

SOME LIVING PIONEERS.

William Gardner, the subject of this sketch was a pioneer and the son of a pioneer. His father, Robert Gardner was born in Scotland, October 12, 1819, and emigrated to Canada with his parents afterwards, journeying to Nauvoo, arriving there in 1846.

Mr. Gardner, with his family, followed the trail of the Mormons across the state of Iowa. On May 22, 1846, the company camped near Bonaparte in a terrible rain storm. The water flooded around the wagons and out of



WILLIAM GARDNER.

doors, exposed to the inclemency of the weather the boy William was born on the above date. The family subsequently journeyed onward overtaking the main body of Saints near the Missouri river. In the spring of '47 they left Winter Quarters, travelling across the prairies with ox teams.

While travelling near Fort Bridger the child William fell out of the wagon and two of the hind wheels ran over his ankles. Elders administered to him and poultices were made of Cedar berries and he recovered in a remarkable manner and in a few days was quite well. His parents felt that his life was providentially saved for a good purpose.

The Gardner family arrived in Salt Lake valley October 1, 1847.

William Gardner has ever been an active and energetic citizen and has occupied many positions of trust.

He has filled two missions, aggregating seven years and a half, amongst the Maoris of New Zealand, and for several years was bishop of Pine Valley ward in southern Utah where he now resides.

His father Robert Gardner is a veteran pioneer and is still living and proudly states that he has had 37 children, 27 of whom are still living. He has also 122 grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

The writer spent several years in New Zealand with Bishop William Gardner and can testify that he is a worthy son of a worthy sire, and should therefore be classed amongst notable pioneers.

Salt Lake Herald Republican, July 14, 1897

This article, written a year after Utah became a State, looks back at the life of William Gardner, the son of Robert Gardner Jr., and describes him as a living pioneer. Robert served as the first Bishop of St. George, which at the time included Shoal Creek, Meadows, Pinto and Pine Valley. He also served two terms as St. George's mayor.

In 1864, Robert moved his family to Pine Valley, in order to operate a sawmill that provided lumber for the Tabernacle, the Old County Courthouse, the Temple, the Pine Valley Chapel and many other buildings. (see wchsutah.org)

Upon reflection at 87 years old, Robert said, "*The Dixie Country was never much of a country in which to make money, but it is a fine country in which to make men and women.*"



Robert Gardner Jr. home sketch

This is one of Robert's homes he built in Pine Valley, located at 189 South 200 South. Robert had four wives and 37 children.

Pine Valley Field Trip September 2022
Washington County Historical Society

Pioneer Press, St. Paul, Minnesota

In 1878, the *Salt Lake Herald Republican* noted that one-fourth of the population went to the mountains in the summer. This share was probably even higher in the St. George area.

A number of sawmills were operated in Pine Valley some provided ponderosa pine timbers for the mines in Pioche, Silver Reef, and other camps. By the late 1880s, very little valuable timber was left.

Frederick Law Olmsted, the designer of Central Park in NYC, was the first prominent advocate for forest reserves. Gifford Pinchot was selected by Olmsted to be forester of the Vanderbilt estate in Gifford Pinchot, a wealthy Yale graduate, was appointed as head of the *Division of Forestry*, in the *U. S. Department of Agriculture*, in 1898 by President William McKinley. Pinchot and Theodore Roosevelt were friends. Roosevelt assumed office after McKinley's assassination in 1901. Pinchot held the first meeting of the *American Society of Foresters* in his home in 1900. Frederick E. Olmsted, a nephew of Frederick Law Olmsted, made the first field examination of the Dixie Forest Reserve in 1904. President Roosevelt signed the order to create the Dixie Forest Reserve in 1905.

Pinchot, Roosevelt, the Olmsteds, and Utah's Senator/Apostle Reed Smoot, were all champions of the *Conservation Movement*, which held a belief in using resources in a manner that would preserve them for future generations, rather than allowing them to be exploited and lost forever.

Frederick E. (Fritz) Olmsted may have met with LDS priesthood leaders, including stake president, Edward H. Snow, at the time his field work for the Dixie reserve was undertaken. Utah's newly elected Senator Reed Smoot received a letter from Pinchot regarding the specific issues of the Dixie Forest Reserve which was published in the *Iron County Record* on February 17, 1904.



In 1916, Utah's Senator Smoot was the sponsor of the legislation that created the National Park Service, and Zion Park.

In 1911, a large reservoir was proposed that would "make a reservoir of Pine Valley" to provide water for 4,000 to 5,000 acres on the Santa Clara bench. The head of the project was Edward H. Snow, St. George stake president. *Washington County News*, April 13, 1911. In 1914, this reservoir was approved by the assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Also in April of 1911, Utah's Governor Spry and officials of the Newcastle Reclamation company visited Pine Valley where a similar reservoir was proposed providing water for Newcastle land speculation.



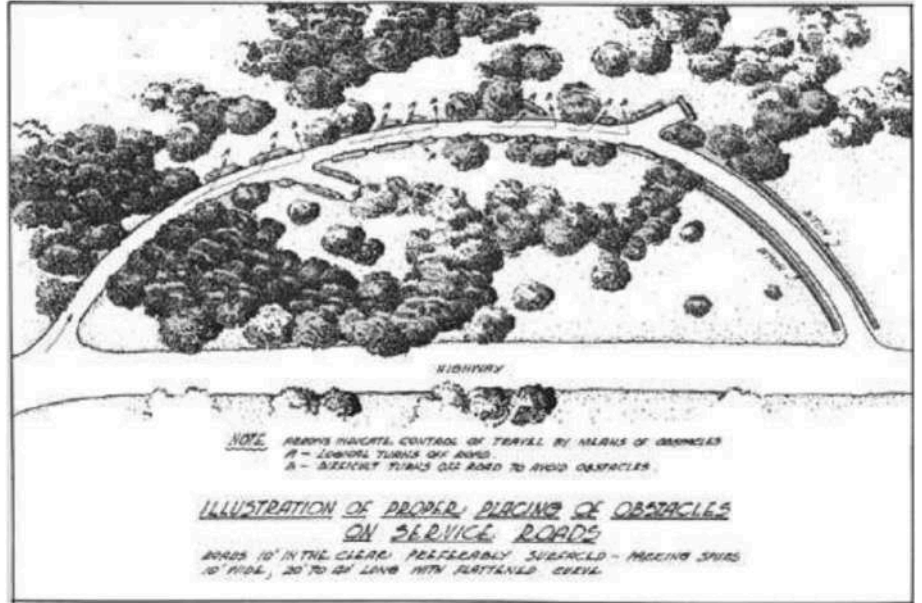
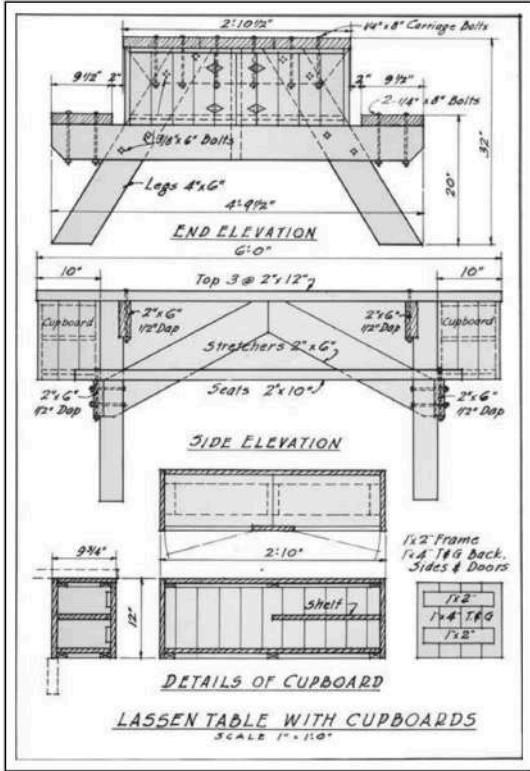
Pine Valley CCC Camp in 1933

Logging activities continued as applications for new sawmills were made and approved in the Dixie Forest Reserve until at least 1913. Fencing was erected by the Forest Service to protect the St. George city water supply from contamination by forest ranged cattle. Sheep were not allowed within the Forest Reserve. Improvements to roads and trails were made but within the limits of the manpower available.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps on April 12, 1933 by executive order. The CCC enrolled mostly young, unskilled and unemployed men from 18 to 25 years old. Washington County had a total of 20 CCC camps. One was located in Pine Valley.

The Dixie Forest Recreation Camp, built in 1937, relied heavily on the labor of the CCC boys. It was located, *“at the head of Pine Valley on Pine Valley creek, in a grove of trees. There is a fish reservoir in the camp ground, about 8 acres in area. The reservoir should do much to keep the stream reasonably well protected from over fishing. There are 60 camp sites consisting of stove, table, cupboard garbage can and tent location. All camps are conveniently located to water hydrants and comfort stations. There is an excellent cement tennis court and dance court, a volley ball court, wading pool, a ball diamond, picnic center and civic center for meetings as well as swings and teeters throughout the camp. A shower and wash house where hot and cold water may be had is a real convenience for campers.”* Parowan Times, May 12, 1937.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service published *Public Camp Manual* in 1935, which included descriptions and details of how camps, signage and construction details were to be handled.



A Deteriorated Public Camp
Unrestricted travel has destroyed all shrubbery and reproduction in the camping area.

