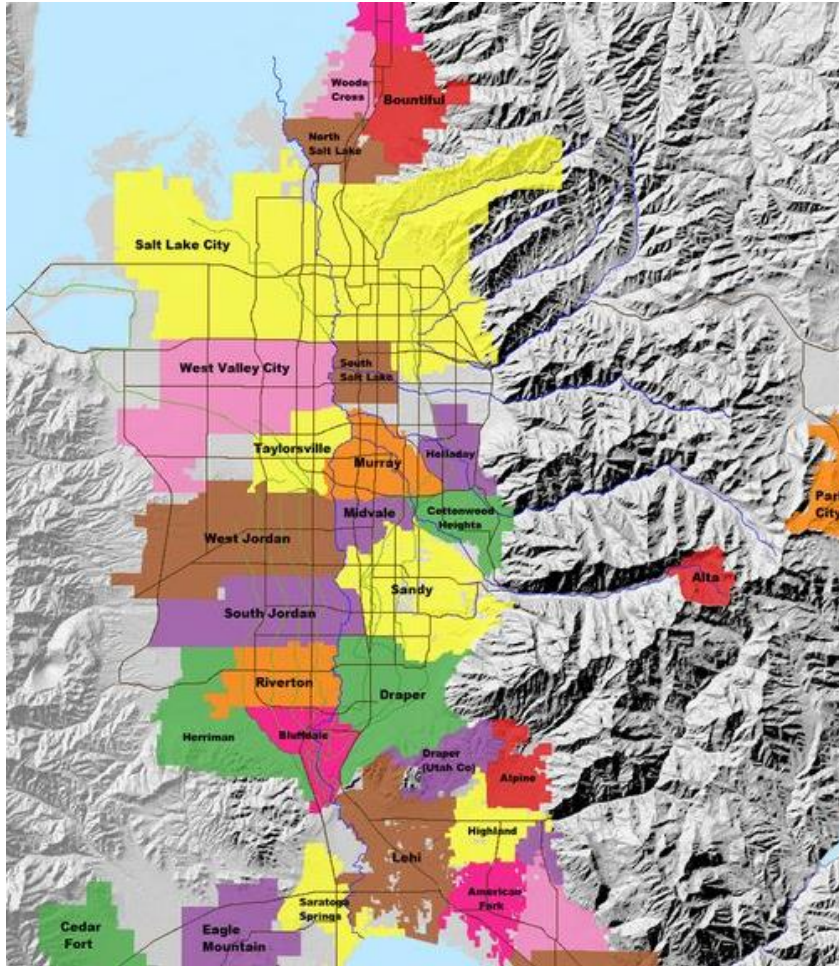


Cedar Valley, 1862-1863

Camp Floyd at Cedar Valley



Camp Floyd is at the bottom left corner of the map

Camp Floyd a boon to Goshen

“At Camp Floyd, where the army had been stationed, the people were able to buy groceries, clothing and other necessities if they chose. Since the only industries at Fort Sodom were agriculture and stock raising, this new cash market proved a boon to the residents.

“Camp Floyd had a population second in size only to Salt Lake City. They paid for whatever they bought from the Goshenites in gold coins in denomination of \$2.50, \$5.00, \$10.00, \$20.00 and \$40.00. When they came into the valley, they brought with them lots of mules, harnesses, wagons, guns and most all kinds of merchandise. It was from the Army commissary at Camp Floyd that some of the Goshen boys purchased their first leather shoes and factory made clothing.

Located near Lehi and the present city of Eagle Mountain, Camp Floyd was the location of the encampment of Johnston’s Army until the Civil War took the soldiers back to the states. Because it was near Goshen, the army did business with local people, and finally sold out to them.

Phineas could have been called by Brigham Young to help in a salvage effort as the army dismantled or sold buildings and materials. The Commissary Building was sold at auction, and there were probably other buildings or materials sold. It would have been a good reason for Brigham Young to call him to be there at that time.

“In the year 1860 the soldiers had orders to sell out and leave Camp Floyd as the Civil War was about to break out. They condemned their horses, wagons, mules, guns and swords. A good many of their animals, branded with a large "C" were sold at public auction. Horses and mules went by the span from \$5.00 to \$100.00. One large wagon with three sets of harnesses brought \$30.00. In 1861 they left and went south.”¹

(1862-63) Cedar Fort/Camp Floyd



Cedar Valley at the north end of Utah Lake is isolated from the population centers of the Wasatch Front. There could have been only one reason for Phineas to be called there: the sale of US property by Johnston's Army.

Carl Cook recorded his father went to Camp Floyd, probably about the time the soldiers were leaving. Although we have no information about why Phineas was called to go to Camp Floyd, we can assume Brigham Young needed someone there to either purchase items being sold by the army or negotiate with them:

Carl Cook: *“Later (we know it was after 1860), in answer to a call from President Young, he went to Camp Floyd for a year.”*²

“In 1858 news of the coming invasion of Johnston’s Army to put down an imaginary rebellion among the Mormons against the Federal govt. reached Goshen. Men were mustered into the militia to defend mountain passes and raid govt. supply trains. Others called to evacuate families from SLC to Goshen. Some of the families stayed in Goshen strengthening the colony and bringing a new spirit of courage and enterprise.”

“The camp gave the people of Goshen their first ready cash as well as a steady market. Prosperity derived from the commerce between the Army and the settlers saved the colony from

¹ Raymond Duane Steele, *Goshen Valley History*, BYU Anthropology Museum F834.G68 S74x 1960b, p. 10.

² Carl Cook, “The Goshen Valley Period,” *The Life and History of Phineas Wolcott Cook*, published by the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization, http://www.cookfamily.org/journal/pwcappendage_1.htm

much suffering and perhaps from actual disintegration, as the inhabitants before the formation of the post were leaving at the rate of a few families each year.”³

“Johnston’s army established a permanent camp in Cedar Valley, 25 miles from Goshen. At first hostility and fear were felt toward the soldiers, but the high prices paid by the army for good, forage and timber and high wages for workers attracted the villagers. Grain and potatoes sold at \$12 a bushel, hay and straw at \$25-30 a ton and workers were paid in horses, mules, wagons, cloth, and other needed items. The whole population in time became dependent upon the camp. However, the influence was not altogether to the good, as the habits of the soldiers found ready imitation among the younger people.”⁴

What the Cooks may have seen at Camp Floyd in 1862:⁵

“Believing Mormons were rebelling against the laws of the United States, President James Buchanan dispatched 3,500 troops, nearly one-third of the entire U.S. Army, to suppress the rumored rebellion in the Utah Territory. No rebellion or war ever took place in Utah. The army stayed to monitor the Mormons, explore the western frontier, and provide safety for immigrants moving west to California, Oregon, and Washington.

“Camp Floyd, named in honor of Secretary of War John Floyd, was built by the army with the help of local citizens. The Army pumped nearly \$200,000 into the local economy to build Camp Floyd. Camp followers soon increased the population of Camp Floyd and Fairfield to 7,000, making it the third largest city in the Utah territory. At their height, Camp Floyd was the largest military installation in the United States.

“Used as a strategy by both the Northern and Southern States, Camp Floyd and the Utah War were an attempt to divert the nation’s attention from the issue of states rights and slavery, to the Mormon problem and



The Last remaining army building at Camp Floyd: the Commissary

³ Emma Huff, *Memories that Live*, Springville: Art Publishing Company, 1947, pp. 484-485.

⁴ Andrew L. Neff, *History of Utah*, (SL C: The Deseret News Press, 1940), p. 515. See also Hamilton Gardner, *History of Lehi*, SLC: Des. New Press, 1913, pp. 316-317.

⁵ <https://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/camp-floyd/discover/>

polygamy. Buchanan believed that Democrats and Republicans, northerners and southerners, could unite in an attempt to restore order to Utah, and he could thus divert attention from the crisis over slavery and tensions between the north and south. John Floyd, Secretary of War, also encouraged him, along with other southern Democrats. They also saw the potential to deplete the U.S. Treasury of millions of dollars by giving government contracts for the move, to southern businessmen and to turn the west from northern sympathies, by creating support for southern state's rights.

“In 1861, the army left for the Civil War. Some \$4,000,000 of Army surplus were sold for a few cents on the dollar. Nearly all the buildings erected by the army were dismantled or demolished before their departure. Today, all that remains is the Commissary Building, which serves as a Camp Floyd museum, and the cemetery.

Camp Floyd Commissary and Museum

“Constructed in 1858 by the soldiers of Johnston’s Army, the Commissary Building served as a store of military equipment and provisions. It was sold to the Beardshall Family at auction in 1861, when the army was recalled for the Civil War. The building was relocated to its current site where it was used as the family’s home in Fairfield. All other camp buildings were either sold, dismantled or destroyed. Today, the Commissary Building serves as the Camp Floyd museum.



The Stagecoach Inn served customers until 1949

Stagecoach Inn

“Across the street from the Camp Floyd Commissary is the Stagecoach Inn, a two-story adobe and frame hotel built by John Carson in 1858. The Stagecoach Inn was the first stop south of Salt Lake City on the Overland Stage Route and also a stop on the Pony Express Route. Because of its proximity to old Camp Floyd, the clientele naturally included large numbers of

armed personnel. It was one of the few respectable establishments in this frontier town. Seventeen saloons and other entertainment locations catered to the needs of a military population. The inn was restored from shambles in June 1959. It contains furnishings of the period, indicating the hospitality of the inn – not elegant, but comfortable.

Fairfield District Schoolhouse

“The Fairfield District School was constructed in 1898 with federal funds received when Utah became a state in 1896. Designed by architect Richard Watkins, who also designed Peteetneet Elementary School in Payson and Maeser Elementary in Provo; the school is notable for the two-color brick masonry. The building closed in 1937, when students were bused to Lehi. The Fairfield District Schoolhouse is fully restored and available for school groups to enjoy an authentic one-room schoolhouse experience. Today, the Fairfield Schoolhouse is used for programs at Camp Floyd and open for viewing at special events.

