Over The Rim
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Little Salt Lake & Cedar Valleys & Beyond

During the arduous two-week exploration of the Virgin River basin by Parley’s mounted party, the men left behind with the wagons were not idle. They explored Little Salt Lake and Cedar Valleys, the mountains to the east and west, and part of the Escalante Desert. Because of their discoveries of the iron ore and other resources in the region, Brigham Young within the year sent a colonizing company to establish an iron industry there. The journal of the wagon company’s activities during that two-week period was doubtless kept, as intended, by Isaac Haight, though the manuscript doesn’t bear the name of an author.

Little Salt Lake Valley. East of the lake on Red Creek

Deer 25th 1849 a meeting was called in the evening Prayer by Prest Pratt Voted that David Fullmer be Prest of the part of the camp that remained with the wagons & I. C. Haight Capt and to keep the journal. voted that Joseph Mathews and Schyler Jennings have an honourable furlough to go home and that they carry the mail back

25th Wind S. East Weather clear thermometer 26 degrees at 6 ocl A.M. 12 ocl M T. 53 J. Mathews & S. Jennings Start for G. S. L. City P. P. Pratt and company consisting of 20 men & 30 horses & mules start on the track after some trouble to catch a wild mule all in good Spirits 6 ocl P.M. T 45 W. E. 6 1/2 PM. Br Robert Campbell came back to our camp with an ox which P.P.Pratts company found about six miles South of here supposed to belong to Misses Infilt [?] Br C. left for P Prtts camp again about 8 ocl PM Camp came together sung Prayer by Mr. Wadsworth

27th Wind S. Cloudy Thermometer 20 12 M. T 57 Sol [?] 6 ocl P.M. T. 40 came together at 8 ocl Prest Fullmer made some remarks. Sung a hymn Prayer by Father Dustin a good spirit prevailed in the camp. Concluded to move our camp to the next creek

28th Wind South Cloudy 6 ocl AM T. 34 Left red Creek and came 4 1/4 miles and camped at 12 ocl M T. 46 at the Mouth of a large canion on a beautiful creek which we called Birch creek 8 ocl Camp met singing Prayer by Father Gould 6 ocl PM T 33 stormy

111
HAIGHT [his separate journal this date records]: Moved the camp 4 1/4 miles there being plenty of wood and feed for our cattle.

This was a move from Red Creek, the site of Paragonah, to Birch Creek, now the site of Parowan, the first Mormon settlement south of Manti. After Parley’s report of a potential iron industry in southern Utah, Brigham Young sent a party of 119 men, 310 women, and 18 children under leadership of George A. Smith, who left Fort Utah in December 1850 and arrived at the site of Parowan January 13, 1851. Their 129 wagons contained “armament, saddles, ‘lights of Glass,’ carpenter and blacksmith tools, seeds, ‘pitt saws,’ plows, ‘syths and cradles,’ mill irons, cats, dogs, and chickens. Milk cows, beef cattle, oxen, mules, and horses all served as draft animals.”

Jules Remy, passing through in 1855, found the settlement “nothing more than a poor straggling village, built of wood and adobes of red earth.” Poor it may have been, but its citizens were strong enough to save the lives of John C. Frémond and the men of his fifth expedition. After leaving the Sevier River to force a way over the same snow-choked mountains that had tested Parley and his men so severely, Frémond’s expedition staggered into Parowan on February 9, 1854, leaving one of their number, Oliver Fuller, starved and frozen to death in the foothills a few miles to the north. The citizens of Parowan, themselves struggling to survive, nursed the party back to health. Of this rescue Frémond wrote: “We owe our lives to these good Mormons, who not only cared for us for two weeks, but gave us food and new horses to continue our journey.”

29th Wind S. W. cloudy 6. T. 27 12 ocl M 30 A misty rain froze as fast as it came 1 ocl p m. clear 6 P.M. 24 W. East. as the clouds hung heavy on the mountains there was no one went out to explore in the mountains the most of the boys found amusement in rolling the ball at 10 pins for a dinner which is to be furnished by the losing party to eat on New Years day. 8 oclock camp met sung a hymn Prayer D. Fullmer

30th W. S clear 6 A.M. 14—6 P.M 32 Wind East. I C Haight Br Horn S. Gould E. Everett went to explore the canion of Birch creek as we passed up the creek we found it forked about 4 miles up to the left which had the appearance of considerable timber about 1/4 miles it forked again to the left Br Gould & Everett went up it and report large quantity of the best pine timber fit for hewing, Sawing House logs and fence polls. Br Horn & myself went up the main creek and found it to contain a large quantity of pine timber fit for any purpose that should be wanted the creek bottoms are wide and practicable for a good road it ascends gradually to the head of the canion

Br Wm Wadsworth & Hulett went up into the Mountains and found Iron Ore in abundance and very rich and also water Lime & plaster of Paris the mountains appear rich with minerals Camp met in the evening had singing and prayer by I C. Haight

HAIGHT [on this date his separate journal records]: I took three men & went up into the Canon to search for timber found a plenty of the best of red pine, easy of access.

This would be up Parowan Canyon. The fork to the left, up which Gould and Everett explored, was Center Creek, which heads on the north slope of Brian Head on the heavily forested Markagunt Plateau. The “main creek” that Haight and Horne explored is Parowan Creek, which heads on the west face of Brian Head. Present Highway 143 follows up this creek and on to Cedar Breaks National Monument.

Wadsworth’s and Hulett’s exploration was not into the high mountains to the east as the phrase “up into the Mountains” would suggest, but west across Cedar Valley to the low mountains of the Antelope Range. It was there that iron ore was found and where the Iron Mission would soon begin operations. And it was to there that the next day “Some of the Brethren went out to the Mountains and returned without making any farther discoveries.”

31st Wind East Clear T. 23 12 ocl M 48 6 P.M. 34 W. East Some of the Brethren went out to the Mountains and returned without making any farther discoveries excepting an abundance of timber camp met in the evening Sung a hymn Prst Fullmer made some remarks concerning our living in such a manner that we should not be ashamed to have angels come into our midst and see our acts &c followed by some others a good feeling prevailed in the camp Prayer by J. Horn Br Arnold reports a plenty of lime Stone.
Haight [his separate journal entry is more revealing of his feelings on this New Year's Eve so far from home]: I remained in camp feel depressed in spirit much lightness prevails in camp. In the evening Br Fullmer made some very good remarks on the necessity of laying aside our folly and living in such a manner that we should not be ashamed to have angels come into our midst and behold our acts I followed him on the same subject. Meet every evening have prayers and singing and enjoy ourselves as well as we can being deprived of our wives and children.

Tuesday January 1st 1850

Wind South Cloudy 6. T. 30. 12 ocl M. 45 6 P.M. T 31 Camp waked by the firing of the Cannon Killed a beef, a company of ten men were organized to go west and explore the mountains and valleys to be absent some ten or twelve days, viz Chancy West Capt Andrew J Blodget, Clerk Rufus C. Allen Sterling Driggs, Edward Evertt Henry Heath James Farrer, Stephen Taylor, Isaac Brown John Armstrong Hial K. Gay, & John Lowry, to start on the 2nd at 2 ocl all Sat down to a dinner prepared according to previous arangement. The dinner consisted of Roast Beef Biscuit, Apple & Mince pies, pumpkin Sauce, Pickles & coffee got up in a style not easily surpassed, after the company were seated a blessing was asked by prest Fullmer all did ample justice to the repast Mter it was finished, a sentiment was offred by Br Wm L Wadsworth in the form of a toast relative to the situation of the camp and the prosperity of the church, which was responded to by three cheers and the firing of the cannon camp met in the evening sung a hymn prayer by C. W. West

Wed 2nd Wind West cloudy 6 P.M. T. 31 12ocl M 60 in the sun 6 P.M. 35 Capt C. W. West and company started to explore west of this valley the camp moved across the creek and down it 3/4 miles for the convenience of keeping our cattle and made correll of ceders by hauling the trees and laying them whole in the fence Correlled our cattle camp met had singing Prayer by Br Henry.

Thurs 3rd Wind North Cloudy 6 A.M. T 32 12 M T 55 6 ocl P M. T. 32 A company of five men viz Capt J Arnold S. Willis G. Nabiker S. Tanner and J. Packer went to explore the creek & canion some 7 or 8 miles south of this camp met at 7 ocl P.M. Singing Prayer by Br Henry.

The creek “7 or 8 miles south” is Summit Creek. Its “canion” is the extremely rugged gorge through which it emerges from the Hurricane Cliffs.

Frid 4th Wind East cloudy 6 A.M. T. 24 12 ocl M. T. 40 W. South. 6 P.M. 31 Snowing a little Wind South 3 ocl P.M. Capt Arnold and company returned and report a large quantity of timber of the first
quality in the mountains and canion of the South creek the canion rather difficult of access 7 ocl P.M. camp met sung a hymn Prayer by Br J Armstrong

Sat 5th Wind East stormy 6 ocl A.M. T. 30 12 ocl M. T. 36 6 P.M. 32 cloudy It being stormy most of the day, all remained in camp in the evening although stormy camp met and had singing, Prayer by Br J. Arnold aftr which Brs Vance & Hatch being somewhat indisposed requested the laying on of hands which was done by Brs Arnold, Horn & Wadsworth

Sun 6th Wind West cloudy 6 A.M. T. 32 12 ocl M. T 43 Clear 6 P.M. 28 Brs Williams & Arnold went across the valley to explore the gap [Parowan Gap] where the lake passes through the Mountain Ground white with snow. 1 ocl P.M. camp came together and had a meeting for Prayer and exhortation had a good season and enjoyed ourselves very well 3 ocl P.M. Capt West & company came back all well. in the evening had singing Prayer by Br J. Farrer Capt C.W.West reports as follows after leaving the camp they went west to the pass in the Mountains [Little] Salt Lake enters the pass about 50 rods there could be a good waggon rode made through the Rocks one perpendicular either side some 4 miles through the pass as they passed out into the Valley on the west it is very narrow and the Rocks two or three hundred feet high on either side they camped over night the Rocks are covered with Hyeroglyphics on either side especially on the North as high as there was a face stone some of which they drew off. they entred the vally next day and found it to be nothing but a deasert on the North with but little vegetation and no water, but towards the South part of the valley there is a small Lake probably 2 miles North & south and one East & West of fresh water formed by a large creek coming from the South East called Cottn Wood as there is a large quantity of cotton wood timber on the creek. after they left the Lake and between it and the creek there is a large body very rich aluvial Soil which can be watered from the creek The creek sinks before it reaches the Lake except in high water at which time it has an outlet in to the deasert West after they left the Lake they went west some 8 miles and camped for the night on the fourth they travelled about 10 miles West and came to the edge of a great Valley apparently a deasert but as their animals were not fit to go any farther (as they had but 3 for ten men and very poor) they thought it not wisdom to go any farther in that direction as there was no prospect of water or feed but being informed by an Indian (a Pah Ute) that there was water south they went in that direction along the border of the deasert about 12 miles and came to a spring which sinks in about one mile camped over night
Plaque at the Parowan Gap petroglyphs.

The “pass in the Mountains” West’s group explored west of Little Salt Lake is Parowan Gap, running through the Red Hills that separate Parowan Valley from the north end of Cedar Valley. Over millions of years it was formed by a stream cutting through a gradually rising fault block. Eventually the stream disappeared, and the fierce winds blowing off the desert continued to shape what is now known as a wind gap. The Parowan Gap Petroglyphs, listed on the National Historic Register, were carved over millenia, first during the Archaic culture, later by the Fremont people, who disappeared some eight hundred years ago. Enigmatic geometric figures cover the rocks, as do images of mountain sheep, bear claws, lizards, snakes, and human figures. According to the expedition’s report to the Legislative Assembly, Chief Walker called this place “God’s own house.”

From their somewhat inexact description it is difficult to be confident about the exploring party's route the next four days. One possibility is that from Parowan Gap they traveled five miles southwest to Rush Lake, which at that time may have had a larger creek than present Johnson Creek coming from the southeast. The next two days they explored eighteen miles to the west, which would put them at the edge of "a great Valley apparently a desert"—the Escalante Desert. Here, with their pitifully few horses giving out and no prospect of water or feed, they wisely headed south twelve miles to the water the Indians told them they would find, in the vicinity of Newcastle.

5th took a South East course one mile and found the wagon road which they followed East 15 miles and struck the Cotton Wood creek which forms the Lake below, today crossed a range of hills filled with Iron Ore of the richest quality it will yeald probably 75 per cent, a specimen of which they took with them. four Indians came to us today we told them we were Mormons they said Capt Walker had told them about us that we were his friends they said they were our friends and would not kill our cattle or horses Walker told them that the Mormons raised Saunt of Tickup and they wanted us to come and raise it among them Said they loved the Mormons. they are very poor have no horses or skins they live upon Rabbits which ar plenty in this valley and cloath themselves with their skins. we explored the creek 8 or 10 miles there is large quantity of timber fit ^for^ building it is cotton wood the land bording on the creek very good and fit for cultivation easy to be watered from the creek camped on the creek

6th We took our course back to the camp where we arrive about 3, ocl. All well after travelling about 100 miles

The road they followed on the return trip was the road cut by Jefferson Hunt and other wagon trains earlier that fall. En route they crossed the Antelope Range, finding evidence and obtaining samples of the rich iron ore that would shortly be mined by men of the Iron Mission. The creek they explored was probably Shirts Creek, named for early Mormon settler Peter Shirts. It rises in the Cedar Mountains and flows through the Hurricane Cliffs to feed Quichapa Lake.

ARMSTRONG [in the camp on Birch Creek; undated but probably January 6]: Looked through the glass along the valley, Saw some more men, they were so far off I could not count them, thought it was Brother Pratt and his camp returning, fired the cannon twice to let them know where we were, This broke up the meeting, all get our guns and pistols and fired them when they got nigher to us we found it was the camp of ten that had gone to explore the valley and mountains West of here, They gave us a good report of water, wood and iron ore, The day they left us they passed thru a gap in the mountains about three miles long with perpendicular rocks, good roads though and all cut with Hyroglyphics from one end to the other, They sketched a few for samples, If Bro Pratt does not return in a day or two we are going to get them all drawn off, The camp is all well, My foot is a great deal better.

Mond 7th [returning to Haight's account of camp activities] Wind South 6 ocl A.M. T 24 clear 12 m T. 46 6 P.M. T. 30 At half past 5 P.M. Prst Pratt & Capt Jones returned from their journey South and were received with the firing of the cannons and Small arms and three cheers from the camp we were all glad to see them well. have some singing and prayer by Br Wadsworth Br Pratt requested in behalf of his company which are camped 12 miles back that we have a publick dinner tomorrow which was unanimously agreed to. Voted that Bros Wadsworth & Griggs to superintend the same also that we have a liberty Pole raised.

ARMSTRONG: A fine warm day, Boys got me to make them some boxing gloves 2 pair of boxing gloves, and spent the day boxing, bowling etc. I made some good apple pudding and it was a treat out here About six oclock in the evening the boys were dancing cotillions, when we heard a gun fired off at a distance, the dancing ceased in a moment and it was laughable to see every man run and get his gun loaded and then the cannon loaded and fired off in less time than it takes me to describe it, The guns and pistols followed so fast it sounded as if there were two or three hundred of us. Then we gave a few loud buzzahs, for we knew it was Parley Pratt, After the tumult ceased Bro Pratt Halloed to us, then the air rent with another shout of joy and the firing of guns, Presently he was among us with Capt. Dan Jones, He told us he had left the camp about eleven miles off and would be in tomorrow. We then gave loud buzzahs. Then the little Captain told us he had a canteen full of whiskey, Then he handed it all around, Then we gave three more loud buzzahs Brother Pratt and brother Jones joining in with all their might. They then took supper, we were all overjoyed to see them. Some went to boxing some to singing, some dancing to amuse them, They
told us we must prepare a large dinner for the whole camp tomorrow, Put up a liberty pole and have Jubilee.

HAIGHT [his separate journal]: Nothing worthy of notice occurred till the 7th when Br Pratt returned he was received with the firing of cannon and cheers all was glad to see him.

Boxing, bowling, dancing cotillions, eating apple pudding—life doesn’t seem to have been all that hard for the camp during the two weeks they have waited for Pratt’s return. The canteen of whiskey he brought with him was no doubt purchased from the Fly-Owen (Pomeroy) company. The detail in Armstrong’s account is welcome in view of Haight’s brevity.

REUNION AND CELEBRATION

Tuesday, January 8, 1850

ARMSTRONG: It is now three o’clock in the morning Tuesday and I am helping them prepare the dinner (I had two or three minutes to spare and noted it down) Here we have large kettles boiling meat to make mince pies, The sky is clear and the stars are twinkling bright and we are in hopes of a fine day At half past five the horn was sounded, the camp got out of bed with one consent and commenced cooking with all their might, I have made 16 Cartridges for the cannon, Mended two pair of pants for the boys, and we all cleaned ourselves for dinner, then hoisted up the Liberty pole with a flag. At one o’clock the boys that were returning got within two miles of us, the cannon was fired and then they fired their guns in answer to us, We waited until they got up to camp, We fired the cannon three times again, The boys had got their handkerchiefs fixed on small sticks and attached them to their horses heads and rode up in front of our camp, gave us a volley with their guns and pistols We answering in return gave some loud huzzahs then they heard some wonderful stories.

The Mormon tradition of the liberty pole began with a Book of Mormon account in which Moroni, a military leader,

rent his coat; and he took a piece thereof, and wrote upon it—In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children—and he fastened it upon the end of a pole. . . .

And . . . he went forth among the people, waving the rent part of his garment in the air, that all might see the writing which he had written upon the rent part, and crying with a loud voice, saying:
Behold, whosoever will maintain this title upon the land, let them come forth in the strength of the Lord....

And [after his armies had defeated the enemy] he caused the title of liberty to be hoisted upon every tower which was in all the land....114

Patty Sessions, a Mormon pioneer midwife, recorded the burial of Jacob Weatherby, shot by Indians near the Elk Horn River, Nebraska: "he died this morning [June 20, 1847] was \textsuperscript{calculated} to be carried back to Winter Quarters to bury him but he mortified and smelt so bad they buried him in a buffalo robe near the liberty pole. this liberty pole was raised the 14 day of June 1847 and a white flag put on it another raised here with white flag the 18 day they have had a meeting under it to day."115 Patty also recorded the raising of a liberty pole in Salt Lake Valley on August 10, 1848: "went to the bowry [a shelter built of upright poles covered with boughs and brush, the first public building in Salt Lake City] 9 A M saw the liberty pole raised heard the cannon fired then between 12 and 2 feasted after 2 danced heard the music and the prayers and preaching."116 Parley P. Pratt was one of the preachers that day. His autobiography describes what was the first Thanksgiving Day in Salt Lake Valley:

On the 10\textsuperscript{th} of August we held a public feast under a bowery in the center of our fort [at what is now Pioneer Square]. This was called a harvest feast; we partook freely of a rich variety of bread, beef, butter, cheese, cakes, pastry, green corn, melons, and almost every variety of vegetable. Large sheaves of wheat, rye, barley, oats and other productions were hoisted on poles for public exhibition, and there was prayer and thanksgiving, congratulations, songs, speeches, music, dancing, smiling faces and merry hearts. In short, it was a great day with the people of these valleys, and long to be remembered by those who had suffered and waited anxiously for the results of a first effort to redeem the interior deserts of America, and to make her hitherto unknown solitudes "blossom as the rose."117

116. Ibid., 117.
The Pratt expedition’s liberty pole was to be part of a smaller but somewhat similar celebration of thanksgiving. It was erected on a small knoll immediately south of Heaps Spring where Haight and those who remained with the wagons had stayed for two weeks while waiting for Pratt’s explorers to return from the Virgin. Here, too, where a fine stream of water emerges from the rocks, the first settlers stayed after arriving January 13, 1851, and while building the Parowan Fort. The Parowan Heritage Park now memorializes the campsite. The liberty pole, at least part of which the locals claim is original, still stands on the knoll above.

**Campbell:** T 28 cold on this knoll, cloudy. Mts round covered with cedars, start at 10 1/4 A.M. Strike up to South end of Little Salt Lake valley, go up considerable sage on every side. Mts to the right plenty of cedars and easy of access, Pass on to Summit creek. 5 miles See a wagon which has come from our Camp after the wagon irons which were left by the emigrants At this point, Good place for a settlement, on the South of creek, Travel on to near Big creek, the Settlers here have called it iron ore creek, find they have erected a liberty pole about 40 feet high, hoisted a white flag, a long red strip of cloth, on the flag “Great Basin, meeting of Rough & Ready club this eveny” & also a banner inscribed on it Free soil, Free speech, free labor & freedom of the Saints. cannonading commenced when we hove in sight, & shooting of small arms. Fine pleasant day. See a ten pin alley made at the back of the wagons, with balls & pins, also see boxing Gloves. reach Camp which is on the South margin of creek, above a mile up from the road, near the mouth of the Kanyon excellent feed all round. 15 min past 2 all sat down to an excellent Dinner prepared by Wadsworth & Driggs. Plenty coffee, roast Beef, Pumpkin & Squash, with Pies, minced, apple &c little Sugar, and butter handed round while eating Some sitting on stools, Boxes, others on robes on the ground, Parley prophesied, “while the sun & moon should endure, & so long as a Settlement was here, they should perpetuate this 8th of Jany as the day we celebrate, by this dinner is the first anniversary of the Settlement of this place,[”] to which a hearty response was given by three cheers. after dinner was over, the cannon was fired, then Parley said he wished to make a speech, Capt'n Brown called the attention of the Coy when, he said he rejoiced in the words which headed the flag on the Liberty pole—“Great Basin” to be sure there r climes soil & country whose productions are valuable, he has read of the sunny climes of fair Italy, he had trod Europes shores heard of the fertile & productive
countries in France, but all these things were, where neither the soil, the elements nor the air, the light of heaven was free, but here is "free soil free speech free labor free Saints" & free Pumpkin pies, to be sure west is the country of Gold, but her harbours r so open, that she lies insecure of all her treasures, like the richest man who told his friend of his riches, but says his friend a little iron could take it all from you, so I value iron most, so it was, it was all taken from him, but we have the iron, & minerals more useful & more safe besides our defences r in these munitions of rocks, here we r safe with all the riches we may possess, & we have the best defence the most rocks, the best women, most beautiful children & more of them than any ppl on the earth in proportion to our number, therefore boys the Great Basin for me. cannon fired amid three cheers—long & loud by the Fifty WW. Phelps, said he rejoiced at what was said, this glorious country with its mineral wealth, whose history is written upon its ruins, complimented the company highly on the unity and good feeling they had ever preserved, said they were the best boys you could scare up among any fifty, had endured more hardships, than any other Fifty & preserved better feelings than he had ever before seen. Parley our head has been vigilant & persevering neither the snow, the rain, the bad road, the thunder nor the lightning had prevented him from going a head & finding passes & so it was with the whole company, said he'd offer the following toast. "The city of the L S Lake may her men never be wanting in union industry & virtuous wives, To fill the Country & kingdom with eternal lives." Cannon fired, amid three cheers, D Fullmer said, he glad to hear what been said & as to this valley said nothing was lacking but inhabitants to fill it up & as has been observed we have the best women, & the most beautiful children, & the most of them, we have the tools that can populate this desirable country, with the help of God. cannon fired three cheers. Dan Jones spoke of his feelings his respect for his nation [Wales], groaning under the tyranny and bondage of the old world, his heart felt keen in their behalf if had the ability would carry this goodly land of liberty to them, spoke of being among the nations, feelings produced thereby, his desire to see the good of the nations gathered where they could enjoy liberty, recalled to his mind the Saints, his labours & toils with them, said he had always been among the foremost in discharge of duties among the Saints, knowing those who were most diligent earned the greatest reward he had outdone himself, was sorry he was not able to do more on this journey, that he might earn the great reward, thanked all for their kindness and courtesy shown to him & prayed God to help us all. Cannon fired, amid 3 cheers. Capt'n Brown called for by
the Coy said he not much to say but would give 3 cheers for the Presidency, the church, the Company, & the Saints, which was responded to by 3 hearty cheers, amid the cannons deafening roar, Parley then called upon the Coy to sing when, was sung "O come come away from Northern blasts retiring" & ["]Come listen to my story while Winter lingers bye" which was also responded to by 3 deafening cheers & the cannons roar, when the cannon has roared & three cheers been given, small arms were fired by those who felt disposed, which was many. Parley said enough ammunition wasted for to day. Captn Brown, recapitulated the order, when firing ceased a round or two of the Boxing gloves was tried, & ten pin alley was visited, some go for the horses, & others tend to the Plates, Dishes, &c used at the feast, jolly time. “Am glad I had time to write it, & that C West, got a candle & held it for while I did it” Mter dark prayers & singing & Dancing mild pleasant night. Some wrestling. Haight: All was busy to prepare a dinner for the reception of the company which did not get in last night we raised a liberty pole and at one oclock the company hove in view and as they came up we fired a salute of 5 guns and small arms. The dinner being ready the fifty sat down in order, Br Pratt and his counsellors at the head Capts Brown Jones & myself next and the rest filled up the table which was formed by spreading a waggon cover on the ground and all sat on the ground to eat D. Fullmer ask a blessing. It was truly an interesting scene in the wilderness where white mans foot had never trod before, to see a table spread with Roast Beef Mince & Pumpkin pies Apple pies Sauce Coffee &c After the report was finished Br Pratt addressed the company contrasting the difference between the situation of the Saints in the Great Basin and the rest of the World where the Air, Earth and water are not free but here all are free &c also that this day should be celebrated as the anniversary of the city of L. S. Lake as long as the sun shone upon it. Brown: We reached our camp on the 8th. Bro Pratt got in the evening before, when we got in sight of camp we saw a flag hoisted upon a pole high above the wagons; and soon the little brass piece gave us a salute. The boys were very glad to see us and we to see them, great preparations were making for a dinner a table was spread large enough to seat 50 men, there being no ladies present, and a bounteous feast of roast beef, pumpkin sauce, apple pies, mince pies &c was enjoyed at dinner a toast was offered by bro Pratt to this amount, May this the 8th of January be kept as the anniversary of the founding of the city of the Little Salt Lake which will hereafter be built After dinner we had several patriotic speeches, fireing of canon and lastly a song, “Come a way,” followed by a gun
Campbell’s account of this extraordinary celebration in the wilderness is itself remarkable, considering the primitive conditions under which it was written by candlelight. The exuberance the company expressed for the area and the nation and for each other and what they had accomplished reflects no awareness of or concern for the difficulties and suffering they will soon experience on the journey homeward. The city they knew would be established here—Little Salt Lake or Parowan—became known as the “mother city” of southern Utah, because most of the early settlements in the region, including Cedar City, were pioneered by the Parowan settlers. But Parley’s exhortation that “while the sun & moon should endure, & so long as a Settlement was here, they should perpetuate this 8th of Jany as the day we celebrate . . . the first anniversary of the Settlement of this place” has been ignored; Parowan celebrates its founding on January 13, the day in 1851 when George A. Smith and his 120 settlers arrived.

Parley’s statement that the expedition members “were the best boys you could scare up among any fifty, had endured more hardships, than any other Fifty” refers to a Mormon pattern of organization that began in 1844 with creation of the Council of Fifty in Nauvoo. This administrative body helped in organizing the Mormon exodus from Nauvoo and the western migration. The Council functioned in the early years in the Great Basin, and early colonizing efforts were often organized by fifties.

The song “Oh Come, Come Away” sung on this occasion was composed by Parley during the expedition, though just when he found time and energy during their arduous travels is hard to say. The text is fascinating with its reference to teaching the gospel to “Joseph’s sons”—the Indians—and particularly to the possibility of finding a “remnant” of Dan Jones’s ancestry. This refers to a belief among Mormons that somewhere in the region was a tribe of Welsh-speaking Indians, which was apparently the reason for including Welsh-speaking Dan Jones in the exploration.

“Song of the Southern Pioneers”

O come, come away, from Northern blasts retiring,
These wintry times to milder climes, O come, come away

LITTLE SALT LAKE & CEDAR VALLEYS & BEYOND

Where Gentile foot has never been
The clear blue sky is always seen
And Spring is ever green, O come, come away
O come, come away, where hope is still inspiring
Where flowrets bloom in rich perfume, O come, come away

There 'mid the mountains towering dome
The Colorado's waters foam
And freedom finds a home, O come, come away
O find, find a way, the Gentile saints are coming
In Zion's car, from realms afar, O come, come away.

Come, come in might and majesty,
Extend the reign of liberty
Sound, sound the Jubilee, O come, come away

O come, come away, where Joseph's sons are roaming
In solitude and manners rude, O come, come away
We'll teach them there the Gospel true
Their ancient covenants to renew
As angels brought to view, O come, come away.

O come from realms where tyrants still are reigning
From poverty and cholera and war come away
Imperial Zion rise in might
Increase thy towers, extend thy light
And reign it is thy right, at home and far away.

O come, come away, the mountains still exploring
Turn every crook search every nook, O come, come away.
The secret treasures of the hills
The rivers, lakes, and murmuring rills
Are ours boys by Heaven's will, So come, come away.
We'll search mid the glens where cataracts are roaring
The mountains steep, the caverns deep, O come, come away.

Perhaps these solitudes contain
A remnant who In Maddocks reign
From Wales came o'er the main, so far, far away
O come Captn Jones your kindly heart is yearning
O'er kindred dear, let's find them here, O come, come away.
Six hundred years they've dwelt alone
To friends and kith and kin unknown
Arise your kindred own, and bring them away.

And when from these toils, we’re merrily returning
Warm hearts shall meet, each other greet, O come, come away
Come, come our social joys renew
Where wives and children welcome you
Sweethearts warm and true, O come, come away.\footnote{119. Campbell, Southern Exploring Expedition Papers.}

\textit{Wednesday, January 9}

\textbf{Armstrong:} [There are no further entries in this journal, substantial parts of which have been lost.]

\textbf{Campbell:} T . . . Pleasant day. Bre fixing up to start, writing, mending, washing, wrestling \&c. T noon 59 Camp prayers singing \& Dancing T 38. Wagons in our absence went on to 283 1/2 miles

\textbf{Haight:} Preparing to start for home tomorrow I shall leave this place with regret. It is one of the most lovely places in the Great Basin On the East high towering Mountains covered with Evergreen forests and one of the most Beautiful creeks running from them. On the West and South a large Valley of the most beautiful lands. Little Salt Lake bordering the valley on the west and beyond a range of hills covered with verdure and backed with high towering Mountains covered with Eternal snows all of which contribute to beautify the scenery and while the clouds hang heavily on the Mountains and the storms and tempests are roaring the valley enjoys a beautiful serenity.

\textbf{Brown:} day was spent making preparations to start home.

Campbell’s note that the wagon odometer now registered 283 1/2 includes the four miles added by moving from the site of Paragonah to that of Parowan. Haight’s “high towering Mountains covered with Evergreen forests” are the rugged uplands of the Markagunt Plateau.