

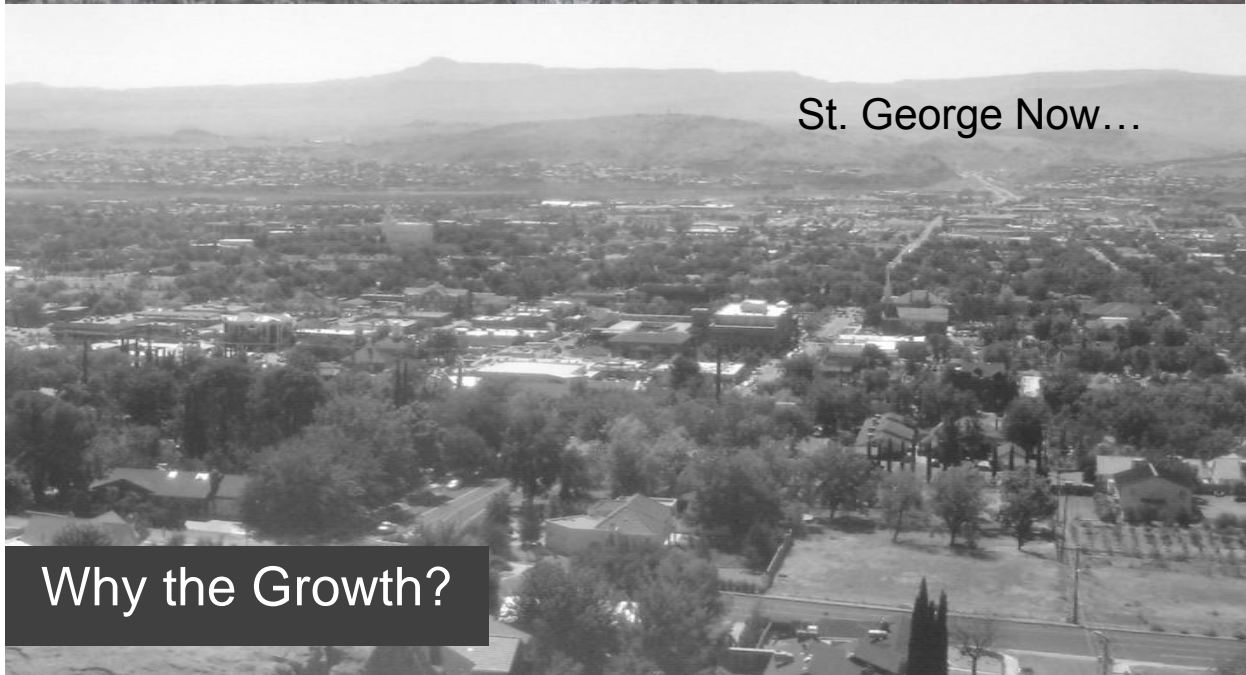
SOUTHERN UTAH TIMELINE

A brief look at the key events that shaped Southern Utah's history

Courtesy of St. George Magazine

- 1300** Anasazi depart the region, probably because of a 25-year drought.
- 1500s** Paiute tribes begin to settle in the area
- 1852-1877** Founding period of the LDS villages in Utah's Dixie — some 20 of them. Building of the St. George Tabernacle, St. George Temple, Cotton Factory, Courthouse, Opera House, Cottonwood Spring developed at Pine Valley Mountain.
- 1874-84** Mining in Silver Reef.
- 1888** Washington Fields Dam completed after 17 other attempts failed.
- 1901** Woodward School opened in St. George, providing a modern education facility.
- 1905** Hurricane Canal completed (LaVerkin canal preceded it).
- 1907** Mukuntuweap National Monument created.
- 1911** St. George Stake Academy opened, became Dixie College.
- 1911** Enterprise Reservoir completed.
- 1917** Zion National Park developed out of the monument.
- 1930** Highway 91 opened, first oiled road, connecting St. George to the nation.
- 1930** Completion of the Zion Park tunnel, enabling Union Pacific to bring buses.
- 1930-40** St. George airport developed, expanded in 1975.
- 1940s-50s** Advent of air conditioning.
- 1950s-60s** Movie making in Dixie — John Wayne and many stars make Dixie famous.
- 1961** First industrial park developed, near Middleton.
- 1963** New Dixie College campus opened.
- 1965** Dixie Red Hills Golf course opened, first of many golf courses.
- 1970** Gunlock Reservoir completed.
- 1972** Interstate 15 completed near St. George and through the Virgin River Gorge.
- 1972** SkyWest Airlines founded.
- 1980** Millcreek Industrial Park opened.
- 1983** Albertson's commercial center mall opened on Bluff Street.
- 1985** Quail Creek Reservoir completed, later Sand Hollow added (2003).
- 1986** Dixie Center opened at Dixie College, later moved to present location.
- 1990** Red Cliffs Mall opened on Red Cliffs Drive.
- 1990** Fiberoptic link reached St. George from Salt Lake City.
- 1992** Gateway Industrial Park opened, including Wal-Mart Distribution center.
- 1996** Factory Stores Mall opened, followed by Promenade at Red Cliffs across the street.
- 1996** Pioneer Center for the Arts built as celebration for the statehood centennial.
- 1999** Dixie College becomes Dixie State College of Utah with four-year programs.
- 2000** Fort Pierce Industrial Park opened.
- 2004** New Dixie Regional Medical Center campus opened on River Road.
- 2003-6** Box stores constructed along River Road and Red Cliffs Drive
- 2006-2011** New Airport, new off-ramps, growth continues in spite of recession

“There will yet be built between those volcanic ridges a city with spires, towers, steeples...and homes with many inhabitants.”
--Brigham Young, May 1861



The answer according to the St. George City website: “St. George, the county's largest city, lies along interstate 15 with a host of smaller communities that make up Utah's Dixie. The advantages of the county's position along one of the nation's key north-south routes between California and places such as Salt Lake City, Denver and Albuquerque is making Washington County one of the nation's fastest growing communities. The scenic area not only provides easy access to major markets of the western United States, it has become a destination point for countless people and businesses looking for a better way of life and more fruitful atmosphere for growth and prosperity. By the end of the decade, the St. George/Zion National Park areas of Washington County were rated among the best communities in the country to retire by Rand McNalley, Prentice Hall, Money and the American Association of Retired People.”