

**Tour Tip:** Tour #3 will enjoy a tour of this fort which looks much the same as in pioneer times

# Pipe Spring

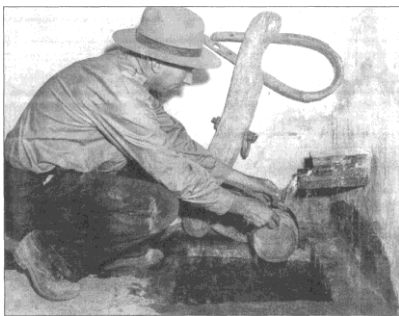
By Dixie Brunner

Now a National Monument, Pipe Spring offers today's visitors a glimpse into Pioneer and Southern Paiute Culture

In October 1858, a small band of Mormon missionaries headed by Jacob Hamblin crossed the Arizona Strip. Led by a Paiute guide, the group camped by a spring at the base of the vermilion cliffs. According to lore, Jacob's brother, William "Gunlock" Hamblin, was challenged to shoot the bowl out of a smoking pipe at fifty paces. As a result of the feat, Mu-tum-wa-va became known as Pipe Spring.

In 1863, former Texan Dr. James Whitmore brought a herd of approximately 500 Texas Longhorns to the area, in search of grazing land and water. Dr. Whitmore built a small dugout, planted gardens, orchards and grapevines, utilizing the spring water.

The Mormon Church purchased the 160 acres at Pipe Spring from Whitmore's widow in 1870. That fall, Brigham Young met with local leaders at Pipe Spring, including



*Former Pipe Spring Superintendent C. Leonard Heaton in the spring room at Winsor Castle. Heaton served from 1926-1963. Winsor Castle was actually built directly over the main spring. Over the years, water flowed through the spring room to cool butter and cheese.*



Jacob Hamblin and John D. Lee. Young stepped off floor plans for a fort to be built over one of the springs.

Mormon Church work missions began fort construction in December of 1870. Anson Perry Winsor was sent to oversee construction of the fort which would later bear his name, Winsor Castle.

Built out of Navajo sandstone extracted from the vermilion cliffs, the structure contained two rectangular, two-story houses connected by high walls with wooden gates forming a courtyard. Winsor Castle was completed in 1872 and, with a lack of area unrest, never housed troops, nor was there ever a need to defend the structure.

Several months prior to the structure's completion, Winsor Castle became the Arizona Territory's first telegraph station. Throughout the 1870s, famed Colorado River explorer Major John Wesley Powell utilized the Winsor Castle telegraph to maintain contact with Washington, D.C.

Powell based his survey party at times at Pipe Spring, gathering area geographic and topographic information. His party was in the area in 1872 and 1878 while determining boundaries between the territories of Utah and Arizona. Major Powell is credited with naming the Vermillion Cliffs and Mt. Trumbull.

The Winsor Castle telegraph was used until the late 1880s, when it was replaced by a toll phone.

In 1873, the Mormon Church's Pipe Spring operation became the Winsor Castle Stock Growing Company, also under the direction of Anson Perry Winsor, who left Pipe Spring in 1875. The Church utilized Winsor Castle as headquarters for their tithed cattle herd. As part of the tithing operation, 80 to 100 head of cattle were milked daily. The milk was taken into the spring room of Winsor Castle, where it was processed into cheese and butter. The products were taken to St. George for work mission distribution.

In the 1880s, the operations were placed under the management of Edwin D. Woolley, who with the help of his wife Flora, maintained Winsor Castle and the Church's cattle.

Congress soon passed laws forbidding the early Mormon Church doctrine of polygamy. Under the Woolley administration, Pipe Spring and Winsor Castle became a hideout for individuals escaping prosecution for plural marriage.

*Today, Park Rangers and volunteers, dressed in historic costume, provide tours and interpretive programs at Winsor Castle.*



The Mormon Church sold Winsor Castle in 1896 to David Bullock and Lehi Jones. Stephen T. Mather, the first National Park Service director, spent the night near Winsor Castle in August of 1922, after his car broke down on the road near Pipe Spring. Jonathan Heaton and son Charles Heaton, interested Mather in the site and its history.

On May 31, 1923, U.S. President Warren G. Harding proclaimed Pipe Spring a National Monument,



making Winsor Castle the first historic structure placed on the National Register of Historic Places under National Park Service administration. 🌟

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