



Horses had to rest at the top of the hill on the way to Hurricane.



The Washington Cotton Factory - Circa 1870

**Panorama of Washington - circa 1918**



The Warm Springs or "Boilers"  
-- favorite swimming hole



CCC Camp on the Cotton Factory grounds.



In 1857, L.D.S. President Brigham Young sent a group of pioneers to settle the area known today as Washington City to establish the Cotton Mission and to raise cotton so that the people could become self-sufficient. These pioneers were mostly from the Southern states, and were familiar with the growing and production of cotton. But they found this new land to be a complete opposite to their former fertile and productive lands where water was plentiful and crops bounteous and easy to grow. Here they had to fight drought, dig ditches and canals, and build dams so that their crops could be watered.



Life was difficult in this harsh environment - food was scarce and sickness rampant. Many died and many left. Those who stayed continued to endure the hardships and to also fight the discouragements of flash floods which washed out their dams and destroyed their homes and crops. Many times they wanted to leave - *but they stayed* - *and they rebuilt*. They even constructed a factory to process their cotton. They chose to call their new home - DIXIE!

From those first days in 1857 to the present year of 2007, Washington City has continued to grow and progress - from a population of about 100 in 1857 to over 18,000 in 2007. There have been good times and bad times, but we have all worked together to successfully create our beloved home.

This collector booklet has been prepared in recognition of the past 150 years. It contains pictures and written script to help explain our history. Please enjoy and appreciate - WASHINGTON CITY - "Where Dixie Began."

Mayor Terrill Clove

*Terrill Clove*



Carla Mitchell, Jean Beal, Mr. Asay, Audrey Sherratt and Mayor Frank Staheli

The City Hall was often in a residence. At one point, city business was conducted from a home formerly owned by Mina Sandberg (photo left - now the Artists Gallery). Business was later conducted in the old school and in a trailer.



In 1982 a new City Hall was built.

Additional growth necessitated the construction of this beautiful new City Hall which was finished in 1997.







On the 24th of July, circa 1900, some of the oldest people from the early settlers included: Martha Alexander, John Zera Alger, Maggie Averett, Elijah Averett, Bertha Sandberg, Martha Averett, Baldeny Tanner, Mrs. Hafner and Stein Sandberg. Some are unknown.



### Oldest Citizens

L.D.S. President Brigham Young called people to settle in Southern Utah with the hope of raising cotton. The first group called to Washington and the Cotton Mission consisted of 10 families led by Samuel Adair, arriving April 15, 1857. The Robert D. Covington group arrived May 5, 1857. The other towns in Washington County at that time were Pine Valley, Harmony, Santa Clara and Toquerville.



Some of the first settlers lived in dugouts in a hillside, or in their wagon boxes. It was nearly a year until they had time to construct a dwelling

The old-timers of the city born before 1900 at the Homecoming Celebration in 1983 were (Bk left to rt): Amanda Milne, Frank Larsen, Vernal Neilson, Lester Iverson, Victor Iverson, Ervin Hall, John Turner, Dell Turner, Della Mickelson, Mary Allen, Melvin Weaver. (Front row): Othel Milne, Irene Jolley, Joseph Hannig, Sophia Hannig, Frank Prince, Suzanne Prisbrey, Zina Prisbrey, Lena Miller, Annie Iverson, Lydia Stephens, Misha Bigler, Pearl Turner and Mina Sandberg.



Most of the earlier homes were constructed of adobe since lumber was not easily obtained.



This beautiful home in the Heritage Subdivision shows quite a transition in 150 years.



## Cotton Factory



Washington was the center of cotton production in Southern Utah. The first story of the Cotton Factory was begun in 1865 and completed in 1866. The other two floors were finished by 1870.

The Cotton Factory closed its doors in 1898 and through the years the building began to deteriorate.

Norma Canizzaro (above) purchased and restored the building in 1986.



In recent years, Star Nursery purchased the Cotton Factory for their expanding business.

Joseph Crawford was the postmaster from 1909-1913 with the office in his home.



## Washington Post Offices

Lydia Stephens



Harrison Pearce  
First Postmaster  
in 1859



The back of Nisson's Merc was, at one time, the post office.

The first post office in Washington was established in 1859 with Harrison Pearce as postmaster. William Crawford became the next postmaster with the office in his home. Other early postmasters were Robert Parker, Melvin Harmon, Levi Harmon, Emmaline Stewart, and Amasa Ruby. Other postmasters included Calvin Hall and Lydia Stephens.



Calvin Hall was postmaster when the post office was in the Co-op Store. (In the Relief Society Building)



The spacious new post office.



# Washington Spillway

Water for irrigation was a critical factor in the settlement of Southern Utah. Diversion dams (more than 30) were constructed on the Virgin River, only to be washed out by floods. Finally, a dam constructed of log piles driven into the river bed was begun in 1885 and finished in 1888. The dam was considered to be the one that would tame the Virgin; however, on December 7, 1889, one of the largest floods in memory damaged the pile dam beyond repair. The settlers were discouraged and ready to give up and leave. But, once again, they decided to construct yet another dam. This time the river was diverted over a rock outcropping which created a lasting spillway. At last, they believed the Virgin was tamed and dependable life giving irrigation water was available to the pioneers.

However, they would not have been surprised at the recent floods in 1989 and 2005 which again destroyed crops and homes.

Remains of the Pile Dam



Spillway under construction - completed in 1891



A 5 mile long canal was constructed before the water could reach the fields. It was completed by 1893.



The Virgin River at flood -- flowing over the Spillway



Pouring cement for the Concrete ditch.



## Concrete Ditch & Pipe



Malin Iverson stands by one of the pipes.



The irrigation canal was put into a pipe in the fall of 2006.



## L.D.S. Church & School

School & L.D.S. Church built in 1877.  
Photo below - circa 1915.



After a few small additions, the building was remodeled with an expanded chapel and classrooms in 1941.



The first school house was built of adobe in 1861. A larger one was built in 1863. In 1877 a two story church and school house was built of Chinle Sandstone. (photo above) Both school and church were held in the same building. Most community gatherings were also held in the building.

A larger chapel and classroom was added in 1961. Later, the original building was replaced with another addition.



Students attending school in the church/school building in 1897-98 with teachers Lewis Bastain, Annie Sprout, and Addie Duffin. The original photo has names of all the students.

Washington Elementary



The rock school house, on the corner of Telegraph and Main, was completed in 1909.



Elementary students - 1975