

# Phineas Wolcott Cook Locality Project

## Salt Lake City, 1848-1850

### Sites in Salt Lake City

#### 1848 – First Camping Spot

*“When we had got camped on the hill whare B. Youngs house now stands or near it...”*

Early settlers came into the valley from Emigration Canyon straight down to what is now Main Street where they turned north and came to Brigham Young’s land claim. Later his houses and the Tithing House would be built there, but there was space for wagons and campers while they found a permanent location at which to settle. This is now the area from State Street to Main Street, South Temple to some distance north of North Temple. Phineas said he camped on the hill so it was probably some distance north of the present house and Church Office Building.

#### 1848 - Salt Lake City Fort

*“I went strait to the fort and rented a house for my family... (from) C. M. Duel.”*

Marker only in Pioneer City Park, Salt Lake City, Utah.



Unsure about the Indians in Utah, in 1847 Mormon settlers built a log and adobe fort complex, located at Pioneer Park in SLC near present-day 300 West and 400 South. They built log cabins along the walls of the fort to make a little city. It was used for two years and later dismantled.

There is now a marker in Pioneer Park showing the location of the fort.

*The Old Fort: Historic Mormon Bastion: The Plymouth Rock of the West*, Compiled and published by Nicholas Groesbeck Morgan, Dr., SLC, UT: 1964, Family History Library book 979.2258 H2mn

“The Old Fort on Pioneer Square: The houses were (p. 20) all built as a part of the fort wall, with portholes for defense in case of an attack by Indians, and generally with a six-light window opening to the inside of the fort. The roofs consisted of poles of split logs laid close together and covered with cedar-bark that grew about the marches. Such was the general makeup of ‘the first schoolroom...’ with an immense quantity of dirt piles on the flat roof as a probable protection from the rain. For a floor we had a similar, but more solid material than that of the roof—hardened clay. The one window was just large enough for six panes of 8 x 10 glass; but we lacked the glass. It was not to be had for there was not a store in all this Territory.”

The author described stretching thin cotton cloth and oiling it, or rather greasing it and tacking it to the window frame. “our main dependence for light was on fair weather when we could have the door open.” Desks or writing tables were made of someone’s wagon box torn to pieces and laid on trestles. Benches made the same way. (p. 21) Had a few books, but mainly learned from the Book of Mormon, Bible, D&C, Voice of Warning, Towne’s Reader & Speller, Cobb’s speller & a few others. Oliver B. Huntington began as first teacher at the school in the old fort in Nov. 1848, closed Feb. 1849, and had 30-40 scholars.<sup>1</sup>

### **C.M. Deuel Cabin, Salt Lake Fort**

In 1848 Phineas W. Cook arrived in the valley and rented the Charles M. Deuel cabin in the fort. It was 10’x 20’, and served their needs well. When Deuel wanted the cabin back, Phineas arranged to live in one of Brigham Young’s cabins in the fort.

The C.M. Deuel cabin was moved and sold, as were the other cabins in the fort. For the LDS Church Centennial it was discovered as the only remaining pioneer log cabin, and brought into Temple Square. For almost half a century it was located near the present north entrance of the South Visitor’s Center. In 1986 it was restored and moved across the street to 45 West



**The C.M. Deuel Cabin in which the Cooks lived in 1848. It was located inside the Salt Lake Fort but is now on West Temple Street.**

<sup>1</sup> This article written by Oliver B. Huntington and reprinted in *The Old Fort: Historic Mormon Bastion: The Plymouth Rock of the West*, Compiled and published by Dr. Nicholas Groesbeck Morgan, SLC, UT: 1964, Family History Library book 979.2258 H2mn.

Temple where it can be visited today.<sup>2</sup>

### **Brigham Young's Cabin, Salt Lake Fort<sup>3</sup>**

*"I was called upon by the owner of the house that I lived in that I must get out for he wanted the house his name was C. M. Duell I tried in vain to get one, at length through the influence of sister Cobb Brigham let me have one of his houses in the fort he found stove and I found firewood for the rent and sister Twiss lived with us through the winter."*

Phineas and his family and Sister Twiss lived through the winter in Brigham Young's cabin. Part of the rent was paid when Phineas collected firewood for Brigham. In early spring the Cooks moved to what is now Liberty Park where he had been asked to help construct a mill with Isaac Chase.

### **1849 Chase Mill at Liberty Park**

*"I got through the winter tolerable well, in the spring I had an offer from Isaac Chase for a job on his sawmill and I moved there and lived in a little board cabin 8 by 12 feet, this took place about the 4th of March 1849..."*



"Sunday October 24, 1847 (p. 77-78): Isaac Chase asked to build a sawmill on a spring running near Little Canyon Creek, and to make a pond if needed. Request granted." It was one of the first mills built in Utah.<sup>4</sup>

**Isaac Chase Mill after 1968 restoration**

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<sup>2</sup> "Pioneer Life Revisited: the 1847 Duell Cabin has been restored," *Ensign*, July, 1986, pp. 39-43. Pictures of the cabin and a history of its discovery and restoration are featured. A video of the cabin can be found at <https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2011-12-07-deuel-cabin?lang=eng>

<sup>3</sup> *The Old Fort: Historic Mormon Bastion: The Plymouth Rock of the West*, Compiled and published by Nicholas Groesbeck Morgan, Dr., SLC, UT: 1964, Family History Library book 979.2258 H2mn

<sup>4</sup> Carter, Catherine Vigdus Bearson. *The Chase Mill, 1852, Liberty Park*. Salt Lake City: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1857.



**Location of Isaac Chase's mill at 700 East 1300 South in Salt Lake City**

Isaac Chase Mill, Brigham Young's Lower Mill is located at Liberty Park in Salt Lake City between 500 East and 700 East, and 900 South and 1300 South on an 80 acre plot. The Cooks lived there through the spring months, enduring considerable hunger. Had it not been for Isaac Chase's garden and the half-acre of peas Seth Taft shared with them, it could have been worse. The lake at Liberty Park is the original mill pond for the Chase Mill.

### **Summer of 1849 – 5-acre Lots**

*“Brother Brigham wanted me to build him a mill in the 5 acre lots...He went with me and told me where to set my house so as to be handy to the mill... I had built my house and had got to living in it. .. The man that owned the lot that I had built my house on wanted me to move it off for it was not by his consent that it had been put there I told him how I came to build there and thought the lot belonged to Brother Brigham he said that he had supposed that he should have to sell it to him but he had concluded to build it in some other place and I must take my house away.”*

In 1848-49 the city south of 9<sup>th</sup> South was divided into 5-acre plots for incoming pioneers: the area between 9<sup>th</sup> South and 21<sup>st</sup> South and from 2600 East (approximately Foothill Drive) to 1000 West. There are two deep gullies, originally in the five-acre lots.

### Red Butte Creek (Kanyon Creek)

The Isaac Chase Mill was built using the water of what they then called Kanyon Creek, now known as Red Butte Creek. It runs from Red Butte Canyon, through Red Butte Garden between Wakara Way on the South and Medical Drive near the University of Utah Campus on the north. It continues just north of Wakara Way, under Foothill Blvd, past the VA Hospital, and through University Village and the Sunnyside Park on 800 South. Continuing south and west, it crosses Sunnyside Avenue just west of the LDS Church and pavilion, about 1800 East.

At 900 South a bird sanctuary and walking path have been designated as the Creek cuts a glen through the neighborhoods. There is an LDS Church on 1550 East at Bonneview Drive. The glen has been fitted with benches for events just across the street, known as Bonneville Glen. The creek continues almost due west where it crosses 700 East at approximately 1100 South, between Yale and Princeton Avenues, and continues into Liberty Park where Isaac Chase created a mill race and mill pond from the water. That is the approximate location of his mill, at one time known as the Lower Mill.

### Upper Kanyon Creek Mill

*“...when I was sent to SanPete I left it (the saw he had brought from Winter Quarters which was claimed in Salt Lake City by Heber C. Kimball) in care of Brother Brigham at the house near his Uper Mill on big Kenyon creek whare I lived telling him whare it was and how I came by it.”*

Brigham Young later had a second mill built on this creek (Red Butte Creek), which was then known as the Upper Kanyon Creek Mill. Because Phineas W. Cook was asked to work on this mill for Brigham Young in the Five-Acre Lots, it is likely he is the one who started the project for the Upper Kanyon Creek Mill.

### Emigration Creek

Another creek runs from Emigration Canyon, and was known as Emigration Creek. It runs through the present Hogle Zoo area, running west and south until it crosses Foothill Blvd at Laird Ave, approximately 1100 South. It runs south and west until it crosses 1700 South about 1650 East, crossing 1500 East at Blaine Avenue, about 1600 South. It runs almost due west, originally to the Jordan River, but currently dissipates after running past Westminster College.



**In 1848-49 the city south of 9th South was divided into 5-acre lots: the area between 9th South and 21st South and from 2600 East (approximately Foothill Drive) to 1000 West.**

## **Fall of 1849 to Summer of 1850 –**

### **Brigham Young’s Mill**

Brigham Young had the pioneers building mills almost immediately upon coming into the valley. Within two years there were several mills running. As early as October 1847, Brigham requested a grist mill on City Creek downtown for his own use. At that same meeting Alanson Eldredge said the Mill Company wished to build on Mill Creek (3900 South).<sup>5</sup> Gardner in Mill Creek Canyon and Chase at Liberty Park also had mills in various stages of completion. Soon mills were being planned in Big Cottonwood Canyon, approximately 7200 South.

On either Emigration Creek or Canyon Creek (Red Butte) Brigham Young asked Phineas to superintend a mill in the five-acre lots, plots given to the early settlers of Salt Lake City. Phineas built a house there, but Brigham changed his mind, and asked another man to take over. Phineas had to sell the house so he could move to another location where a mill was being built.

<sup>5</sup> Proceedings of Stake presidency and High Council in Executive, Legislative and Judicial Capacity, Great SLC Stake, 1847-48 , Monday Oct 4, 1847. The Old Fort: Historic Mormon Bastion: The Plymouth Rock of the West, Compiled and published by Nicholas Groesbeck Morgan, Dr., SLC, UT: 1964, (Family History Library book 979.2258 H2mn)

