

Cedar City Chapter of Sons of the Utah Pioneers



SUP Monument Prwn -9 Parowan Gap

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Longitude: -112.985; Latitude: 37.909444; Elevation 5570'; 11 miles west of Parowan: 2.5miles east of Utah Hwy 130 (the Minersville Highway), the turnoff is between mile marker 19 and 20. Parowan, Utah.



Parowan Gap Petroglyphs

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This archeological site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969. The Petroglyphs displayed here represent the work of prehistoric Fremont and Southern Paiute cultures. The figures and drawings are likely the work of many different individuals over a long period of time. While the meaning of the figures may never be known, they probably portray such tribal pursuits as religion, hunting and gathering trips, family history, sources of water and travel routes.

Marker: Volunteer Project, Alva Matheson, Parowan Eagle Scouts and Bureau of Land Management, Cedar City District.



Petroglyphs

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The prehistoric design on the rocks in this area are called petroglyphs. They were made approximately 1000 years ago either by ancestors of the present-day Southern Paiute or by people of the Sevier Fremont culture. The designs do not signify exact words of any language, and thus, are not Hieroglyphs. Although several theories have been expressed the exact meaning of the designs is still unknown.



Southern Utah Expedition of 1849/" Gods own House" - Parowan Gap

Realizing the limited resources for pioneer settlement in the Salt Lake valley and surrounding settlements in 1849, and the potential of many more immigrants arriving in the few years, Brigham Young began to search out possible new settlements. Based on reports of Jefferson Hun, who had traveled through Southern Utah in 1847 and 1848, one of the regions which seemed promising was the valley along the Spanish Trail in Southern Utah territory. The November legislature authorized the establishment of the Southern Expedition to investigate such possibilities. The exploring party, which eventually consisted of fifty-five men, was led by Moron Apostle Parley P. Pratt. This expedition and its subsequent reports helped influence the creation of dozens of new communities in Southern Utah. Among the first were the settlements of Parowan and Cedar City in 1851, in what would become Iron County. This is one of four monuments which tell the story of this historic expedition. They are located at Iron Springs, Parowan Gap, Parowan and Fremont Canyon.

One of the most interesting discoveries of the Southern Utah Expedition was the petroglyphs in the Parowan Gap. On Christmas Day in 1849, the Pratt party divided into two groups. Pratt led



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an exploring party south over the Black Ridge and the rim of the Great Basin towards present-day St. George. His group returned to Parowan by the way of the Spanish Trail through Mountain Meadows and Iron Springs on January 8 and January 9, 1850. While Pratt was gone, the second group, under the leadership of David Fullmer camped at Parowan and explored the canyons surrounding the Valley of The Little Salt Lake, which is just east of Parowan Gap.

The Parowan Gap petroglyphs were discovered by the Fullmer group. Robert Campbell, clerk and historian of the expedition, copied some of the petroglyphs onto the last two pages of his journal. The members of the Southern Utah Expedition were first to report on their existence, but others had probably seen them before. The expedition had difficult journey home due to freezing January snowstorms. Pratt arrived in Provo ahead of the main company and sent help to his weary and cold companions. He arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on January 31, 1850. The rest of his party did not get there until mid-February. Pratt told Brigham Young and the territorial legislature in his expedition report that Chief Walker, a Ute Indian, said Parowan was “God’s Own House”

Marker: cedar City, Utah West Stake Young Men and Women-1997, Utah Pioneer Sesquicentennial Celebration Monument.

Sponsor- Utah Pioneer Sesquicentennial Celebration Coordinating Council.



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