

Battle Creek Monuments

Pleasant Grove, Utah

Battle Creek Monuments

There are two Battle Creek memorials documenting the first armed conflict between Native Americans and Utah Pioneers, March 5, 1849. One is placed at the mouth of Battle Creek Canyon and the second at the Pleasant Grove City Park.

Background

Around February 1849, Dimick B. Huntington spoke with Timpanogos Ute leader Little Chief about some of the settlers' missing cattle. Little Chief said that Roman Nose and Blue Shirt were great thieves who had decided to live off of the settlers' cattle all winter. Little Chief said that the Mormons should kill these renegades, perhaps out of fear that his tribe would be blamed and killed for the missing cattle.

On March 1, 1849, Captain John Scott took fifty militiamen into Utah Valley to investigate the theft of horses from Brigham Young's herd. They were under orders "to take such measures as would put a final end to their [Indian] depredations in future." They camped in the snow the first night, near Little Cottonwood Canyon, where a rider brought word that the horses had not actually been stolen. Before morning they received orders from Salt Lake City stating that "as the horses were not stolen ... we need not spend any more time in search of them but to proceed with the Indians for killing cattle as had been directed, so that the nature of our expedition was not in the least changed."

The following day the men continued southward to Willow Creek (now Draper, Utah). The company then continued on to the Jordan River (near the border of present Salt Lake and Utah counties) where they again camped.

On March 3rd, Scott's men made their way down the Provo River and asked Little Chief and his camp where the renegades were. Little Chief's tribe was understandably worried about the fifty armed men, and Little Chief agreed to show Scott where the renegades were. Little Chief's two sons guided Scott's men to the renegade's camp, a place the Indians called Mepah or Little Waters.

Confrontation

On March 5, 1849, the company divided into four parties, surrounding the encampment. Scott offered



"This monument is in memory of the first armed engagement between the Mormon pioneers and the Native Americans that inhabited Utah Valley, and serves as a reminder of the extreme sacrifice given by both people. This skirmish at the mouth of Battle Creek Canyon gave it its name."

**Battle Creek Monument
Eagle Project by Jared Warburton**

1997

**GPS COORDINATES
40°21'48" N 111°42'2" W
Elevation 5260**



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Roman Nose the opportunity to surrender his band. Roman Nose and his men answered with flying arrows and a volley from the one gun they had.

Roman Nose fell mortally wounded when the militia returned fire. The women and children fled to a brush covered stream, where they remained in the cold water during the fighting. The skirmish went on for two hours before the Indians' arrows were exhausted. During that time, the other Indian men, including Blue Shirt, were killed when each attempted to escape.

Upon their surrender, the militiamen started a fire to warm the women, children and one teenage boy. Fifteen cow hides were found in the renegade's camp, evidence of the Indians' guilt.

Hearing the reports of gunfire, Little Chief and his men rode to investigate. Upon reaching the scene, he cursed the militiamen for killing all the men.

Aftermath

Most accounts say four Indian men were killed, but Oliver B. Huntington stated there were at least seven killed. The surviving women and children accompanied the militia in their journey back to Salk Lake City. Several settled in the area, but many eventually returned back to their people.

Battle Creek - Pleasant Grove

On March 10, 1849, Brigham Young called for 30 families to leave for the Utah Valley and settle the area now known as Provo, after the mountain man Etienne Provost. On September 13, 1850, a few families settled near the site of the March 1849 attack. This settlement was called Battle Creek. Bishop Clark, not wanting his settlement to be noted for the tragic occurrence, chose a more pleasing name for the settlement - Pleasant Grove.

Black Hawk

Years later, a mountain man named Joshua Terry, who had married an Indian woman, told writer and Pleasant Grove native Howard R. Driggs that the Ute teenage boy that was captured grew up to become Timpanogos War Chief Antonga Black Hawk. Black Hawk was one of the most iconic and controversial figures in early territorial Utah history. He led the 1865-1867 Black Hawk War. Black Hawk confided in Terry that he could never

understand why the white men had shot down his people. It put bitterness in his heart; and though he lived for some time with the white people, his mind had been set on avenging their deaths.

References

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Battle Creek Monuments Pleasant Grove, Utah



A Battle Creek monument is placed at the mouth of Battle Creek Canyon. This memorial is located at the East end of 200 South, Pleasant Grove, Utah next to the Kiwanis Park pavilion.



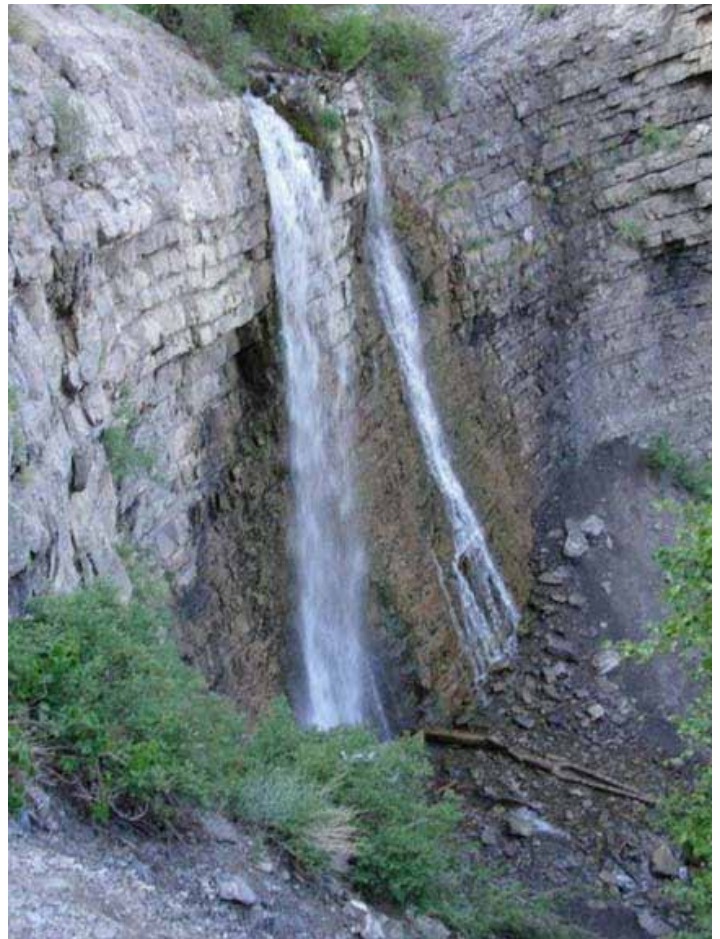
In Commemoration of Utah's First Indian Battle.

The first battle between Indians and the Utah Pioneers occurred in February 1849, two miles east of this monument, near the mouth of the canyon, between the Deseret Militia and the Indians. The stream and canyon were named "Battle Creek" from that encounter.

Utah Pioneers Trails and Landmark Association (Marker 56) Location: Pleasant Grove City Park, corner of Main Street and 200 South.



Battle Creek Canyon



A half mile up the canyon are the Battle Creek Falls.