captain Price reported that the detachment was "completely worn out and exhausted, half the men barefooted, horses scarcely able to walk." Nevertheless, Price thought that his wagon-borne expedition was a success and recommended that further investigations be undertaken.⁴

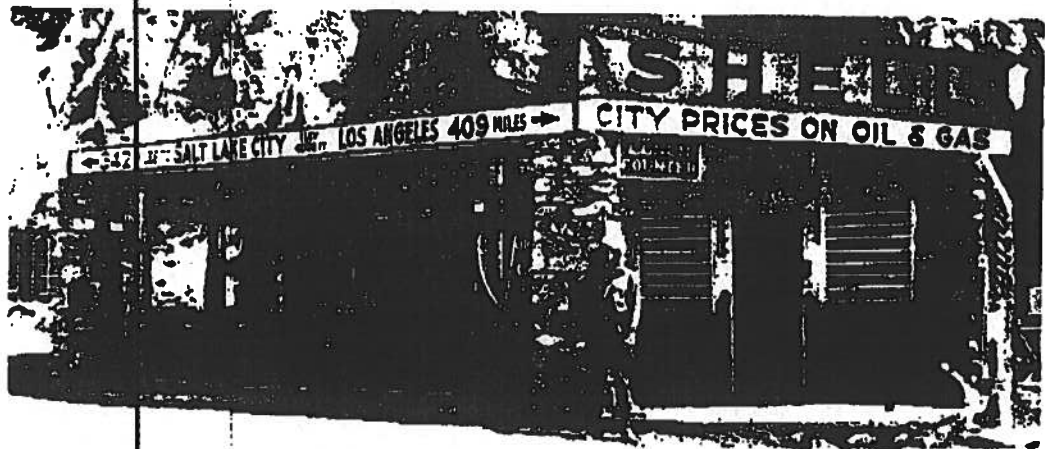
The Spanish Trail was a pack trail. In many places it was not easily converted to a wagon road. In this book, we are citing a number of those who tried to do so, since their adventures tell us much about the old trail.

UTAH HILL

From Camp Spring, we determined that the Spanish Trail follows a course practically identical with old U.S. Highway 91. Crossing a pass in the Beaver Dam Mountains at an elevation of about 4,800 feet, it starts down the long "Utah Hill," best known in the early days of the automobile as the place where radiators always boiled over on the upgrade. Near the summit, at Castle Cliff, a service station was built in the 1920s to serve drivers of ailing automobiles. The remains of this place is now called the "Old Spanish Trail Ranch" by a new owner.

On Utah Hill, west-bound riders on the Spanish Trail got their first view of the spectacular giant Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*), a plant marking the eastern limits of the

⁴ McCarthy (1975), 139-143; and Price (1897), 355-360.



ABOVE: *Castle Cliff Rest, a garden stop at the landmark Castle Cliff, serviced travelers on old Highway 91. The buildings have been removed or have fallen into disrepair. The location is now known as the Old Spanish Trail Ranch. G. M. AND C. W. SMITH*



LEFT: *Beaver Dam Wash near its mouth in Arizona.*

Mojave Desert. The name was given by a Mormon party traveling the Spanish Trail to San Bernardino in 1851. The story is told that on Utah Hill, when clouds covered the burning sun, the leader of the company, Elisha Hunt, cried out: "Look brethren! The sky is no longer like brazen brass! God has sent the clouds. It is as if the sun stood still—as Joshua commanded. These green trees are lifting their arms to heaven in supplication. We shall call them Joshua Trees. . . ."⁶

On Utah Hill, the Spanish Trail crosses the Utah-Arizona boundary at 729.246 miles from Santa Fe.

BEAVER DAM

At the bottom of Utah Hill, just below the old resort community of Beaver Dam, Arizona, the Spanish Trail crosses the Beaver Dam Wash near its mouth, at an elevation of

1,837 feet above sea level, the lowest point thus far on the trail. Owing to this elevation, the lower section of the wash is an oasis lying in a transition zone between the Colorado Plateau, the Great Basin, and the Mojave Desert. Numerous plants and animals, characteristic of these three geographical provinces, exist here in a rare desert setting. Beavers have been damming the stream at the Spanish Trail crossing for many years.

The Lytle Ranch, some miles upstream from the Spanish Trail, has been preserved as a permanent laboratory for the study of this ecosystem.

VIRGIN RIVER

Rio Virgen Frémont called it in 1844, and laid it down on his great map of the second

⁶ *Murbarger (1947), 6.*