

Sandstone Quarry Now Open for Visits

BY R. WAYNE PACE, COORDINATOR
SANDSTONE QUARRY PROJECT

After years of inaccessibility, the sandstone quarry, from which the stones to build the LDS Tabernacle and Temple, the Courthouse, the Woodward School, and other structures in the St. George area were taken, is now open for visits by residents and guests of the community. The entry to the pathway to the quarry is located at 700 West and just off Diagonal Street. The stroll is just a third of a mile long and leads walkers along the Dixie Red Hills Golf Course, across the Desert Tortoise Habitat, and right to the sandstone cliffs where the quarry nestles along the ridgeline.

You might think that the walk may be too strenuous, but we're reminded of the kindly passer-by who assisted a small boy in pushing a heavy loaded cart up a long, steep hill. Reaching the top, and at last getting his wind back, the passer-by said indignantly, "Only a scoundrel would expect a youngster to do a job like that! Your employer should have known it was too heavy for you." The boy replied, "He did, but he said to go on, you're sure to find some old fool who'll help you up the hill." If you really need some help, you may also find someone who will lend a hand; however, of the more than a thousand people who have made the trek, none—elderly or youngster—has needed assistance. Take a step, reap the reward.

You might not know that the opening of the quarry was accomplished by the Dixie Encampment Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers, utilizing around twenty potential Eagle Scouts to create a splendid pathway with convenient step-over bridges, stairs, and convenient trail segments that allow everyone to enjoy the walk and the view. The quarry is nestled into the red cliffs southeast of the Dixie Red Hills Golf Course. The area was occupied in the 1930s by a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp. The quarry is considered to be one of the most significant and important historic sites in the area and it is very accessible now.

The entry to the pathway is marked by a pair of sandstone pillars and plaques honoring the CCC camp and the contributors to the project. A monument and five interpretive plaques grace the quarry itself, providing information about how stones were quarried. The view from the quarry is spectacular and well worth the visit.

A monograph titled, *Bringing History to Life*, describes the history of the area and the processes by which approval was secured to open the quarry and to construct the entire project. It includes 20 pages of color pictures, and is available from three locations in St. George:

1. Dixie State University bookstore, 2nd floor, Gardner Building on campus
2. Stapley Pharmacy, 126 Fast City Center, downtown St. George

3. Dixie-Arizona Strip Interpretive Association, BLM Building, Riverside Drive

Pick up a copy for a small amount and reflect on the sacrifices of the pioneers as they quarried the stones, transported them downtown, and constructed the magnificent buildings that grace the city.

Dr. R. Wayne Pace is a specialist in human resource development, organizational communication, and individual and organizational change. His current research and writing focuses on factors that affect worker and organizational learning, vitality and human resource. He has served in numerous positions as professor, corporate advisor, author, receiving distinguished awards and degrees. He was elected President of the Brigham Young Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers in 1986, and became founding President of the Dixie Encampment Chapter in 2010.



STGEORGE Ride .COM
CHOOSE YOUR RIDE!

1-855-275-RIDE

StGeorge Shuttle TAXI LIMO CHARTER EXECUTIVE SHUTTLE