

HEBARD COLLECTION

(P779ex)

Utah Pioneer Trails and Landmarks Association

George Albert Smith, *President* John D. Giles, *Executive Secretary*

50 NORTH MAIN STREET
SALT LAKE CITY

May 22, 1934



AFFILIATED WITH
OREGON TRAIL
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION



COOPERATING IN MARKING
THE PONY EXPRESS TRAIL

Miss Grace Raymond Hebard,
318 South Tenth St.,
Laramie, Wyoming.

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Dear Miss Hebard:

We are glad to give you what information we can regarding the Pony Express station at Mountain Dell.

Mountain Dell received its name from the Mormon Pioneers who came that way in 1847. The Mountain Dell station is at the eastern base of a mountain called by the Pioneers Little Mountain, about ten miles East of Salt Lake City and was the first station on the eastern end of the route. It was established exclusively as a Pony Express station as the stage had other stations farther away from Salt Lake.

The original keeper was Ephraim Hanks. Many of his descendants now live in this community.

The site which has been chosen for the monument and the actual site of the old station and the barn are part of the George Washington Memorial Park of ten thousand acres which has been contributed by Salt Lake City for public purposes. It is part of the city watershed and is very carefully patrolled and is sponsored by the city as a means of further development and control.

The station was operated for the period of the Pony Express that is 1860-1861. Ephraim Hanks, the station keeper, however, lived there for a considerable period after, as the station was surrounded by very fine farming land. This land was later sold to other individuals and finally was purchased by Salt Lake City to protect its own watershed.

In 1862 the year after the Pony Express was discontinued the entire route was changed and the travel came down the Weber Canyon or rather south in Weber Canyon which is up-stream, to the town of Wanship and then to Silver Creek Canyon and Kimball's Ranch, through Parley's Park and Parley's Canyon into Salt Lake City. Parley's Canyon and Parley's park were named after Parley P. Pratt, one of the Mormon Pioneers who first opened the road in that section. Wm. H. Jackson, the pioneer photographer, with whom you are likely acquainted, is authority for the statement that as late as 1866 the Mountain Dell station was still being operated by Mr. Hanks and the old Mormon Pioneer trail was used by light outfits and for driving horses and cattle east. Mr. Jackson in 1867 or '68 tells of guiding one hundred head of horses east over the

PURPOSE

Honoring the pathfinders and the pioneer builders of our State, charting and marking the historic trails and "story spots," preserving our historical heritage and developing our historical resources; promotion of the teaching of the history of Utah in its all-American aspects and vital relations to the up-building of our west and our country.

"This is the Place"

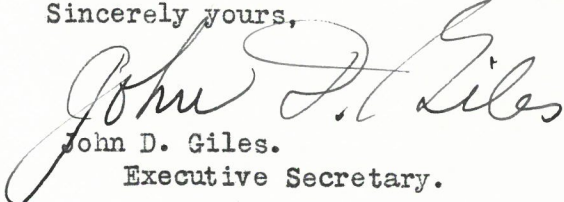
old route to Omaha where they were sold to the Union Pacific for grazing purposes on the new line, then being built to the West.

The site of the old station is clearly marked as is also the site of the barn. As far as we know however, there are no pictures now in existence of the station itself. It was likely not more important than other way stations but happens to be in a very popular location and its later history has added considerable interest to the site.

On June 2, the Vanguard of the Latter-day Saint Church, who are the older Boy Scouts, are erecting a rather pretentious monument marking this site. It will carry the official Pony Express plaque, which is furnished by George D. Pratt, of New York, for marking the entire length of the Pony Express Trail.

The station at Mountain Dell, answering your question, was built of cobble rock, gathered from the near vicinity.

Sincerely yours,



John D. Giles.
Executive Secretary.