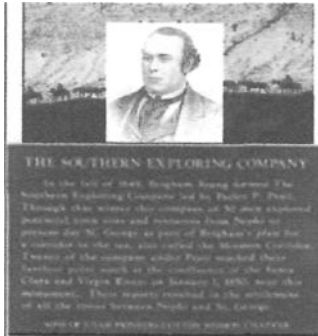


CONFLUENCE PARK MONUMENTS - 2011

During St. George's Sesquicentennial celebration in 2011 the Cotton Mission Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers will be placing monuments at the new Confluence Park commemorating the arrival of four different exploring groups at the mouth of the Virgin and Santa Clara Rivers south of St. George.

THE SOUTHERN EXPLORING COMPANY



In the fall of 1849, Brigham Young formed The Southern Exploring Company led by Parley P. Pratt. Through that winter this company of 50 men explored potential town sites and resources from Nephi to present day St. George as part of Brigham's plan for a corridor to the sea, also called the Mormon Corridor. Twenty of the company under Pratt reached their furthest point south at the confluence of the Santa Clara and Virgin Rivers on January 1, 1850, near this monument. Their reports resulted in the settlement of all the towns between Nephi and St. George.

SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS COTTON MISSION CHAPTER

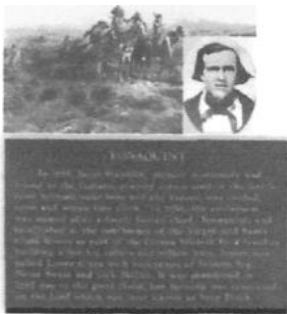
BRIGHAM YOUNG'S VISION



Brigham Young, statesman and prophet of God, silently gazed at Pine Mountain, then the valley and hills of black lava and vermillion before him, and saw in vision a thriving community. With a sweep of his arm he spoke: "There will yet be built between those volcanic ridges, a city with spires, towers, and steeples, with homes containing many inhabitants."

SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS COTTON MISSION CHAPTER

TONAQUINT



In 1855, Jacob Hamblin, pioneer missionary and friend to the Indians, planted cotton seed in the fertile river bottoms near here, and the harvest was carded, spun and woven into cloth. In 1856, the settlement was named after a local Indian chief, Tonaquint, and established at the confluence of the Virgin and Santa Clara Rivers as part of the Cotton Mission by 4 families building a few log cabins and willow huts. Sometimes called Lower Clara with nicknames of Seldom Sop, Never Sweat and Lick Skillet, it was abandoned in 1862 due to the series of floods, but farming was continued on the land which was later known as Seep Ditch

SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS COTTON MISSION CHAPTER

JEDEDIAH STRONG SMITH



In 1826 and 1827 trapper and frontiersman Jedediah Strong Smith worked his way through this area moving south where Highway 89 exists today and crossing over about Cove Fort. He eventually reached the mouth of the Virgin River. On his return he followed a trail to the west of the mountains following roughly where Highway 91 was built.

SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS COTTON MISSION CHAPTER