

Mayor Albert E. Miller Remembers Brigham Jarvis
Cottonwood Canal in Pipes

Quotations Concerning Brigham Jarvis

from IMMORTAL PIONEERS, by Albert E. Miller

Later generations may wonder why the pioneers crossed over the east black ridge, going up over the steep rocks and not around the south end near the Virgin River. At the south end at that time was a deep swamp which reached up to the end of the ridge. Here the huge black rocks projecting into the swamp blocked the making of a road. This breeding place for malaria was made into a farm by Brigham Jarvis. He rolled down the rushes and washed in sand with the water from the Virgin ditch, accomplishing three objects—doing away with a breeding place for mosquitos, making a farm, and preparing a road.

On January 4, 1896, Edward M. Brown became mayor with John G. McQuarrie, Brigham Jarvis, Samuel Miles, Jr., George T. Cottam and C. F. Foster as city councilmen; Clarence Jackson, recorder. Later, F. L. Daggett, deputy recorder, filled the office.

Brigham Jarvis, who had contracted to bring cord wood to Silver Reef, believed that a route for a canal could be located between the two previous diversions which had failed. This would be at a point where all the water could be secured and brought to the north of the valley, reaching all parts of the city.

On January 23 and 24 a route was leveled by Brigham Jarvis to the head of Washington Hollow. On Tuesday, February 1, he went on to Cottonwood to level and explore; and continued on 12th and 13th. On Friday, the 14th, I. C. MacFarlane, city engineer came and started the survey.

The diverting of the Cottonwood stream was done by interested persons who desired to do the work for stock in the supply of water secured.

(Mr. Miller fails to mention that Brigham Jarvis was the man chosen by the city council to take charge of the work and engineer it on the route Jarvis had surveyed and the city surveyor I. C. MacFarlane had okayed. Also, he fails to mention that Jarvis was given \$2,000, for expenses and also given the right to write out the claims for stock certificates to the men who worked on the ditch.— Zora Smith Jarvis, 1967.)

Thus, in two years was accomplished the most beneficial piece of work ever to be done for the growth and progress of St. George City. The same city officers were retained for the next term of office. On September 13, 1897, Councilmen Cottam and Jarvis and the Mayor were named to select a route from the gulch to the city. The selection was made by the end of the week, and by the end of the term of office of these men, the work was completed, the water entering the valley over the red hill to the north. It thereby provided a water supply for the installation of a water system later, a system equaled by few and surpassed by none.

During the term of Albert E. Miller as mayor in 1936 and 1937 and through the aid of the Federal Government, and a revenue bond at an expenditure of \$157,000, the dream of each administration from the founding of the City was accomplished. The water was piped from the springs, coming out of Pine Valley Mountains to the city a distance of 18 miles. By this piping, a saving was made of half the water, which had been lost through the canal system.