

Stroll the Walkway to the Quarry

By R. Wayne Pace, Ph.D., Coordinator of the Sandstone Quarry Project

Esquire Magazine once dedicated an article to “that little guy in each of us who one day, without warning, decides to kick down the door.” That may be the process used by most of us to start an exercise program. There may be a better way: Take a stroll along the pathway to the old St. George Sandstone Quarry. The pathway was opened and dedicated on 19 March 2016, but many residents of Washington County, and especially, St. George, have no idea where the Quarry is located, much less where they would go to get on the pathway.

Take a pencil and piece of paper and write this down: Go to Main Street and drive north to the post office, go around the roundabout to Diagonal Street and drive to 700 West Street. Turn right and go to the end. Park along the west side of the street and walk to the entrance to the pathway. Walk through the pillars and study the plaques and instructions. You are on your way.

Although J. Golden Kimball was often quoted as saying, “If I had a farm in St. George and a home in Hell, I’d sell my farm and move home,” he had certainly NOT seen the view of the Dixie Red Hills Golf Course and the surrounding cliffs from the Sandstone Quarry, where the stones to construct the Tabernacle, the Temple, the County Courthouse, the Woodward School and other buildings in St. George were taken.

What a magnificent view to take in, as you view the pillars, and plaques at the entry dedicated to the contributors to the Quarry Project and the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) Camp that existed there in the 1930s.

You’ll walk a beautiful path constructed along the base of the cliffs and across the Desert Tortoise Habitat (don’t bother the tortoises), and up the hill right into the quarry. When there, you’ll see a great monument and five interpretive plaques about quarry practices. The walk back will be a pleasure and a joy!

A monograph describing the history of the area, the process by which approval was secured to construct the pathway and monument, the construction of the entire project, with twenty pages of color pictures, is available from three locations in St. George:

1. Dixie State University bookstore, 2nd floor, Gardner Building.
2. Stapley Pharmacy, 126 East City Center
3. Dixie-Arizona Strip Interpretive Association, BLM Building, Riverside Drive

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

Just open the door – avoid kicking it down, and begin a new fitness program with the whole family, even grandma. The pathway is about one-third of a mile on a pathway constructed by twenty prospective Eagle Scouts. The Dixie Encampment Chapter of the SUP thanks you, the Scouts thank you, the City of St. George thanks you, Washington County thanks you, the Tortoise Habitat Conservation Program thanks you, and my mother thanks you.



About the Author

Dr. Pace is professor emeritus of organizational leadership in the Marriott School of Management, Brigham Young University. He is a specialist in human resource development and organizational communication and leadership. He is the author of over thirty books in those areas.

