

Sulphur Springs History

Sulphur Springs was explored by the Canute Peterson party who came to Lehi. The party was sent by Brigham Young to explore the north end of Utah County. The party included Canute Peterson, David Savage, Charles Hopkins, Henry Royle, William S. Empey, William Wadsworth and Surveyor Lemmon set out on an exploring expedition to Utah Valley in July 1950.

They initially went to the American Fork area, but became involved into a dispute with the Washburn Chipman, Arza Adams, and others over land and water rights. They soon left the area.

Peterson and his followers immediately left and stopped at another stream about three miles west, which on account of the difficulty with which they found sufficient water for their horses. They named it Dry Creek. After camping approximately on the site of the present Wines Park, they spent the remainder of the day in exploring the surrounding country, going as far south as Utah Lake and as far west as the Jordan River.

A spring was also discovered about three-fourths of a mile north of the lake, and one mile east of the river, which

was christened Sulphur Spring on account of the peculiar taste of the water. This spring later became the center around which the first settler located.

The area later became known as Snow Springs but did not get this name until William Snow took possession of the land in 1853.

After their investigation of the country, the party being favorably impressed with the land and its possibilities, surveyed and located an extensive tract and determined to return and settle permanently. They returned to Salt Lake.

On the 5th of September, 1850, David Savage met a band of immigrants who had crossed the plains in Captain Aaron Johnson's company. Among them were Joel W. White, the brother-in-law of David Savage. He urged them to proceed to Sulphur Springs to make their home because it was the best place to obtain water for domestic use. He sent them on their way but promised he would follow the next day and overtake the party.

In the company were the families of Joel William White, John Griggs White, Claiborne Thomas and Elizabeth Moorehead. Ms. Moorehead was a sister to Claiborne Thomas. The next day David Savage and two hired men and

soon followed by Samuel D. White, brother of Joel W. White and son of John Griggs White.

About the same time as the other party, Daniel Cox also came In September and camped on Sulpur Springs. They were joined in November 1850 by Charles Hopkins and Israel Evans and families. William Fotheringham with his aged parents came next. They were followed by Thomas Karren and family. They had crossed over by Alpine over the mountains and proceeded to Sulphur Springs. Last of all was Jehial McConnell and that completed that first colony.

The first problems was to erect some kind of dwellings to protect them during the winter. Immediately they began falling native trees-the Cottonwood- which were found some miles up the creek. Until they could get dwellings, they used their wagon boxes and used as temporary dwellings.

The homes built were one to two rooms based on the size of their family. The walls of the homes were approximately seven feet tall. The roof was a leaky inadequate mixture of willows and dirt gabled at the end.

While the men were putting up the walls, the women and children “chunked” the walls with pieces of wood and daubed in mud. A sod fireplace in one corner of the room served the purposes of cooking.

“Fatory” was tacked over the window opening which served to let in the light and keeping out the cold. They styled furniture and items to allow the family to exist.

It was at Sulphur Springs that the first baby was born. The Cox cabin had just began to put up walls when a baby girl was born on November 5, 1850 to Daniel and Lucy Cox. The little girl was named Azubia Deseret Cox. She was born in a wagon box. She was a rugged healthy girl.

There were only fifteen cabins completed. The cabins faced south. The north fort wall protected them from the north winds. The Spring was in the center. The full extent of their plan was not completed because of the low numbers of settlers. There were eight cabins on the north and four on the east and three on the west.

They formed a group area to house the animals and a quantity of grass was cut for hay. The first group to arrive was able to put up the hay for the group. The first winter, while cold, was such that the stock could run at large until spring.

The first deaths in Lehi were at Sulphur Springs. In the month of February John Griggs White, passed away. David

Savage made a respectable coffin from a wagon box. They took his body and buried him at a nice spot north of the Dry Creek area. This was the beginning of the Pioneer cemetery above State Street.

Most of the people in the camp did not have shoes and their clothing was patched and mended. But most went through the winter in good health.

Religious services were performed regularly under the direction of David Savage and Charles Hopkins. In these services they expressed their gratitude to their God for helping them through these hard times of coming to Utah.

Most of the people traveled the next spring and summer and joined groups that came: Evansville under the direction of David Evans; Lotville led by widowed Mrs Permelia Lott; and the Dry Creek with Canute Peters.

Soon after the first ward was created- the Dry Creek Ward. David Evans was named bishop and David Savage and Charles Hopkins were named the counselors.