

*April 7, 1869
Deseret News*

Our meeting was well attended. The roads have been much improved, although the recent storm made them muddy. We met the saints in the little village of Pinto, this side the rim, in a large stone school house, which, among other evidences of thrift, has been erected since my last visit. They have not succeeded in raising fruit, the frost nipping down the apple trees, and even the potawattamie plum, currants and gooseberries seem to fail. There is but little land that can be irrigated, but this little produces good crops of wheat, barley, oats and potatoes. The settlement was located under the direction of Elder Parley P. Pratt as an Indian missionary station. I visited it in 1857 when it consisted of two dug-outs or cellars covered with earth. It now produces 10,000 lbs of excellent cheese for market. The people have recently constructed a reservoir to receive the waste waters of Pinto creek in the flood time, and in

So we learn that Pinto had been established at the direction of apostle Parley P. Pratt as an Indian Mission station in 1856. They were led by Captain Rufus C. Allen (28) and included Robert Ritchie (49), Robert Dixon (48), Lorenzo W. Roundy (36), Samuel F. Atwood (31), Richard S. Robinson (25), Amos G. Thorton (23), Prime T. Coleman (22), Benjamin Knell (21), and David W. Tullis (20).

*September 8, 1875
Deseret News*

Joel White, an accomplice, with his hands as deeply dyed in the blood of the unfortunate emigrants as Klingensmith's, is selected for this purpose. Therefore White's testimony begins with the journey to Pinto, and he says, "We met John D. Lee."

Question. "What did John D. Lee say?"

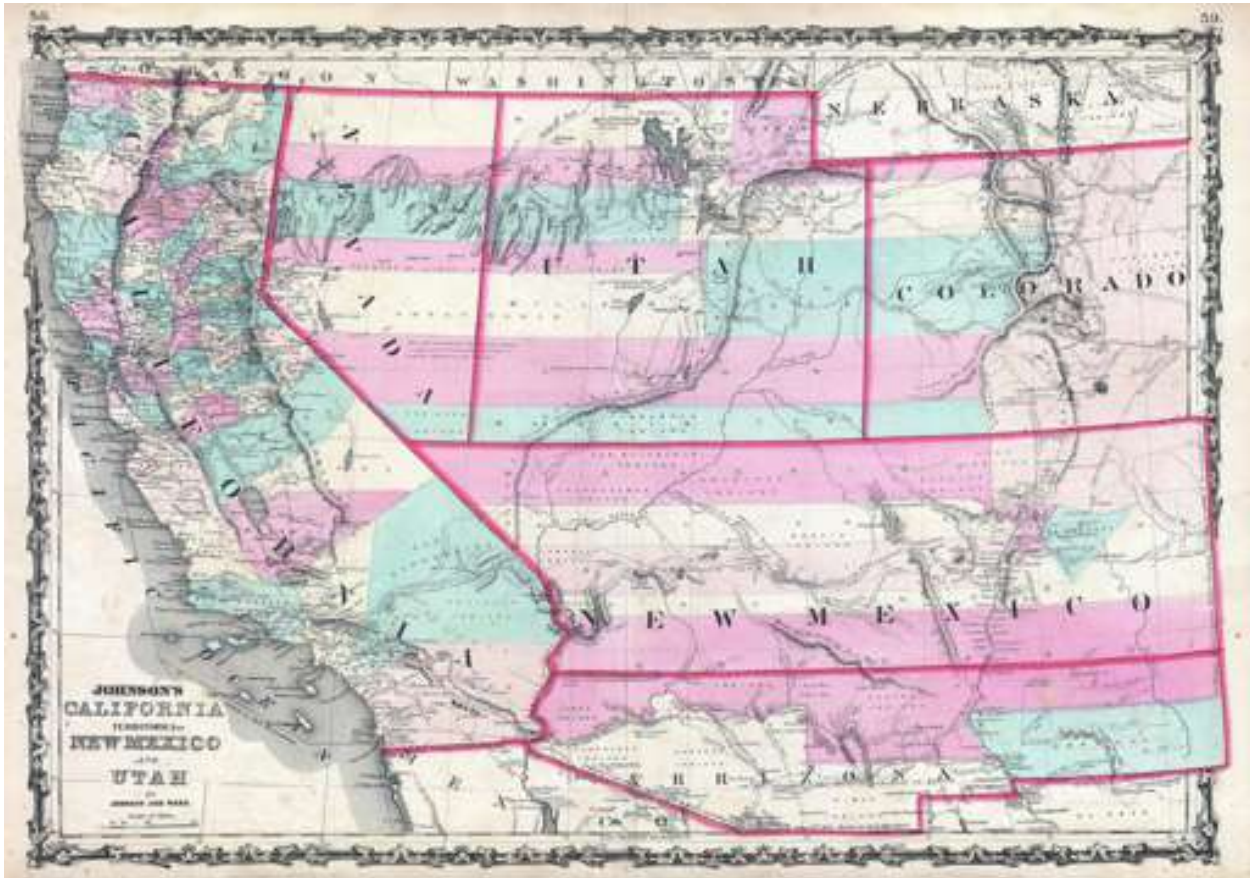
Answer.—"When we told him that we were going to Pinto to try to allay the angry passions of the Indians, so that the emigrants might pass along, he answered, 'I have something to say about it, and I will see to it.'"

Now, gentlemen, am I not justified in saying that it was a put up job? This man White was brought here and trained by Bill Hickman and Klingensmith, so that he might corroborate the perjurer, Klingensmith. He did corroborate him on one point, and on one point only, and that was in regard to the circumstances of going to Pinto and the meeting of John D. Lee on the road. It is quite likely that Klingensmith and White had some conversations together, and therefore with the aid of Bill Hickman they have put up this job. But there were several points in Klingensmith's testimony which it would have been material to corroborate, but which escaped their notice.

The new settlement of Pinto, consisting of two sod covered dug-outs, was about midway between Cedar City and Mountain Meadows. It was at Pinto that John D. Lee met with others and discussed the role of the Indians in the massacre.

The involvement of some local Indians as well as some Southern Indian Missionaries was historical fact, but wasn't publicly acknowledged until the 1950 publication of Juanita Brooks' book.

<https://wchsutah.org/documents/juanita-brooks-lecture-19.pdf>



1862 Map of Utah Counties, Western U. S.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah: That all that portion of the Territory bounded south by latitude 37 degrees north, west by Nevada Territory, north by a line running due east, and west through a point four miles due north from the northeast corner of Fort Harmony, and east by the 32 meridian west from Washington City, is hereby made and named Washington County: Provided that such portions of Big Pinto creek and the lands drained by it, as are south of the aforesaid due east and west line four miles north of Fort Harmony, are hereby included in Iron County.

January 29, 1862 Deseret News

Note that Big Pinto creek was to be included in Iron County according to Utah's Territorial Legislature.

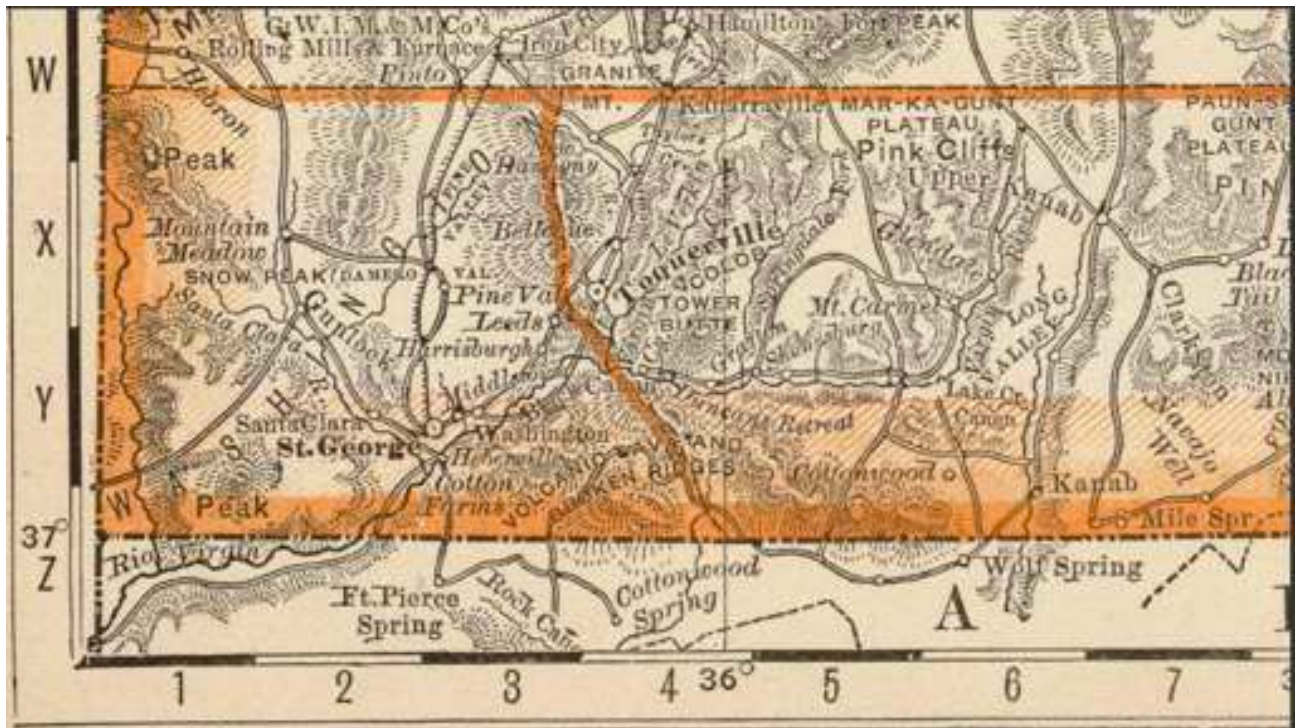
Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2 p. m.
After roll call and prayer by the chaplain, a petition was read from H. P. Cutler and 32 others, of Pinto and Hebron, Washington county, praying that the north line of the boundary of Washington county be extended nine or ten miles north, so as to include their land and property in Washington county. The petitioners believed that a recent survey had thrown them out of Washington county, to which they wished to remain attached as they heretofore had been. Referred to the committee on counties.

January 31, 1869 Salt Lake Herald

Note that Pinto had been included within Washington County before 1869.



1866 Map (note Kane County is not shown)



After 1869 Map (Toquerville is County Seat)



Jacob Hamblin established a ranch for his family at the same Pinto was founded. *Hamblin Spring* and *Mountain Meadows* were made a part of the Pinto Ward., which also included *Little Pinto* and *Pages Ranch*.

How much damage was done to property in Pine Valley, has not transpired. The water in Pine creek rose to a great height, and as it rushed down the valley like a mighty wave fifteen or twenty feet high, far below where there was any rain, it swept away the house of Mr. Isaac Allphin, formerly of this city, and four of his children were drowned. The house—a framed edifice, was near the creek, but was, as supposed, some twelve or fifteen feet above high water mark. The Mr. Allphin and a son about sixteen years old were out seeing after some cattle or some other matter at the time, and although near by, were unable to render those in the house any assistance, as it was swept away instantaneously by the force of the water. Mrs. Allphin seized one of five small children, which she succeeded in saving with much difficulty. The other four—two girls, the oldest in her tenth the other in her eighth year, and two boys, one in his fourth year the other a babe

August 5, 1863 *Deseret News*

A summer monsoon cloudburst on Pine Valley mountain sent a “fifteen or twenty” foot high flood down Pine (Pinto) Creek, in advance of the rainstorm. The Allphin home was “swept away”. Only one of the young children could be rescued by their mother. The father and his sixteen year old son were not close enough to the house to help. A tragedy.

October 13, 1875 *Salt Lake Herald*

The surviving Allphin son, when he as 22 years old, seduced a daughter of the Burgess family (also from Pinto). Did he take her with him to the mining boom town of Pioche in eastern Nevada? In any case, when he was returning to Pinto, he was shot by the girl’s father, who was killed by the Allphin boy before he died. More tragedy.

The Pinto Canyon Shooting.
D’spatches from Pine Valley, Washington county, in regard to the Pinto cañon shooting affair of last Sunday, state that the cause of Burgess waylaying Allphin, was the seduction by the latter of Burgess’ daughter, two years ago. After the seduction Allphin went to Pioche, and was on his return when he was met and shot in the bowels by Burgess. The former returned the fire, killing Burgess. Allphin is not expected to live.



Pinto Church and School

The 5200' elevation of Pinto and its plentiful grazing lands encouraged its citizens to organize a successful cooperative dairy farming and cheese making operation. In 1874, the entire town adopted and followed United Order principles. Its population peaked about 1880.

Pinto boasts of a Co-operative Store, a Female Relief Society in good order, a day and Sunday school, and a juvenile choir which they esteem second to none in the Territory. On the 2nd inst. they were visited by President Snow, who held meeting and gave much good instruction; he then also joined the settlements at Little Pinto and Mountain Meadows to Pinto ward.

July 28, 1869 Deseret News

Pinto became quite a prosperous village.

<https://wchsutah.org/towns/pinto.php>



Town Pinto in 1875



Old Ironton (Little Pinto)

Ironton saw its peak in 1871 when it grew to include a schoolhouse, post office, and boarding house and a population of 97. After the *Panic of 1873*, the construction of the Utah Southern Railroad diminished greatly, and with it the demand for iron. By 1876, the iron works were abandoned. The site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/72001123>

October 23, 1881 Salt Lake Herald

At the time of the 1880 census, the Southern Indian Mission Outpost of Pinto had a population of 155. Santa Clara wasn't much bigger with a population of only 194.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.	
Gunlock precinct, including the town of Gunlock	156
Gunlock town	72
Hebron precinct, including the town of Hebron.....	110
Hebron town.....	75
Leeds precinct, including the town of Harrisburg	334
Harrisburg town	103
Pine Valley precinct.....	234
Pinto precinct.....	155
Price City precinct and Price City (co-extensive).....	85
Saint George precinct, including the following places	1384
Middletown town.....	82
Saint George city	1332
Santa Clara precinct	194
Silver Reef precinct and Silver Reef city (co-extensive).....	1046
Washington precinct, including the town of Washington	537
Washington town.....	483



***Pages Ranch, Pond and Treehouse
(Little Pinto)***

Born in 1806, Robert Richie was the oldest Indian missionary assigned to Pinto. He had a mind of his own. When he was released from his mission in 1858, he chose to live with his two wives about six miles east of Pinto, on their own, and at first, in just their wagon box. There, they began running cattle, raising crops and built a log home. Their attendance record at Pinto ward meetings suffered due the often difficult travel conditions. In 1863, Robert married his third wife, who was young enough to be his grandchild. In the November 1869 conference of the Southern Mission held in St. George, on a motion of Pinto's Bishop, Richard Robinson, "*Robert Richey, of Little Pinto, be cut off the church for unbelief.*"

The present house was built by Robert Richey's grandson Daniel Richey Page 1898. It served as the ranch house and an informal hotel. "*Notice: We Keep Travellers*"

In 1985, it was placed on the national register.
<https://wchsutah.org/geography/little-pinto8.pdf>



<https://wchsutah.org/geography/little-pinto.php>

In 2017, Lisa Michele Church published *Sunlight and Shadow: The Page Ranch Story*
<https://wchsutah.org/documents/church-page-ranch-book3.pdf>



1863 Map of Route to St. George

When Pinto was founded it was on a well traveled remnant of the Old Spanish Trail. Wagon train era travelers depended upon the mountain streams, the grass meadows, and the timber for their journey. Over time the settlement itself consumed those resources in with their cooperative dairy and cheese making business. Little Pinto's Page Ranch accommodation of travelers survived until the 1930s when improvements to other roads were made.

Today's map shows the new road network that made Pinto a backwater. You also see the Newcastle (1910) and its reservoir. Many Pinto farmers joined in reclamation projects of Newcastle and Enterprise. Also grazing on public land began to be restricted by the after creation of the Dixie Forest Reserve in 1905. Also notice the position of the County line.

