

**WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEYS'  
PAST AND PRESENT**

**This historical project was sponsored by:**

**The Washington County Attorney's Office**

**Eric A. Ludlow**

**Charles M. Pickett**

**Sharlene Pickett**

**Historian and Biographer**

**Loren Webb**

**June 2003**

## WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEYS

<b>BROCK BELNAP</b>	<b>2003 TO</b>
<b>ERIC A. LUDLOW</b>	<b>1992 TO 2003</b>
<b>PAUL F. GRAF</b>	<b>1979 TO 1991</b>
<b>RONALD W. THOMPSON</b>	<b>1975 TO 1978</b>
<b>J. RALPH ATKIN</b>	<b>1971 TO 1974</b>
<b>PHILLIP LANG FOREMASTER</b>	<b>1963 TO 1970</b>
<b>CHARLES M. PICKETT</b>	<b>1959 TO 1962</b>
<b>V. PERSHING NELSON</b>	<b>1947 TO 1958</b>
<b>ORVAL HAFEN</b>	<b>1943 TO 1946</b>
<b>HOWARD W. CANNON</b>	<b>1941 TO 1942</b>
<b>ORVAL HAFEN</b>	<b>1933 TO 1940</b>
<b>ELLIS J. PICKETT</b>	<b>1931 TO 1932</b>
<b>ORSON S. TAYLOR</b>	<b>1929 TO 1930</b>
<b>LEROY COX</b>	<b>1925 TO 1928</b>
<b>GEORGE R. LUND</b>	<b>1918 TO 1924</b>
<b>LEO A. SNOW</b>	<b>1917 TO 1918</b>
<b>ELLIS J. PICKETT</b>	<b>1914 TO 1915</b>
<b>ARTHUR A. PAXMAN</b>	<b>1908 TO 1914</b>
<b>HORATIO PICKETT</b>	<b>1905 TO 1907</b>
<b>JOSEPH S. SNOW</b>	<b>1902 TO 1903</b>
<b>F. L. DAGGETT</b>	<b>1901 TO 1902</b>
<b>DAVID H. MORRIS</b>	<b>1897 TO 1900</b>

**BROCK BELNAP**

**JULY 2003 TO**

**Brock was appointed acting Washington County Attorney July, 2003. He plans to run for the County Attorney office in November 2004 election. This election will be to fill out the unexpired term of Eric A. Ludlow, who was appointed a 5<sup>th</sup> District Judge.**

**Brock was born September 8, 1963 to Burke and Darlene Belnap of Pocatello, Idaho. He is the oldest of five children, two girls and three boys. He went to West Elementary and then graduated from Dixie High School in 1982. While at Dixie, he was the editor of the Dixie Flyer (the school newspaper), received the Diamond "D" Award for service and the English Sterling Scholar Award.**

**He attended Southern Utah State College for 2 quarters then served an LDS Mission to Buenos Aires, Argentina from 1983 to 1985.**

**After returning home, Brock enrolled at Dixie College where he was student body President and Co-Valedictorian. In 1987, Brock enrolled at the University of Utah and received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in English; then went on to law school at Brigham Young University graduating magna cum laude in 1992. At BYU law school, he was a note and comment editor of the BYU Law Review and a member of the Order of Coif Honor Society. Brock passed the Utah State Bar Exam and was admitted to the Bar in October 1992.**

**Brock went to work for the law firm of Fabian and Clendenin in Salt Lake City and for 5 years was involved in medical malpractice cases, commercial litigation and employment law. He was hired as a Deputy Washington County Attorney in June 1997 and his first day on the job Brock met his wife Chantonelle Glover, who was a secretary for the Washington County Commission. They were married March, 1999 in St. George and have two children, Grace and Noah.**

**In 1998, Brock became a chief deputy county attorney and began providing legal advice to the County Commission and the county departments and officers. His goal as a county attorney includes the protection of children, and the protection of citizens from 'white collar' crime. "I take seriously, the obligation to do justice because prosecutors, when they step into the court room, represent all of us as the people's attorney," Brock said. "Philosophically, when you have the authority to call down the power of the state upon an individual, you need to fight hard, but you also need to fight fair;"**

**"My story as county attorney is just now beginning and I look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence and hard work established by my predecessors."**

**Brock also serves on the Dixie College Foundation**

**ERIC A. LUDLOW**

**JUNE 3, 1991 TO JULY 4, 2003**

**In June 1991 Eric A. Ludlow became the youngest county attorney in the state of Utah at 29 years old, when he replaced Paul Graf.**

**Eric has served 12 years as Washington County Attorney and in May of 2003 he was confirmed as a 5<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge, making Eric Ludlow the youngest District Court Judge in the State of Utah.**

**Eric A. Ludlow was born January 29, 1962 in Idaho Falls Idaho to Kenneth and Myrtle Ludlow. He graduated from Skyline High School in Idaho falls, went to Dixie College in St. George, Utah on a basketball scholarship where he played for the Rebels during 1980 to 1982. During his time with the Rebels, the team won their conference and regional championships and placed 6<sup>th</sup> in National Junior College Circuit at Hutchinson, Kansas.**

**In 1982, Eric graduated from Dixie College and married his wife Phoebe Bowler, daughter of Laura and Truman Bowler of St. George.**

**In 1984 he graduated from Southern Utah University with a Degree in Business Administration then attended law school at Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark Law School and graduated in 1987 with a juris doctorate degree.**

**From 1987 to 1991 Eric served as a deputy Washington County Attorney until being appointed to fill the position of Paul Graf.**

**During his tenure as Washington County Attorney his office was instrumental in providing legal advice for the creation of the Habitat Conservation Plan which allowed development to continue by settling legal issues with the federal government associated with the protection of the desert tortoise. The Habitat Conservation Plan lead to the creation of the 61,000 acre Red Cliffs Desert reserve.**

**As County Attorney his office was actively involved in seeking protection of RS-2477 roads on federal lands to keep public lands open for multiple use. In addition to the special matters to be supervised, Eric's office was responsible for the county's civil litigation, contract law, planning and zoning, property law, employment law and taxation.**

**During his tenure as Washington County Attorney, Eric has tried 52 jury trials to verdict. The prosecution of criminal cases in Washington County has also been a major part of his office; with several high profile capital homicide cases where the suspects were caught and convicted of first-degree murder. One such case that was particularly difficult was the brutal murder of a local barber.**

**“That case had a huge impact on the community because it was so outrageous,” Eric said. “It happened in downtown St. George in broad daylight and it was so brutal and senseless.” The suspect was caught within five hours and eventually convicted of homicide and sentenced to life in prison without parole.**

**Eric has also practiced in the appellate courts and has submitted briefs before the Utah Court of Appeals. He was involved in State vs McMullen where the Utah Court of Appeals issued a published opinion.**

**In June 1998 Eric was appointed to serve as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney by the Department of Justice. In that capacity, he worked with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the FBI and the Department of the Interior in prosecuting federal crimes. He has also assisted other jurisdictions, serving as a special Kanab City Prosecutor, the St. George City Prosecutor, Garfield County Special Deputy, Brian Head Town Prosecutor and an Iron County Special Deputy Attorney and as of June 2003 he was still serving as the Santa Clara City and Enterprise City Prosecutor.**

**Currently Eric is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Utah Prosecution Council; a member of the Statewide Association of Public Attorney’s Board of Directors, National District Attorney’s Association, the American Prosecutor’s Research Institute and the National Telemarketing Fraud Committee.**

**He serves on the local board of the Children’s Justice Center, Chairman of the Washington County Law Enforcement Administrator’s Association and is a member of the Board of Trustees for “Leadership Dixie” and serves on the governing Board of the Dixie Regional Medical Center and recently, was appointed by Governor Michael O. Leavitt to serve on the Dixie State College Board of Trustees.**

**Eric has served as Chairman of the Republican Party Rules Committee and parliamentarian and has served as a state and county delegate to the Republican conventions. In September 2001, he was appointed as a member of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee.**

**Deputies serving during Eric Ludlow’s tenure:**

**O. Brenton Rowe, Brent Langston, Wade A. Farraway, Mary Gomez Manley, Derek P. Pullan, Paul E. Dame, Brian G. Filter, Tony C. Baird, Marlynn Lema, Jeffrey R. Buhman, Larry M. Meyers, Thom M. Gover, Ryan J. Shaum, Lee W. Edwards, Brock Belnap, Eric Petersen, Paul R. Christensen, Tara Dugan, Zachary Weiland, Jerry Jaeger, Matthew C. Miller, John J. Walton, Michele Mitchell, David Patterson, and Wayne Caldwell.**

**Active in the LDS Church, Eric has served as a High Councilor, Bishop and is currently a Counselor in a Stake Presidency. Eric and his wife Phoebe are the parents of four daughters: Erica, Megan, Laura and Addie**

**Paul was elected Washington County Attorney in 1978 and served four terms before accepting a position as an Assistant Utah Attorney General in St. George working as a section chief. In that position, Paul works with child and family support issues. Paul is also a special assistant U.S. attorney, which involves federal prosecution work before the local federal magistrate.**

**Paul Fenwick Graf was born April 22, 1947 to Marion and Beulah Smith Graf in St. George and raised in Santa Clara, Utah, he has one brother and three sisters. Paul graduated from Dixie High School in 1965 then served a two year LDS mission in southern Germany.**

**He graduated from Dixie College in 1969 with an Associate of Science degree and was on the high honor roll with a forensics scholarship. Paul attended Brigham Young University from 1969 to 1970 then transferred to Southern Utah State College (now Southern Utah University) During his time at SUSC he received the Most Outstanding Senior award; was also executive secretary of academic affairs on the student executive council at SUSC. Paul graduated in 1972 with a bachelor of arts degree, majoring in sociology and a minor in speech and German.**

**Paul taught three years at Hurricane High School. "I love kids," Paul said. "My passion in life is helping kids grow up." He married Kathryn Swenson of Provo and they have five children all who are old enough have graduated from Dixie College.**

**In December of 1977 Paul received his juris doctorate degree at Brigham Young University Law School and in 1978 passed his bar exam was accepted into the Utah State Bar and went into practice with Ralph Atkin and J. MacArthur Wright. Paul was later admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1988.**

**Paul was elected for 4 terms as Washington County Attorney from 1979 to 1991.**

**During those years as County Attorney, Paul was involved in a high profile case of a serial killer, Stephen Peter Morin. Morin was suspected of killing 12 to 14 teenaged girls in Nevada, Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas and was later apprehended by Texas law enforcement. But it was homicide evidence obtained by Washington County law enforcement officers in Bloomington Hills, Paul said, that led to Morin's identity and subsequent arrest. Paul had a telephone interview with Morin the day before he was executed in Texas.**

**In the State vs Leland Demille, Demille was convicted of murder in connection with the brutal death of a child. That case opened the door for aggressive prosecution of child abusers.**

**Another criminal case that Paul tried, involved defendant Maximillian Seal AKA Robert Owens. Seal/Owens was charged with child sex abuse and convicted. This case later went on appeal to the Utah Supreme Court on issues related to video recordings used by prosecutors to interview young children who were victims of abuse. That case opened the way for the creation of the Children's Justice Centers in Utah where law enforcement authorities are now able to interview the child victim on video tape, one time with one interviewer and one list of questions from multiple concerned agencies.**

**The Washington County Attorney's Office was also instrumental in prosecuting a federal truck hijacking case in which Deputy County Attorney Lowry Snow obtained a conviction.**

**As Washington County Attorney, Paul also referred criminal prosecution of then Sheriff Eugene Jones to the Utah attorney General's Office.**

**Paul has also served on the Washington County Children's Justice Center Board of Directors since 1993. He was elected President of the Utah Association of Counties in 1989, and has served on a number of UAC committees as well as the National Association of Counties. "I loved my experience with the county," Paul said, "I loved working with the County Commission and other county officials. They are the highest quality people."**

**Paul has been a member of the Southern Utah Bar Association since 1978; the American Bar Association from 1979 to 1991; and served as an elected member of the Statewide Association of Prosecutors Board of Directors. He has also been actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America since 1976 serving in a number of capacities with that organization.**

**RONALD W. THOMPSON**

**1975 to 1978**

**Ron was elected Washington County Attorney as a Republican in 1975. It was about that time the State of Utah eliminated the District Attorney's Office, which then allowed county attorneys throughout the state to handle all criminal cases.**

**Ronald W. Thompson was born in Cedar City, Utah on July 19, 1946 to Willard Blake and Alice Mae Covington Thompson. He is the oldest of six sisters and four brothers. Ron graduated from Cedar City High School in 1964 and attended the College of Southern Utah (now Southern Utah University). In 1966, Ron went on an LDS mission to Argentina until 1968.**

**On December 21, 1968 he married Dorothy Rice in St. George, enrolled at Snow College then transferred to Brigham Young University where he graduated in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in accounting and minors in economics and Spanish. He enrolled at the University of Utah Law School in the fall of 1971 and graduated in 1974. Ron passed the bar exam in February of 1974 and moved to St. George to practice law with Ralph Atkin and Tony Allen.**

**When Ron as elected Washington County Attorney his office was in the County Courthouse that later became the Washington County Administration Building and he became the first full-time Washington County Attorney and as the case load increased due to population growth of up to 7%, Ron hired Steve Snow, Tony Allen and Mike Hughes as deputy county attorneys during his tenure.**

**Ron helped facilitate the sale of the county hospital to Intermountain Health Care and also helped the county secure additional land for what would become the County Administration Building and did the preliminary planning for the Hall of Justice and County Jail facility at 220 North 200 east. During this time Ron also helped put all the county ordinances in to a single county code.**

**One particular homicide case Ron was involved with was the killing of a St. George Police Officer, Gordon Hutchings. Gary Butler was charged with killing Hutchings whose brother was then St. George Police Chief Joe Hutchings. Butler was convicted of Manslaughter. Due to the explosive growth of the area Ron handled 200 to 300 felonies a year and "none stood out," Ron said, "I just tried to do my job." Back then there were 3 County Sheriff's deputies and Sheriff, 5 St. George Police Officers, 1 Washington City Police Officer and the Hurricane Police Officers were all part-time.**

**During his tenure as Washington County Attorney, Ron served on the Statewide Association of Prosecutors Board of Directors and on the Utah Association of Counties Board of Directors.**



After leaving the County Attorney's Office, Ron returned to private practice and during that time assisted in the Terracor bankruptcy proceedings and was instrumental in helping the City of St. George annex the former Terracor properties in Bloomington and Bloomington Hills. He also negotiated an agreement that provided for public works improvements in Bloomington Hills.

Waste disposal and water for the area was a major focus and Ron was involved with creating the Washington County Solid Waste District and the Ash Creek Special Service District, which provides sewer service to Hurricane, LaVerkin and Toquerville. His law firm also represented Hurricane in 1981 and about that time he was asked to be the attorney for the Washington County Water Conservancy District. The Water Conservancy Board was interested in moving a water project forward. Ron set up an appointment with then Governor Scott Matheson and from that meeting the district began the search for reservoir sites. Ron was instrumental in getting the Quail Creek reservoir built in 1985 and when the Quail Creek south dam was breached, Ron was involved in its rebuilding. He also helped arrange financing of the reservoir and the long-term contracts with Dixie Escalante Rural Electric Association and Hurricane City.

In 1983 he became the Executive Director of the Conservancy District and left his private practice in 1985. As Executive Director of the Conservancy District Ron has been involved with the water rights settlement of the Shivwit Indian Reservation in 2001, negotiated an in-stream water rights settlement with Zion National Park on December 4, 1996 and negotiated a water rights settlement with the U.S. Forest Service on the Ash Creek drainage. He has also been involved with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in the coordination of a fish recovery plan and a Virgin River Management Program, co-sponsored by municipal, county, state and federal programs.

Ron was also directly involved with the Sand Hollow Reservoir that was completed in 2003 and is now a State Park. Presently he is coordinating a regional pipeline project with the cities of St. George, Washington, Santa Clara and Ivins that will bring water from the Quail Creek and Sand Hollow water systems to those cities.

The Conservancy District is currently in the process of putting together a Basin wide water management plan.

Ron has served as President of the Utah Water Users Association and is on the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Users Association and the National Water Users Association. He has also helped create the Utah Water Finance Agency and is now serving as a Director of its Board and has also served as Vice-Chair. Since 1999, the Agency has issued \$400 million of water revenue bonds for financing water projects throughout Utah.

Ron has also served on the Board of Directors of the St. George Valley Irrigation Company and the St. George Washington Fields Irrigation Company.

**J. RALPH ATKIN**

**1971 TO 1974**

**Ralph Atkin was Washington County Attorney from 1971 to 1974. He had just graduated from the University of Utah Law School and missed the graduation exercises so he could attend the 1970 Republican Convention where he was nominated for Washington County Attorney. Ralph couldn't campaign for the position until he learned in September that he had passed the state bar exam. Ralph said, had he lost the election, he did have an offer from the Judge Advocate General's office waiting in the wings.**

**J. Ralph Atkin was born June 4, 1943 in St. George to Rudger C. and Leona Cox Atkin. He has five brothers and one sister.**

**Ralph graduated from Dixie High School in 1961 and during those years at Dixie he was on the basketball and football teams and Captain of the track team. In 1962 he served an LDS mission to the Central British Mission in England.**

**Ralph graduated from Dixie College in 1965 and while at Dixie he became involved in drama activities and won the lead role in "Life with Father". That dramatic role gave him the opportunity to perform in front of audiences and interact with his fellow actors. He was awarded the Outstanding Actor Award at Dixie College. While at Dixie College Ralph was on the Tennis team and was the No. 1 singles champion on the team.**

**From Dixie College, Ralph enrolled at Brigham Young University where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in accounting in 1967. In 1966 Ralph married Cheri Bennett in St. George and they had eight children, five boys and three girls. They both continued their education at BYU, then, they both went to the University of Utah where Ralph attended Law School and Cheri got her Masters Degree in educational psychology and Ralph received his juris doctorate degree in 1970.**

**In 1972, Ralph founded Skywest Airlines. The airline was developing such that Ralph had to make a choice between the part-time Washington County Attorney position or Skywest. He chose Skywest.**

**However, before he left the County Attorney's Office, Ralph worked with the State of Utah to acquire property for the Dixie Downs race track and he worked to get legal training for the local Justices of the Peace. Ralph was also involved with setting up the Statewide Association of Prosecutors.**

**After leaving the County Attorney's Office, Ralph saw Skywest become the largest regional airline in the United States. It is also the most profitable regional airline with an annual budget of \$700 million, 5,000 employees and service from coast to coast through marketing relationships with United, Continental and Delta Airlines.**

**Ralph has served as President, Senior Vice-President, General Counsel and Chairman of the Board of Skywest, and after retiring has continued to serve on the Board of Directors.**

**Ralph has continued his private law practice and has been involved in a number of transportation related businesses as consultant, founder and developer of airline and trucking companies both in the United States and Europe.**

**Ralph has served on the Dixie College National Advisory Council for the past 17 years and has taught business law and introduction to business at Dixie College; guest lecturer at the BYU College of Business, Executive Lecture Series; and was a guest lecturer at the University of San Francisco for its MBA marketing class. In 1989 he was chosen by Utah Business Magazine as one of the "ten outstanding business leaders in Utah.**

**Ralph has also been a member of the St. George Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; Chairman of the Bloomington Community Council; a charter member of the St. George Exchange Club and served as past President and District Director of it's national civic club.**

**From 1982 to 1991 Ralph was Chairman of the Utah Travel Council and from 1990 to 1994 he was on the Shakespearean Festival Board of Trustees. From 1991 to 1993 he was Director of the State Business and Economic Development Office**

**Ralph was a member of the Utah National Guard from 1960 to 1972 and received an honorable discharge as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant.**

**Ralph continues to run a private law practice in St. George with the emphasis on estate planning and business law.**

Lang was elected Washington County Attorney in November 1962, and took office in 1963, where he served two four- year terms. Lang also served one year of Ralph Atkins unexpired term when Atkin left to develop Skywest Airline.

Phillip Lang Foremaster was born October 14, 1933 in St. George, Utah. His parents were Phillip and Emily Harmon Foremaster, he has one brother and three sisters. Lang attended Woodward School and graduated from Dixie High School in 1951 and went on to Dixie College and graduated in 1953. He spent two years in the U.S. Army, with 6 months in Fort Ord California and the remaining 18 months in Germany. In Germany he was an instructor in an ordinance school.

In 1957 Lang graduated from Utah State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in economics. He then enrolled in the University of Utah Law School graduating in 1960 with a juris doctorate degree. In the fall of 1960 Lang passed the bar exam and began a private law practice in St. George on January 2, 1961.

At the time the time Lang was elected Washington County Attorney county attorneys had jurisdiction to prosecute all misdemeanors, as well as jurisdiction over all felonies or indictable misdemeanors to the preliminary hearing level. At the preliminary level the District Attorney had jurisdiction over the case.

Lang served as a part-time county attorney and was paid \$450 a month and had to provide his own secretary and office. He also maintained a separate private practice during this time.

During his tenure as county attorney, Lang remembers a man name Clark Ivory who asked that Lang approve a subdivision plat known as Bloomington Country Club No.1. It was the first subdivision in Bloomington, Utah. "I said, 'you're crazy! No one will buy out there.'" Ivory replied, "Shut up and sign." "So I did," Lang said. "Obviously, I was wrong, "that anyone would buy a lot in Bloomington".

When the Washington County Courthouse was completed at the 197 East Tabernacle site (later becoming the Washington County Administration Building), and Lang recalled that Evan Woodbury was then County Commission Chairman. "After the dedication, Evan and I walked out on tabernacle in front of the building and we booth agreed this new building would last the county as a courthouse for 75 years and probably 100 years". Lang acknowledges he was wrong about that prediction too.

After leaving public office, Lang helped defend high-profile criminals, including Police Officer Gary Rowan Butler in a homicide case involving Gordon Hutchings, brother of the then St. George Police Chief Joe Hutchings. Butler was subsequently convicted of manslaughter.

Lang also defended Douglas Edward Kay, convicted in the killing of three people at the Playhouse Bar in Cedar City. Lang remarked that he successfully saved Kay from the death penalty and Kay is serving life in prison in the capital homicide case.

Lang also filed a lawsuit against the City of St. George for its subsidized external night-time lighting of the St. George LDS Temple. The case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court which refused to hear the case, thus affirming a U.S. 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals decision to ban the city from subsidizing the lighting of the Temple.

Lang said he had learned of the city's subsidization of the Temple lighting from Brown Hail, who was then on the City Water and Power Board. Shortly after Lang confirmed the city's subsidizing of the Temple lighting with City Utility Director Rudger McArthur, Lang was invited on a trip to China with the University of Arizona Law School. On a trip to Nanking, China, the conversation turned to the issues of church and state. Lang said he related the St. George City's argument that the lighting of the Temple was justified because the Temple was a tourist attraction and a historical heritage site. But a constitutional law professor on this trip with Lang concluded this practice was a clear violation of the first amendment, and he said Lang had an obligation to challenge the city's Temple lighting subsidization policy.

Lang married Brenda Bracken in 1964 and they had four children, Wendy (Craig) Sullivan, Steven, Lynette Quilter and Justin. Lang and Brenda later divorced and Lang married Laurie York on September 11, 2001.

Since his retirement from law practice, Lang has traveled around the world and around the United States with Laurie. They enjoy their beautiful motor-home, the Harley Davidson motorcycle, their all-terrain vehicles and camping and hiking.

## **CHARLES MORRIS PICKETT**

**1959 TO 1962**

Charles M. Pickett was Washington County Attorney from 1959 to 1962, and during that time was also the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney from 1960 to 1965. He was St. George City Attorney from 1958 to 1964 and Special Assistant City Attorney from 1964 to 1969.

Charles M. Pickett was born on September 14, 1918 in St. George to Ellis J. and Ruth Morris Pickett. He was the oldest son of three boys and two daughters.

During his school years at Woodward, Dixie High School and Dixie College he won many awards as; Outstanding Male Student, Outstanding Debate Team, Class President, member of the track, tennis basketball and football teams. Charles scored the 1<sup>st</sup> touchdown for Dixie High School football team.

Charles went to work for Ellis J. Pickett (his father) as a law clerk and stenographer and was the office manager for Arrowhead Petroleum from 1934 to 1939. He then enrolled in the University of Utah and worked part-time for the Utah Liquor Control Commission until he was fired for attempting to organize the employees under the CIO bartenders union. Charles said, "What Utah hated worse than Democrats were the unions." He was also a Democrat!

From 1941 to 1943 Charles worked for Utah Pomeroy and Morrison Construction Steel Mill in Orem, in charge of auditing all accounts of subcontractors. In 1943 he moved to Las Vegas and at the Nellis Army Air Field supervising 47 law enforcement personnel guarding secret army installations. In February 1945 he joined the U.S. Army and served as a Master Sergeant with the Infantry and the Adjutant Generals Department in the Pacific theater with the Army of Occupation of Japan.

On returning home Charles enrolled at the University of Utah and graduated in 1949 with a Juris Doctor. He passed the Utah State Bar in 1949; was admitted to the Bar of the U. S. Supreme Court in 1970 and admitted to the Texas Bar on Motion in 1973.

In 1965 Charles moved to Salt Lake City to work in the Utah State Attorney's Office as a Deputy and supervised 5 Assistant Attorneys General, 37 Fee Attorneys in the trial or settlement of over 1,000 actions of eminent domain and contract claims. During this period at the Attorney General's Office Charles compiled, edited and published a two-volume work - Utah Law of Eminent Domain.

Charles was a legal advisor to the Utah State Highway Patrol for three years, legal advisor for 5 colleges and universities in Utah and guest instructor and lecturer at the Utah State Police Academy.

**In 1969 He went to Washington D.C. as Senior Attorney in the Liquidation and Litigation Section of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and supervised litigation for the closing of 48 banks in 19 states. In 1972 he was made the Regional Counsel of the FDIC in Dallas, Texas and retired in 1981.**

**Out of retirement and still in the banking arena, Charles became General Counsel for the Preston State Bank, Dallas Texas from 1981 to 1983, and then became the General Counsel for First Interstate Bank in Houston.**

**In 1991 and to the present, he moved to east Texas and is the General Counsel, Sr. Vice-President and Director, Vice-Chairman of the Board for Citizens 1<sup>st</sup> Bank, Rusk, Texas. At 1<sup>st</sup> Citizens Bank, Charles was a key contributor to the bank achieving top five ranking nationally as one of the most profitable and efficiently operated banks in the United States.**

**Charles married Phyllis Bentley in 1937, they one daughter and later divorced. He married Betty Faggiani and they had one son, Betty later died. He married Ione Seitz Sullivan and they moved to Salt Lake City in 1965 and then Texas in 1972.**

**Charles was President of the St. George Lions Club, President of the St. George Chamber of Commerce, helped found the Dixie College Colonels Club and was one of the founders of the Washington County Sheriff's Posse.**

**In a recent letter from Dixie State College, the administration stated that Charles had provided scholarship funds for 131 students at Dixie College.**

**Charles is still practicing law in Texas and travels between Utah and Texas for his banking work, and lives in Dammeron Valley, Utah.**

## VICTOR PERSHING NELSON

1947 TO 1958

V. Pershing Nelson was elected Washington County Attorney in 1947 and served from 1948 to 1958 according to Washington County Commission minutes and the Pershing Nelson family history.

Pershing was born June 2, 1918 in Enterprise, Utah to Aaron Alma Nelson and Rosa Lorena Rencher. He attended Woodward School and graduated from Dixie High School where he gave the Valedictorian address. He later attended the University of Utah.

Pershing went to Washington D.C. and worked full time for the Federal National Mortgage Association. At the same time, he went to law school in the evenings at George Washington University Law School. He graduated in 1943 with a Bachelor's degree in law and a juris doctorate. While in law school Pershing worked on the school Law Review.

During World War II, Pershing was drafted into the U.S. Army at Fort Douglas, Utah and assigned to a tank destroying battalion that was headed to North Africa. He later transferred to a howitzer field artillery battalion to activate a new unit at Ft. Jackson in South Carolina. Pershing was in the D-Day invasion of France June of 1944 he was with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army. Sergeant Major Nelson was with a field artillery group when they invaded France and Germany and during the fight at Augsburg, Germany he was part of the forces trying to liberate the Dachau Concentration camp. After he returned home, Pershing was awarded the Bronze Star.

In 1946, Pershing passed the Utah Bar and entered a private law practice with Orval Hafen. Pershing was also a licensed abstractor.

After he left the Washington County Attorney's office, Pershing returned to private practice in St. George then in 1959 he moved to Provo, Utah and became a partner with the law firm of Aldrich, Bullock and Nelson.

Pershing was a member of the Utah State Bar Judicial Council; a member of the Bar Investigative Committee of the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District; a member of the Committee of State Bar Examiners and he also served as President of the Utah County Bar Association; was a Director of the Utah County Care and Training Center and a member of the Provo Kiwanis Club.

He married Hattie Jones, the granddaughter of Mormon pioneer Anson Call. They had five children before she died in 1966.

He died November 23, 1980 and was buried in the St. George Cemetery.

\*\*History provided by the Aaron Alma and Rosa Lorena Rencher Nelson family

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**ORVAL HAFEN**

**1932 TO 1940**

**1942 TO 1946**

**Orval Hafen was elected Washington County Attorney in 1932 to four two-year terms. He was defeated by Howard W. Cannon in 1940 but re-elected county attorney in 1942 serving two additional two-year terms.**

**Orval Hafen was born November 16, 1903 to John and Lenora Knight Hafen in Santa Clara. He had four brothers and three sisters, as well as three half-sisters and one half-brother. Orval attended Santa Clara Elementary and Dixie High School. He graduated from Dixie College with an Associates degree then received his Bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in 1925.**

**Orval taught school at Toole High School from 1925 to 1926 then pursued a law degree at George Washington University in Washington D. C. from 1926 to 1928. He later graduated with an LLB degree from the University of California-Berkley in 1929. He was admitted to the Utah State Bar in 1929 and opened a private practice in St. George.**

**According to his Obituary, Orval is reported to have served 10 years as a St. George City Attorney.**

**In November 1952, Orval was elected a state senator and went on to serve three terms, until he died in 1964 seeking a fourth term in office. While in the state legislature, Orval was President of the senate from 1957 to 1959. He was also a floor leader and spent three terms on the Legislative Council from 1955 to 1961.**

**His Obituary states that he was involved in much of the legislation passed during the decade prior to his death. That legislation included public education, Dixie Junior College, the State Park's system and reapportionment. Orval was the author and sponsor of a bill to allow people with epilepsy to marry.**

**Orval was also head of a committee to study reapportionment of the Utah State Legislature. He also chaired the coordinating Board of Higher Education for the state of Utah, sponsored legislation for the creation of state parks and was instrumental in securing the funds for the new Dixie College campus located between 700 and 1000 East.**

**Orval was the President of the Utah State Bar in 1945; a member of the St. George Rotary Club and the St. George Chamber of Commerce. He was a Director of the Bank of St. George; Vice-President of the St. George Savings and Loan Association; a member of the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Advisory Board and an active Republican.**

**He was a Washington County Chairman and a delegate to the Republican National Conventions in 1960 and 1964**

**In 1964, Orval was one of two people chosen from the state of Utah to represent Utah Republicans on the Platform Committee at the 1964 National Convention.**

**Orval served 10 years in the St. George LDS Stake Presidency, and was in the Bishopric of the St. George Third Ward and a member of the St. George LDS Stake High Council.**

**Orval married Ruth Clark in the Salt Lake LDS Temple on August 17, 1932. They had two daughters and three sons.**

**Orval Hafen died of a heart attack at his Snow Canyon Ranch on October 4, 1964 and is buried in the St. George Cemetery.**

Howard W. Cannon was elected Washington County Attorney November 1940 and took office in January 1941. A little over a month after being sworn into office, Howard was called up for military duty with his National Guard Company. He was sent to combat engineering school at Fort Belvoir, Washington.

County records do not show any special elections to fill Howard's unexpired term as county attorney but a subsequent election was held in 1942 in which Orval Hafen was elected.

Howard Walter Cannon was born January 26, 1912, in St. George, Utah to Leah Sullivan and Walter Cannon. Howard attended Woodward School through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, then graduated from Dixie High School in 1930 and Graduated from Dixie College in 1932, according to his sister Evelyn Jay of St. George.

Howard then enrolled in the Arizona State Teachers College in Flagstaff, Arizona and received his Bachelors degree in education in 1934. He then enrolled at the University of Arizona at Tucson and got his juris doctorate degree in 1937. According to his biographer Mike Verneti, Howard moved back to St. George and opened a private law practice in the Pickett Building from 1937 to 1940. (Mr. Verneti was Howard's press secretary during his last term as a U.S. Senator from Nevada.)

During World War II, Howard transferred from combat engineers to the Army Air Corp and served in the European theater of the war. During this time he was listed as missing in action for 42 days. After his military service, Howard moved to Las Vegas, Nevada and married Dorothy Pace of Alamo, Nevada on December 21, 1945. He passed the Nevada State Bar exam and began a private law practice about the same time. From 1949 to 1958 he was the City Attorney for Las Vegas, Nevada.

As a political newcomer in 1958, Democrat Howard Cannon upset Republican opponent George Malone to become a U. S. Senator from Nevada. In the 1964 election, Cannon nearly lost the senatorial election to then Lieutenant Governor Paul Laxalt. He won by a 48 vote margin and Laxalt demanded a recount. On the recount, Howard's winning margin increased to 84 votes.

After 24 years in the U. S. Senate, Howard was defeated by Las Vegas businessman Chic Hecht. "A lackadaisical campaign by Cannon and a closing media blitz by Hecht that emphasized the negative aspects of his opponent's senatorial record brought about Cannon's defeat," according to author Russell R. Elliott in his History of Nevada.

Howard Walter Cannon died March 6, 2002 in Las Vegas, Nevada. He is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia

**ORSON SHURLIFF TAYLOR**

**1929 TO 1930**

**Orson Shurtliff Taylor was Washington County Attorney from 1929 to 1930.**

**Orson was born on October 28, 1870 in Harrisville, Utah (Weber County) to Pleasant Green Taylor and Jane Narcissus Shurtliff.**

**He married Minnie Hegsted on March 11, 1891 in Logan, Utah.**

**He died June 7, 1954 in Salt Lake City and was buried in St. George on June 10, 1954.**

## **LEROY HENDERSON COX**

**1925 TO 1928**

**LeRoy was Washington County Attorney from 1925 to 1928. He served two two-years terms. He then became a Judge in the 5<sup>th</sup> District from 1928 to 1936. While presiding as a Judge his most famous case was the adjudication of water use in southern Utah. His court decision became known as the Cox Decree.**

**From 1940 to 1956, LeRoy was St. George City Attorney**

**LeRoy Henderson Cox was born March 11, 1895 in St. George to Elias Cox and Emma Rosetta Hunt. He was the oldest son of six boys and five girls (two died at birth).**

**LeRoy attended Dixie High School, however LeRoy's father took him out of school for one year to work on the Arizona Strip as a shepherd. George Brooks told LeRoy he needed to get back into school, that advice would help direct his future career in law. LeRoy graduated from Dixie High, but the exact year is not known.**

**LeRoy was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1917 where he was a wagoner in the U.S. Infantry and saw heavy combat in France and Germany. During this time, he was exposed to mustard gas poisoning by enemy forces. It was a health hazard that would eventually shorten his life.**

**After the war ended, LeRoy returned home to Utah and enrolled at Brigham Young University, graduating around 1920 with a Bachelors degree. His major is not known. LeRoy then enrolled in the University of Utah and received his Master's degree. (His major not known) On July 1, 1921, LeRoy married Lillian Orton after a 10 day courtship. They had four children. The couple went to Chicago and LeRoy studied law at the University of Chicago, graduating in 1924 with a juris doctorate degree. He was admitted to the Utah State Bar in 1924.**

**As a judge, LeRoy hated to hear divorce cases because of his strong belief in family values. His daughter, Marilyn Squiers recalls one such case where the estranged husband related all his complaints against his wife for an hour. Judge Cox then asked the man if he could think of one good thing about the man's wife. The man thought a moment then said, "Well she does make damn good bread." Judge Cox replied, "I think you should reconsider (your divorce). Makers of good bread are hard to come by." The couple apparently reconciled – at least Cox never had them in his court again, said Squiers.**

**Squiers remembers when she was 12 years old, her job was to go to her father's law office located in the old Bank of St. George building on Main Street, and empty a bucket of coal ashes, bring in new coal; sweep the floor and dust the furniture. LeRoy eventually moved his law office into the Wadsworth Building above the Dixie Theater.**

**Judge Cox returned to private practice in 1937 and in 1938 was admitted to practice law before the Interstate Commerce commission. In 1944, he was admitted to the Arizona State Bar and was also a member of the American Bar Association.**

**In 1939-1940 LeRoy became a member of the U. S. Selective Service Board and served on that Board until it was disbanded about 20 years later.**

**LeRoy was Secretary of the Dixie Project and Development Association Inc. and in 1939 was asked to come to Washington D.C. to testify before Congress on water issues. Under Governor George Clyde, he served on the University of Utah Board of Regents from 1949 to 1957**

**He was a life long Republican and served terms as Washington County Party Chairman. He was on the boards of the St. George Valley Irrigation Company and on the St. George and Washington Canal Company. He was also the attorney representing the Kolob Reservoir and Storage Association.**

**In addition, he was President of the Virgin River Water Users Association and was Secretary-treasurer of the Washington County Water Users Board. LeRoy was a member of the Dixie Pioneer Memorial Hospital Advisory Board; Secretary of the St. George Chamber of commerce and a member of the St. George Utility Commission.**

**In other civic areas, he was a member of the St. George Rotary Club, the Elks Lodge (BPOE), the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans. Leroy was an active member of the LDS church and served as a member of the Quorum of the Seventies.**

**He continued to practice law until bad health forced him to retire in the early 1960's.**

**LeRoy Cox died September 30, 1969 in Salt Lake City and was buried in the St. George Cemetery**

**GEORGE ROMNEY LUND**

**1918 TO 1924**

**George was Washington County Attorney from 1918 to 1924 and also served as St. George City Attorney during that time. It is thought he died while still in office.**

**George was born September 23, 1874 to Robert C. Lund Sr. and Mary Ann Romney in St. George. He and his parents are noted in Devoted Empire Builders (Pioneers of St. George), by A. K. Hafen.**

**George was also referenced in The History of Washington County, By Douglas D. Alder and Karl F. Brooks as being a member of the St. George Literary Society, established in January 1894 and later evolved into the Utah Club and became more of a debating society.**

**He married Thamizan M. Andrus and they had nine children. Thamizan died May 11, 1955 outliving George by 32 years.**

**George R. Lund died in Salt Lake City, January 4, 1923 and is buried in St. George.**

Leo Alva Snow served one term as Washington County Attorney from 1917 to 1918. According to Washington County Commission records, no other information is available on his legal service to Washington county.

Leo was born September 5, 1881 to Erastus Beman Snow and Elida Crosby.

Leo attended school through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the basement of the LDS Tabernacle while the Woodward School was being built. He then finished high school in the newly completed Woodward School. He was a member of the first graduating class of Woodward High School. Leo also attended the St. George Stake Academy.

In 1903 he obtained his teacher's certificate, presumably from Brigham Young University and taught at Santa Clara Elementary for \$30 a month. Each day he rode a horse back and forth from school. He was later appointed to be the water-master in the Washington fields.

As a young adult he caught a serious cold and later the doctors believed he had tuberculosis. They recommended he choose an outdoor occupation, and according to his daughter Vivian Davenport, he decided on the engineering field.

Leo enrolled at the University of Utah in June, 1908 and graduated with a Bachelors degree in science and engineering. Following his graduation from the University of Utah, he obtained a surveying contract from the U. S. government to survey public land in Washington and Kane Counties including what is now Zion National Park.

According to author Angus Woodbury's, A History of Southern Utah and its National Parks, in a report to President William Howard Taft on June 25, 1909, Leo suggested that the Zion area be made into a national park. President Taft subsequently signed into law, the Mukuntuweap National Monument.

The National Park Service honored Leo in June, 1961 in commemoration for his original survey of the Zion Park area.

Leo served various terms as St. George City engineer and Washington County surveyor. While he was the city engineer, construction of concrete sidewalks began and the first sewer project was also under his direction. Leo was the engineer in charge of piping the Cottonwood Springs water from the 7,000 foot level down an almost perpendicular precipice of Pine Valley Mountain through 15 miles of lava strewn fields to the City of St. George. Leo engineered the St. George Municipal Pool, adjacent to Worthen Park, and he designed the Ash Creek Bridge on the Black Ridge south of New Harmony.



**Concurrently, Leo served for 17 years as Chairman of the Washington County Board of Education and the Selective Service Board during World War I and World War II and part of the Korean War years.**

**Throughout his life Leo was an active member of the LDS Church serving in the Seventies Quorum Presidency for many years and as President of the High Priest quorum.**

**Leo died July 1, 1963 in the Dixie Pioneer Memorial Hospital in St. George at the age of 81. He is buried in the St. George Cemetery.**

**ELLIS J. PICKETT**

**1914 TO 1915**

**1931 TO 1932**

Ellis was the Washington County Attorney for two terms 1914 to 1915 and from 1931 to 1932. In addition he was St. George City Attorney for three terms and for 20 years he was the Fifth District Attorney. During that time as District Attorney, Ellis never lost a case.

Ellis J. Pickett was born December 4, 1887 in St. George, Utah to Horatio and Josephine Johnson Pickett they had three daughters and three sons who lived.

Ellis went to Woodward School and Dixie High School and Dixie College. He earned his LLB at the University of Utah College of Law and was admitted to the Utah State Bar in 1927 and the Arizona State Bar in 1943. Ellis later qualified to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

According to family history, Ellis was Water Master for Hurricane in 1919 and as a St. George City Councilman in the 1920's he was instrumental in getting the power poles moved from the middle of the street to the sides. He taught school at Kanarrville, Touquerville, Dixie High School and Dixie College.

In February, 1957 Ellis received a certificate of appreciation from President Dwight D. Eisenhower recognizing 15 years as a member of the Selective Service.

Ellis also served on the Utah State Water Storage Commission and the Utah Publicity Advisory Committee and was a charter member of BPOE Lodge 1743.

In 1961 he was Chairman of the St. George Centennial Commission and for many years served as President of the St. George Chamber of Commerce, and President of the St. George Rotary Club.

Ellis represented Washington County during the formation of the Associated Civic Clubs of Southern Utah and was active in mineral and oil development in Utah, Nevada and Arizona.

He married Ruth Morris December 22, 1912 in St. George and they had two daughters and three sons. Their sons were in the armed services during World War II and Ellis and Ruth proudly displayed the three star flag during that time.

Ellis was also a prominent defense attorney in the southern Utah area with offices on the second floor of the Pickett Lumber Building and he practiced law from 1927 until he died August 12, 1971. He is buried in the St. George Cemetery.

Ellis's father Horatio Pickett was also a Washington County Attorney as well as his uncle David Hyrum Morris and his son Charles M. Pickett

**ARTHUR ALFRED PAXMAN**

**1909 TO 1914**

Arthur served as Washington County Attorney for three terms; according to the Washington County Commission minutes, from 1909-1910, 1911-1912 and 1913 - 1914.

A family history states he was elected Washington County Assessor in the fall of 1906 and re-elected for that position in 1912. During this time the family history also states that Arthur was appointed Washington City Justice of the Peace. In 1914, according to family history, Arthur ran for Washington County Attorney on the Democratic Party ticket and that he campaigned on three reform issues: prohibition, taxation and education.

Arthur was born October 13, 1865 in Bishops Stortford in Hertford, England. He was the sixth child and third son of David Paxman and Elizabeth Ann Blundsen. When Arthur was five, July 1870, the family migrated to Utah, having joined the LDS Church in 1850. During the trek to Utah two of his sisters died in Detroit, Michigan. The family had been called by Mormon President Brigham Young to settle in Washington, Utah.

Arthur apparently attended Washington Elementary, although a family history indicates he only attended school during his 8<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> year. He also worked at a mill owned by his farther.

Arthur married Minnie Temple Westover, in the St. George LDS Temple, November, 1887. They had eight children. Arthur then served an LDS Mission from 1899 to 1901 at the Southern States Mission in Tennessee. Returning home, he would serve as a counselor in the LDS Bishopric in Washington City for 20 years. In 1924 he was made Bishop of the Washington Ward.

Prior to the 1914 election for Washington County Attorney, " .... debate was planned in Hurricane, ...two days before time for the debate his opponent asked him to change the subject. Arthur quickly agreed and debated so brilliantly on the unprepared subject that he won the audience and confused his opponent. His quick good-natured wit and clear delivery were wonderful aids to his store of knowledge, gained from books, meditation as well as common labor," according to the unpublished A Life History of Arthur A. Paxman, by Eva A. Paxman and Audrey P. Tobler.

The Washington County Commission minutes state that Ellis J. Pickett was elected County Attorney in 1914

## **HORATIO PICKETT**

**1905 TO 1907**

**Horatio was elected for two terms as Washington County Attorney from 1905 to 1907, however in a letter from Washington County Clerk's Office it is reported that Horatio was Washington County Attorney and St. George City Attorney in 1908.**

**He is shown as serving as St. George Councilman in 1888 and in 1892. In 1892 Horatio was also the Washington County Coroner and County Treasurer and again County Treasurer in 1896. From 1886 to 1890 Horatio served as Justice of the Peace in St. George and was a Notary Public. He was licensed to practice law on August 3, 1907 according to Utah Supreme Court records.**

**Horatio was born on March 10, 1848 at Florence, Nebraska (Winter Quarters). He was the only son of William Pickett and Susannah M. Rogers Sangiovanni. They lived in Iowa for 4 years then moved to Salt Lake City in 1852. During his time in Salt Lake City, he was a herdsman and learned how to make his own violin.**

**In 1861 he moved to St. George with his mother, half-brother Guglielmo and step-father James Keate. In St. George, he learned the carpentry trade and was part of the construction of the Pine Valley Chapel from 1867 to 1868, the St. George Tabernacle and the St. George Temple.**

**Horatio and Joseph Judd began a partnership in the carpentry business in 1868 and also that same year Horatio married Harriet Josephine Johnson May 31, 1868. They had 12 children and 7 survived and one son (Ellis J. Pickett) would continue the family tradition of Washington County Attorney. Josephine died December 19, 1892. Horatio married Philena Hunt August 8, 1895 and they had 6 children, five of whom survived.**

**He was one of the organizers of the St. George Builders Union (The United Order). In 1881 Horatio, Orin Woodbury, and Henry Riding formed the Woodbury, Pickett and Riding Company.**

**Horatio was one of the Board of Directors of the St. George Library Association, and was appointed the Librarian.**

**He was a member of the first dramatic club, choirmaster and played in the first Fife and Drum Corp and the Martial Band**

**He was active in the mining business with shares in several of the local mines (Apex, Highland Mary, White Elephant, Home Pickett and Last Chance). In 1890 he, Jack Beard and Andrew Sproul Jr. dug three canals in the Shinob Kiab area of the Washington fields as part of the Washington water canals and one of these canal/tunnels was named the Pickett Tunnel.**

Around 1885 or before Horatio and E.B. Snow formed Pickett and Snow it was a lumber and furniture business and they built caskets and carried undertaker supplies, as well as providing furniture and farm machinery to the locals.

Horatio spent the summer of 1891 in Salt Lake City training for and successfully passing the State Embalmers examinations and getting his license as an embalmer.

By 1908 he was out of the lumber and carpentry business and had become a lawyer while at the same time still providing services as an embalmer and undertaker.

His service to the LDS Church included many services organizing the first St. George Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association in 1875 and he held several Ward and Stake positions during his lifetime and at the time of his death he was a worker in the St. George Temple.

Horatio served as a member of the Stake Board of Education during the attempt to start the St. George Stake Academy where he was a music teacher and after its failure, the plans for the Woodward School began. Horatio had the contract to layout the corners of the new Woodward School and get the rock for the building. He also served as one of the quarrymen in cutting the stone.

Horatio died December 21, 1918 from the Spanish influenza and he is buried in St. George.

Historical information provided by the Biography of Horatio Pickett of 1948, by Douglas Cox; Devoted Empire Builders (Pioneers of St. George) by A. K. Hafen; The History of Washington County by Douglas D. Alder and Karl F. Brooks and records from Washington County.

**JOSEPH SMITH SNOW**

**1902 TO 1903**

Joseph was elected Washington County Attorney from 1902 to 1903, he was also a merchant, State Legislator; State Commissioner for the Public Utilities; member of the Rotary Club and the Arrowhead Trails Association.

Joseph Smith Snow was born February 11, 1873 in St. George to Erastus Fairbanks Snow and Julia Josephine Spencer.

According to A History of Washington County, by Douglas D. Alder and Karl F. Brooks. Joseph was part of a Washington County group campaigning for continued legislative and gubernatorial support of Dixie College. With the financial crisis of the depression, state officials felt there was no need for two state supported colleges in southern Utah. The local committee of W.O. Bentley, President Joseph K. Nicholes (Dixie College President), David Hirshi and Joseph S. Snow spent the 1933 legislative session in Salt Lake City winning that support. Their expenses were paid with funds raised by the local chamber of commerce.

Joseph married Olive Bleak in 1894 in St. George and he died October 27, 1937 in St. George.

Joseph Smith Snow is listed in the Devoted Empire Builders (Pioneers of St. George) by A.K. Hafen.

**FRANCIS L. DAGGETT**

**1901 TO 1902**

**F. L. was Washington County Attorney from 1901 to 1902. He was a Probate Judge from the 1880's until 1896 and the St. George City Recorder in 1900 and Mayor of St. George from 1906 to 1910.**

**F. L. was born January 24, 1845 in Massachusetts. His father was Isaac Daggett.**

**He was a member of the District School Board from 1899 to 1910 and a Washington County Commissioner from 1907 to 1909.**

**In 1908 F.L. was President of the Washington County Fair and his committee faced several challenges due to a lack of funds. However, that year the entries exceeded the previous year and the fair has been a successful event since.**

**He married Mary E. Conger and they later divorced.**

**In Under the Dixie Sun by The Washington County Chapter of the D.U.P. (Daughters of the Utah Pioneers), there is a reference to the Daggett House or the Conger House that provided rooms for tourists.**

**F. L. Daggett died October 4, 1919**

## **DAVID HYRUM MORRIS**

**1896 TO 1900**

**David Hyrum Morris was Washington County Attorney from 1896 to 1900 according to the Washington County records. The Morris family history records state that David also was St. George City Attorney for 11 years.**

**David Hyrum Morris was born April 6, 1958 in Williamsburg, New York to Richard and Emma Packer Morris and moved with his parents to Salt Lake City and then to St. George, Utah. At age 21 David enrolled at Brigham Young Academy in Provo from September 1879 to June 1880. Then he went to work for R.G. McQuarrie as a carpenter.**

**On December 21, 1881 David married Annabella MacFarlane, daughter of John MacFarlane. They had six children and raised one foster daughter. From 1886 to 1888 David served a LDS mission to Great Britain and during the 1<sup>st</sup> year he was a traveling missionary. The second year, he presided over the Irish Mission headquarters in Belfast, Ireland.**

**In 1890 he returned to St. George and worked as a carpenter until he accepted a position as superintendent of the Washington Factory. The factory manufactured cotton goods and David supervised up to 75 employees. During that time a prominent St. George resident Anthony W. Ivins suggested that David become a lawyer. David was admitted to the Utah State Bar in 1895 and from that time until his death he would practice law.**

**David was an attorney for Union Pacific Railroad; the Dixie Power Company and for seven years he was an assessor and collector for Washington County.**

**For six terms (12 years) David was a state representative for the Utah Legislature and served as a District Judge for four years.**

**In 1906 David was among those who started the Bank of St. George and two years later he became a Director of the bank and later would become the bank President.**

**David was one of the founders of Dixie Junior College and held several LDS Church positions during his life; Stake Young Men Mutual Improvement Association Superintendent and Ward Sunday School teacher and officer for over 50 years**

**David Hyrum Morris died August 27, 1937 in St. George and is buried in the St. George Cemetery.**

**\*\*family history provided by Morris' granddaughter Olive Esplin**



