

Leeds Field Trip October 2022
Washington County Historical Society



*Leeds School early 1900s with cupola,
Leeds Historical Events in Bits and Pieces, Beal
1996*

A public schoolhouse was completed in January 1880 in Silver Reef. As Silver Reef mining declined after 1884, and the schoolhouse was closed. In the early 1900s the schoolhouse was moved to Leeds. It housed eight grades in two groups the younger “little school”, taught by lady, and the older “big school”, taught by a man, who was also the principal. Leeds school finally closed in 1956.



Leeds School Class of 1913-1914, Bits/Pieces, 1996

You can download the book, *Leeds Historical Events in Bits and Pieces*, Beal 1996, [here](https://wchsutah.org/documents/beal-leeds-book.pdf)

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Leeds School Class 1875 -1878, Bits/Pieces, 1996

The first school in Leeds was the old rock church and school built in 1875. Charles A. Connelly and his wife Jane (Rowley) Connelly were the first teachers.

At the beginning of the boom, in May of 1876, Charles Connelly, Walter E. Dodge, Wells Spicer, W. H. Chinn, Ben Paddock and Frank Laughrey created "Spicer's Addition" just north of the existing Leeds town plat. It competed with Barbee's Bonanza City and the new Silver Reef plat for buyers.



Leeds Main Street w/ power poles 1929, R. D. Adams

A NEW TOWN,
or rather an addition to the town of Leeds has been laid out, consisting of several hundred lots, on both sides of the main road leading into Leeds and adjoining the town. They are on a splendid tract of land for a town with a plenty of water and mines adjoining. W. E. Dodge, Ben Paddock, Frank Laughrey, W. H. Chinn, C. A. Connelly and myself sold the land and laid out the town, calling it "Spicer's Addition." Several buildings are now being erected, and within thirty days there will be forty new houses built with as many families living in them.





Leeds Tithing House, 2018

The Wells Fargo Express had a stage stop and bank on the corner where the old Tithing Office now stands. The stage coach was drawn by two, and sometimes three, span of horses. It was a novelty for the children of Leeds to watch them thunder down the street when they arrived in town. When the Wells Fargo Bank was built, the stage stop moved to Silver Reef.

from Bits/Pieces, 1996

The land transfer records for the Tithing House site, reveal that Willard McMullin was the first owner, Charles Connelly was the next. Then John Rice, cashier of Leeds Bank. Later to Thomas Judd of Woolley, Lund and Judd merchants, who transferred it to the LDS Church in 1891.

The quality of the Tithing House stonework indicates that it was accomplished by skilled masons. It is most likely that John Rice contracted with the Builder's Union of the Mormon Church for this work. Rice came from Pioche in 1876, where he had been the agent for Wells Fargo. He was well acquainted with Robert Lund, Wells Fargo's agent in

St. George. Robert's father was among the skilled masons in the Builder's Union. The Tithing House was probably completed in 1877, it likely also served as the Deseret Telegraph office from that time.

Charles Connelly owned at least three mines (the Toledo, the Don Carlos and the Last Chance) in 1876 and built his house on the lot which adjoins the Tithing House as early as 1868. The Harrisburg Mining District was organized in 1871 by Mormons.

It was purchased and restored by Ken and Pat Hadley after 2013, for which they received a Preservation Utah Heritage Award in 2017.

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When she was a young girl Pat Hadley lived in the Leeds Tithing House. Her father, Silas A. Bushman was a teacher. During the Depression years he took a job teaching the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps who needed to finish high school. He began teaching CCC enrollees in Paradise Valley, in Northern Nevada. The family of six moved to the Leeds Tithing House, when Pat was three years old. You can read more of this adventure here <https://wchsutah.org/buildings/leeds-tithing-office6.pdf>

Pat Hadley recently (2019) wrote a short history of Leeds illustrated by Jerry Anderson. You can find it here <https://wchsutah.org/towns/leeds3.pdf>



*Leeds Civilian Conservation Corps Headquarters
Buildings 1930s*

For more about the Leeds CCC
<http://www.silverreefutah.org/CCC-CAMP.html>

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