A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF COVE FORT, UTAH

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of the Requirements for the
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by

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PREFACE

The writer has had a long term interest in the examination of the history surrounding Cove Fort's existence, 1867-1966. For him this study has been much more than a requirement in his educational pursuits. A great deal of personal interest has prompted its writing. Stories concerning life and conditions at that place have been an integral part of his growing up. The author's great-grandfather, Arza E. Hinckley, was a brother to the superintendent of construction on the Fort, Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, and later managed the operation of the fortification, 1877-1882. One of Arza's daughters, Ella Hinckley Hoopes, was the writer's grandmother. Ella was 15 years of age at the time her parents left Cove Fort, and she carried away a very clear recollection of occurrences during that period of her life.

For many years the writer has desired to piece together the multiplicity of information which has heretofore remained uncollected. The motivation to accomplish this end has been prompted by the realization that many of the key sources of information concerning the Fort are gradually being obscured with the passage of time.

The author is highly indebted to the memory of Ella Hinckley Hoopes and that of his mother, Blondel Porter Smith, for the veritable fund of information which they transcribed during their lifetime in order that certain of the happenings in Cove Fort's unique past might not be
lost to future generations.

My wife, LaDawn, receives my deepest appreciation not only for her encouragement and great interest in this thesis but also for her very material assistance in preparing the actual manuscript. She has made the accomplishment of this work possible.

Dr. Russell R. Rich and Dr. Daniel H. Ludlow have given many thoughtful suggestions in their evaluation of the study. I am grateful for their careful consideration of the manuscript and friendly interest throughout the course of the project.

The author wishes to express his sincere appreciation to members of the Kesler family, Otto, Mary, Joe and Calvin, for their personalized assistance in interviews, pointing out physical features in the Cove Creek vicinity and allowing unlimited access to the Fort facility itself.

A. William Lund and members of the Church Historian's Library staff have contributed much through their timely assistance in securing source materials. The writer is similarly grateful to members of the library staffs at Brigham Young University, Huntington Library, University of Utah, Utah State University, and the Utah State Historical Society.

Many individuals have graciously supplied the writer with invaluable information for inclusion in this work. I would like to extend a particular note of thanks to Albert E. Smith, Parnell Hinckley, Vida Cardon Adams, Kate B. Carter, Minnie Hinckley Bowen, Helen Hinckley Jones, Vera Mayhue, Earl S. Paul, Elizabeth S. Hinckley, Joe Willden, Earl Willden, Ruth Willden, Harriett Martin, Edna B. Black, Claron Griffin, and Mrs. iv
Glen Hutchings.

My special thanks is also given to N. Earl Deschamps for his close scrutiny of the manuscript for grammatical correctness.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREFACE</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## PART I. BACKGROUND

### Chapter I. BACKGROUND OF COVE CREEK AND VICINITY
- General Description
- L.D.S. Exploring and Settlement Expeditions Examine the Cove Creek Region
- Brigham Young Visits Cove Creek

### Chapter II. FORT WILLDEN—FORERUNNER
- Fort Willden
- Charles William Willden Sr. Visits Cove Creek
- Construction of Fort Willden
- Occupants of Fort Willden
- Significant Occurrences
- Evacuation of Fort Willden

## PART II. THE CONSTRUCTION AND FUNCTIONING OF COVE FORT, UTAH TERRITORY

### Chapter III. THE ERECTION OF COVE FORT
- The Need for a Permanent Fortification
- The Site of Cove Fort Is Acquired by the L.D.S. Church
- Ira Nathaniel Hinckley Supervises Construction
- Artisans Who Assisted in Building the Facility
- Methods of Construction and Materials Employed

### Chapter IV. ADJACENT BUILDINGS AND PHYSICAL FEATURES
- 61
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V. COVE FORT PERFORMS ITS PRIMARY FUNCTIONS</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. FAMILIES WHO HAVE OCCUPIED THE FORT</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. FAMILY LIFE AT THE FORT</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII. EXPERIENCES WITH THE INDIANS</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX. SULPHUR MINING IN THE COVE FORT VICINITY</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X. COVE FORT IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **A Haven of Protection and Rest for the Traveler**
  - Deseret State Telegraph Station
  - United States Mail Station
  - Stagecoach Station
  - Freighter's Refuge
  - Maintenance of the Church Tithing Herd

- **Families Who Have Occupied the Fort**
  - Ira Nathaniel Hinckley Family, 1867-77; 1882-90
  - Arza Erastus Hinckley Family, 1877-82
  - Ira Nathaniel Hinckley Family, 1882-90
  - John Black Sr. Family, about 1890-1900
  - Snow McDonald Family, 1901-02
  - William Henry Keeler Family, 1903

- **Family Life at the Fort**
  - Household Facilities and Activities
  - Religion
  - Education
  - Entertainment
  - Animals
  - Insect Infestation
  - Drouth and Earthquake

- **Experiences with the Indians**
  - Cove Fort Never Attacked by Indians
  - Treatment of the Indians by the Fort's Inhabitants
  - Customs Practiced by Indians Visiting the Fort

- **Sulphur Mining in the Cove Fort Vicinity**
  - Sulphur Is Discovered in the Cove Creek Area
  - Early Cove Creek Sulphur Mining
  - The Importance of Sulphur Mines to Economy of Cove Fort
  - Cove Creek Sulphur Mining Today

- **Cove Fort in the Twentieth Century**
  - Present Day Functioning of Cove Fort
  - Preservation of the Structure
  - The State of Utah Attempts to Acquire Cove Fort as a Park Site
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XI. CONCLUSIONS</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDICES</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Physical Arrangement of Fort Willden</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Ira and Arza Hinckley</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Cove Fort as it Appeared, 1868-69</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Physical Arrangement of Cove Fort</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Cove Fort Buildings and Adjacent Physical Features</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Utilization of Cove Fort Rooms, 1877-82</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Drawing of Cove Fort by Charles Alexander Semler</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

Statement of the problem.--With the arrival of the first Mormon Pioneer Company in the Great Basin during July of 1847, immediate designs were made to examine the expanses of their new inland domain. Exploration parties made forays to various points in Salt Lake and Tooele valleys. The month of August found President Brigham Young sending small groups into Cache and Utah valleys to investigate their potential for settlement. In November of 1847, Jefferson Hunt with a company of eighteen was dispatched to California via the southern route to procure seed and livestock. The route traveled by these scouts and traders opened the vastness of Juab, Pauvan, Beaver, Little Salt Lake, and Dixie Valleys in addition to a Pacific corridor.

The program of land settlement was closely directed by President Young. He commissioned exploring parties to find the sites that would be most favorable for colonization or identified them himself. Gradually small communities were established throughout various valleys of the Great Basin and beyond. San Bernardino, California, Genoa in Carson Valley, Nevada and Fort Lemhi on the Salmon River in Idaho came into being under his careful observation. With each passing day Brigham's knowledge of the resources and possibilities of the region continued to increase.

As each of the new communities struggled for existence, it became readily apparent that in addition to the extreme difficulties of eking out an existence from the soil the would-be settler was faced with
a dilemma which could be equally menacing. The Indian inhabitants of the area were a potential and sometimes active threat to the success of colonization. It was virtually inevitable that despite an active program of reconciliation inaugurated by the pioneer leadership there would be certain animosities arise between the white and red man.

In his desire to prevent a clash between these opposites, Brigham Young introduced an Indian policy which was responsible for averting a sizeable loss of life and destruction of property. The philosophy behind this policy called for the Saints to feed the red man when necessary and to assist him in becoming self-sustaining. It appealed for the education of the Indian, the induction of a degree of civilization, and maintained that the tenents of Christianity should be fostered in his nature. Although friendly treatment of their Indian brethren was admonished, and noticeably reciprocated, the inherent dangers of surprise attack were also recognized by the Mormons. As a precautionary measure President Young instructed his colonists that the first building to be erected at each new site was to be a fort.

The initial pioneer settlement at Salt Lake had set the precedent for succeeding communities to follow with the immediate erection of a fortification to protect its inhabitants. As continued settlements began to branch out from the parent colony, it was obvious that a series of permanent forts extending the length and breadth of the territory would prove a worthy deterrent to hostile actions on the part of the Indians, and should preserve the lives of numerous white citizens. For the traveler the safety provided by these forts was a welcome refuge from the stresses that might be encountered on the road. Periodic uprisings
by the Indians and extended hostilities such as the Walker and Black-hawk Wars provided a climate in which the necessity of maintaining the facilities was wholly apparent.

Among the forts constructed in this period of need was an impressive stone structure named "Cove Fort." In 1867, Brigham Young called an assemblage of artisans to Cove Coreek, Utah Territory, and commissioned them with the responsibility of erecting a substantial fortification on that site. The Fort was strategically situated mid-way between the communities of Fillmore and Beaver. Where distance often precluded a traveler from getting safely from one of these settlements to another, it was necessary to build this facility as an intermediate refuge. The protective portals of Cove Fort gave a promised safety to the multitudes of people who were involved in travel past this main juncture. Church leaders, exploration companies, settlers and freighters passed through the inviting gates to a welcome rest or encamped without the Fort in the lee of its towering walls. The Deseret telegraph, United States Mail, and Gillmore and Salisbury stage coach line maintained stations at the outpost. Here a necessary security was acquired for operators and passengers alike.

With the passage of years a succession of families called Cove Fort their home. Members of these households served as agents for the facility and supervised its operation. A view of the personalities and occurrences associated with the various occupants is a necessary part of understanding that which has transpired at the site.

The purpose of this thesis has been to gather and record that information which is currently available on the subject of the Fort. Each succeeding year diminishes the prospects of preserving certain
valuable aspects of the history of that establishment which have not been previously committed to writing or made generally accessible to the would-be examiner.

**Justification of the problem.**—A comprehensive treatise on the history of Cove Creek Fort has never been assembled. This landmark is one of the last remaining vestiges, virtually intact, of an era of fort-building in Utah and Western America. Engendered in its history are the elements which have comprised a unique period in emigration and settlement. An examination of its construction and functioning reveals the purposes of numerous fortifications erected during that particular time of expansion. Today it is a tangible reminder of pioneer perseverance and craftsmanship. Because of its marvelous preservation, it had been and is now destined to play an important part in the perpetuation of a revealing segment of western history.

Recent years have witnessed an attempt on the part of the State of Utah to acquire possession of the site for usage as a state park. This occurrence gives evidence of an awakening awareness of the Fort's importance as a historical monument. However, it should be noted that the movement for preservation of the structure, whether actuated by the State or continued through the concern of private ownership, loses much of its worth if the personal facets of its unique history are lost to an inquiring public. The detailed accumulation and preservation of the background of Cove Fort is as imperative as the conservation of its rock and mortar.

There are yet Willden, Hinckley, and Kesler family members, and others who have a knowledge of much that has transpired at the Fort.
While some of the immediate descendants of the founders and some few of
the actual occupants retain remembrances of happenings at that place, it
is of the utmost importance to gather into a single reference the scat-
tered remnants of this great epic in fort-building.

Methods of research.--An extensive examination of available
sources has revealed a myriad of materials on the subject of Cove Fort.
The fact that this structure has persisted in a comparatively excellent
state of preservation since the time of its erection has heightened
public interest to the degree that numerous newspaper and magazine
articles have been produced relative to the edifice. These publications
have been examined at length by the writer, and pertinent data have been
extracted and incorporated in the contents of this record. The writer
has taken the opportunity to visit the Fort on numerous occasions and
through the Kesler family has been able to procure important data rela-
tive to both the physical facility and accounts of its occupancy.

Fortunately there are persons still alive who lived at the Fort
or who had acquaintance with it prior to the turn of the century. Where
possible these individuals have been interviewed or contacted and their
invaluable reminiscences included in this work.

Members of the Willden, Hinckley and Kesler families, prominently
identified with the Fort's history, have been most generous in sharing
personal information on the inhabitants. A considerable amount of
material has been preserved by the posterity of those who occupied the
Fort. The contents of their accounts appear in this treatise.

Official records at the Millard County courthouse were examined
with a special interest in obtaining descriptions of transactions which
have occurred relative to Cove Fort and its immediate vicinity. The facilities of the L.D.S. Church Historian's Library, Brigham Young University Library, Utah State Historical Society Library, and Huntington Library have proven most profitable to this study. Through these institutions numerous source books, manuscripts, documents and personal journals have been viewed in an attempt to ferret out the available details of Cove Fort's existence for inclusion herein.

_Delimitation of the problem._--This thesis has been prepared with the object of identifying the events which necessitated the construction of Cove Fort, its location, erection and functioning over a ninety-nine year period, 1867-1966. The objective of the writer has been to examine not only the special services performed by the structure and its personnel but also to present the internal domestic scene portrayed in the lives of the families who have maintained the facility through a virtual century of operation.
CHAPTER I

BACKGROUND OF COVE CREEK AND VICINITY

General description.--The Cove Creek area has long been a geographical mid-point for major avenues of travel due to the strategic position it occupies with reference to the mountain passes. Indian, Spaniards, explorers, traders, trappers, pioneer emigrants, settlers, freighters and government expeditions have trafficked through this primary thoroughfare.

In aboriginal times, Cove Creek marked the southern limit of Pahvant Ute Indian territory.¹ The Indian name for the Cove Creek region in that early day was "Pa-hump-pa." Pa-hump is cane and pa is water. As a name Pa-hump-pa means Cane Creek, or cane growing in the creek water.²

Two alternative routes used by parties traveling the "Old Spanish Trail" converged to form a junction at Cove Creek. One trail passed through Salina and then extended along the Sevier River, turned westward through Clear Creek Canyon to the site of Cove Fort, some thirty-five miles below Fillmore, thence southerly to Beaver and Cedar City. The second branch, an alternate route from the Green River Crossing, passed


by way of Spanish Fork Canyon, Provo, Payson, Nephi, Fillmore, to Cove Creek and then followed the main Spanish Trail to California.1

L.D.S. Exploring and Settlement Expeditions Examine the Cove Creek Region.--Because of its unique position on the north-south and east-west routes of communication, the Cove Creek region was frequented by and became well known to exploration and settlement expeditions dispatched by the seat of the Mormon Church in Salt Lake City.

The first company to traverse the area left Salt Lake in November, 1847, under the leadership of Jefferson Hunt. Hunt and eighteen companions had been commissioned by the Church to secure seed and cattle in California and to explore the vastness of the southern expanse. Their route of travel over a portion of the Old Spanish Trail gave them the initial view of Cove Creek and vicinity. After successful purchases from ranchers near Los Angeles the company returned via the same route, arriving in Salt Lake during the month of May, 1848.2

Twenty-five Mormon Battalion members who had been mustered out of the U.S. Army at Los Angeles followed the trail made by Hunt's party. Of necessity it took them through the Cove Creek region. They arrived in Salt Lake City on June 5, 1848, bringing with them the first wagon to make the journey over the pack trail.3 Their accomplishment set a precedent and prepared a road for countless wagons to follow.


2Milton R. Hunter, Brigham Young the Colonizer, (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1941), p. 73. Cited hereafter as Hunter, Brigham Young the Colonizer.

3Ibid., p. 73.
The importance of the roadway thus opened and the resultant impact that it was to have on the Cove Creek area because of the tremendous traffic directed through that section can best be measured by this statement:

Throughout the next twenty years (1849-69) Hunt's route (the corridor) was the only road from Salt Lake to the coast that was open during the winter. The Mormons were greatly responsible for its development into the most important road from the Basin to the Pacific Coast during that period. Although some of the early season travelers to California went via Fort Hall and the Humboldt, yet later in the season the southern route was the one always used. Sheep drivers also repeatedly traversed this road. Consequently it was the most important route for freigh ters as well as emigrants until the completion of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads in 1869 restored the preference for the old western route (northern route) from Salt Lake City.¹

The great potential existent in a roadway to the Pacific Coast and the obvious need for settlements along that route occupied the attention of President Young. In the fall of 1849, he called fifty men to comprise what was known as the Southern Exploring Company and placed it under the able direction of Apostle Parley P. Pratt. The express purpose of this expedition was to observe the natural resources of the country and to select sites for settlement. The company commenced their travel on November 25, 1849. By a circuitous route the explorers visited Utah Valley, Juab Valley, and crossed a range of the Wasatch Mountains into Sanpete Valley. They then moved toward the Sevier Valley and again crossed through the mountains to reach the Little Salt Lake Valley. Elements of the group pushed as far south as the present city of Saint George and visited an Indian village on the Santa Clara River. The entire company began their homeward journey on January 9, 1850. They found the country

¹Ibid., p. 75.
around Beaver Creek an excellent place to establish a settlement. Pressing on, they traveled through the Cove Creek region, to Meadow Creek in Pauvan Valley and then to Chalk Creek (the present site of Fillmore). Here part of the company went into winter camp while Apostle Pratt and approximately twenty others continued on to Provo.1

The findings of this important exploration company gave immediate impetus to the establishment of communities directly to the north and south of Cove Creek. It is significant to note that virtually every location that was reported as favorable for habitation by the company was colonized in the following decade:

Within the next ten years President Young had sent out colonists to practically every site recommended by the report of the expedition. Latter-day Saints were building their homes on several of the best sites within the next two or three years. Only six months had passed after the return of Pratt's company before Brother Brigham and his counselors had made definite arrangements to establish a colony in Little Salt Lake Valley on Center Creek (Parowan). A year later the Valley was selected as the site upon which to build Fillmore, the first capital city of the Territory of Utah.2

Parowan was founded on January 13, 1851, Fillmore on October 28, 1851, Cedar City, November 11, 1851, Beaver was established February 6, 1856, Meadow in the spring of 1857, Kanosh in 1859, and Saint George, December 4, 1861.3 Over the course of years the inhabitants of these communities and others traversed the Cove Creek region in pursuit of their individual enterprises. Some few of them actually settled in the area drawn by the interests of stock raising, farming, sulphur mining or main-

1Ibid., pp. 41-49.
2Ibid., p. 51.
3Ibid., pp. 377-78.
tenance of a fort with its related services.

An examination of the circumstances attending the founding of Parowan gives us considerable insight into the conditions to be found at an early campsite on Cove Creek. President George A. Smith was selected by Brigham Young in October of 1850, to organize the efforts of one hundred men in establishing the Iron County Mission. Subsequently these men founded a community at the site of present day Parowan. On January 4, 1851, while enroute to their assigned task, the members of the Mission made their camp on a small stream in a valley resembling a cove:

After traveling three miles or less up this pass the company reached the summit of a mountain, at a certain place in ascending this pass or canyon some of the wagons had to be drawn up with ropes. Continuing the journey the company traveled two miles down hill from the summit last mentioned which brought them to a small creek in a little valley resembling a cove.

January 5th: The Iron County Mission remained in camp on Cove Creek. At 12 o'clock, noon, the Saints assembled in the coral for public worship and President George A. Smith delivered an excellent, practicable discourse to the Saints, in regard to their duties under the circumstances then surrounding them. He cautioned the brethren to be very careful in handling their fire arms and ammunition in order to avoid accident and preserve life and limb. Robert Wiley was chosen chorister to preside over the singers of the Iron County Mission. This was the first public meeting held in the camp. In the evening the brethren assembled around the camp fire and spent a couple of hours together, singing and conversing.

January 6th: An ox belonging to Jacob Hofheins had been killed during the night and nearly eaten up by the wolves. A number of animals were lame their feet having been worn out by slipping on the snow. At 9:30 a.m. the camp commenced rolling out.

The label of "Cove Creek", which was placed on the principal stream in the valley by this company, became the name that has continued to

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1"Journal History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," Church Historian’s Office, Salt Lake City, Utah, January 4-6, 1851. Cited hereafter as "Journal History."
identify the creek and general area to the present.

Apostle George A. Smith frequently camped at Cove Creek over a succession of years while traveling the southern route in the pre-Cove Fort era. He could be labeled as a prototype of the many travelers who stopped at the Cove Creek mid-point in the formative years of exploration and settlement.

On January 17, 1856, Apostle Smith started from Fillmore for Iron County, in the company of Hector C. Haight, Jesse N. Smith, and about 35 others. They camped at Cove Creek and built a large fire under the shade of the cedar trees.\(^1\) George A. Smith again spent the night on Cove Creek in August of 1857, after having delivered some special orders from General Daniel H. Wells to Major McCullough in Fillmore.\(^2\) Interestingly, he and Jesse N. Smith camped at the Creek on August 25, 1857, with the ill-fated Arkansas or Mountain Meadow Massacre company.\(^3\) President Smith visited Cove Creek on August 20, 1858, where he met and stayed the night with James McKnight and William H. Dame who had with them four wagons containing apparatus for a printing office.\(^4\) While on their way to Beaver Nelson Bartholomew, a Bro. Birch, Erastus Snow and George A. Smith ate their noon meal at Cove Creek on February 3, 1866. "Bro. Birch furnished the oysters and Erastus Snow made soup. They reached Beaver after a tedious ride of 15 hours at 9 p.m. in the evening."\(^5\)

\(^1\)Ibid., January 17, 1856.
\(^2\)Ibid., August 6, 1857.
\(^3\)Ibid., August 31, 1857.
\(^4\)Ibid., August 20, 1858.
\(^5\)Ibid., February 8, 1866.
In effect George A. Smith represents the numerous hosts of wayfarers who followed the lines of communication through this strategic junction. He is but one of the innumerable individuals who counted a refreshing stop or an over-night encampment on Cove Creek as a natural sequence of travel on that major artery.

**Brigham Young Visits Cove Creek.**—Brigham Young was very familiar with the terrain comprising the Cove Creek region. His frequent tours of the settlements often caused him to travel through the area enroute to the southern reaches of the territory.

President Young left Salt Lake City on April 22, 1851, to visit the southern settlements. Among those accompanying him on the journey were his counselor Heber C. Kimball, his clerk Thomas Bullock, and at least four apostles. They traveled to Utah Valley and then on into Juab Valley. From here they crossed the mountains into Sanpete Valley and continued on to the Sevier Valley. They again crossed over the mountains to the Little Salt Lake Valley and visited the colony settled by George A. Smith. While there Brigham Young named the community Parowan. He spent four days exploring the general region and then commenced his return to Salt Lake City. On the way north he followed the same route as that of Parley P. Pratt's Southern Exploration Company.\(^1\) This course took the President's party through the Cove Creek district and afforded Brigham Young an opportunity to survey its resources.

Solomon Nunes Carvalho, formerly with Colonel John Charles Fremont as artist on his fifth expedition west, was traveling from Salt Lake to California in May 1854. He was invited to join Brigham Young's

\(^1\)Hunter, *Brigham Young the Colonizer*, pp. 53-54.
company as the President was again making an annual trip to the south. On May 15th they camped at Corn Creek (the present site of Kanosh). Carvalho gives us an insight into the nature of this region when he describes, "...The whole country in this neighborhood is of volcanic origin. Black cinders abound on the mountains, and a kind of grey pumice stone is found in the valleys. Sulphur in large quantities lies on the open ground in the ravines. ..."¹ The following day Carvalho, in company with the Utah Indian Chief Wakara and several Mormons, made a side trip to visit a natural phenomenon near Corn Creek defined by Wakara as, "...a most extraordinary vinegar lake, where all bad spirits dwell; a place where a living animal never was seen, and near which there was no vegetation. ..."² Carvalho thought the lake to be of volcanic origin and characterizes the heavy smell of sulphuric gases that permeated the air.

The volcanic condition of the general area is of special significance in an examination of the erection of Cove Fort as the formations of volcanic rock which crop out further south in the Cove Creek region provided much of the material used in the construction of the fort walls in 1867.

After seeing the unusual spectacle of the sulphurous lake the exploratory party rejoined the main caravan which had continued the line of march and were enjoying their noon camp, (probably at or near Cove Creek). The company resumed their movement about one o'clock and,


²Ibid., p. 269.
"...after a gentle ascent through a beautiful pass in the mountains we emerged into a large and fertile valley called Beaver Valley. We camped on Beaver River, thirty miles from Corn Creek. . . ."\(^1\)

From the journal of Daniel Mackintosh we learn some of the particulars connected with Brigham Young's tour in 1855, when the Mormon leader went as far south as Cedar City in his visits to the Saints. Of special interest is the association which President Young shared on this trip with Kanosh, Chief of the Pahvant Indians:

May 16th: Started at 7 1-2 a.m. [7:30 a.m.]: arrived Meadow Creek at 9 1-2, and at 11 1-4 [11:15], having traveled several miles to the left of the main road, we reached the settlement of the Pahvant Indians; went into Kosnoshe's house, and found him quite friendly, as were also his band—a number of whom, with Kosnoshe, concluded to accompany the camp. Nooned at Black Rock Point; left there at 2 1-2, and camped on Cove Creek. The water was scant, and 1 1-2 miles above the camp—where it sank.

May 17th: Left Cove creek at 5 1-2 a.m. On Pine creek, at 9, met a company from California with 8 wagons, with mule teams, laden with groceries. One p.m., camped on Beaver river. Kosnoshe was sick today, but Dr. Sprague gave him some pills, and he is recovering. The brethren gathered with the natives round a cheerful fire, whilst the hymn was sung, "Oh stop and tell me red man."—with other appropriate songs. Kosnoshe, when informed of who we sang replied, "good," and felt much pleased. . . .\(^2\)

Chief Kosnoshe was a familiar figure to those who later inhabited the Cove Creek region. His friendliness toward the Mormon people and periodic intervention on their behalf was a decided asset in averting certain of the Indian depredations which plagued other regions where a staunch advocate of peace was not to be found.

In May, 1861, President Brigham Young and party again stopped at Cove Creek on their way to St. George. From a roster of those who were

\(^1\)Ibid., p. 271.

\(^2\)Deseret News, May 30, 1855, p. 93.
in the company we get some insight into the make-up of such excursion parties and a better understanding of those who were familiarising themselves with the region. With President Young on the occasion were President Daniel H. Wells, Elders Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor and George A. Smith; Bishop Hunter, Mayor A. O. Smoot, General G. D. Grant, Professor Carrington, Surveyor-General Fox, Commissioner McKean, Sheriff Burton, and several other citizens of distinction. They encamped for the evening on Cove Creek where they witnessed the physical facilities which had been erected by Charles William Willden and his family at the site of their ranch.\(^1\) The Willden's had constructed dwellings and a stockade while living on Cove Creek in the years 1860-65.\(^2\) During this period of occupancy the area was referred to not only by the title of "Cove Creek" but was also identified by the name "Fort Willden."

May, 1863, again found President Young on Cove Creek. He was accompanied by such notables as Heber C. Kimball, Orson Hyde and Lorenzo Snow. Incidents of travel occurring to Brigham Young's party were forwarded to the editor of the Deseret News by L. O. Littlefield from Kanarraville. On May 3, 1863, Littlefield gives a very graphic description of the terrain lying south of Cove Creek:

Dear Sir:—At half past six o'clock a.m. on Thursday last we left Fillmore and about five miles out, were over taken by the express from the city—a distance of 160 miles—which they had traveled in about twenty-two hours. On arriving at Corn Creek Settlement the express returned. We

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\(^1\)Ibid., June 12, 1861, p. 116.

nooned an hour-and-a-half at Cove Creek and then traveled on, over hills and through deep defiles: through deep forests of cedar, interspersed with pinion pines; through now and then a pleasant little valley, where babbling brooklets rippled to slake the thirst of the traveler or that of the lowing herds which grazed along their green margins; and at six o'clock p.m. we arrived at Beaver, making sixty-four miles travel that day.1

It becomes evident to the inquirer that when the urgency of the Indian situation prompted Brigham Young to establish a permanent fortification at Cove Creek in 1867 his selection of the site was born of a first-hand knowledge of the topography and strategic location of the area on the principal paths of communication. He had no need to rely on the descriptions of others to detail the confines of that tract as he had explored its length and breadth in person during his numerous excursions to the south.

At the instigation of President Young a substantial rock fort was raised a short distance from the former Willden holdings. The structure was erected under the direct supervision of Ira Nathaniel Hinckley. The construction was referred to as "Cove Creek Fort" or "Cove Fort." The latter name, "Cove Fort", has been retained to the present time.

A succession of individuals have operated or utilized the Cove Fort facilities over the intervening years since its establishment. For approximately sixty-two years the property has been maintained by the Kesler family. William Henry Kesler leased the land from the L.D.S. Church in 1903, and eventually purchased the entire site on August 19, 1919.2 The site is currently owned by Otto Kesler, son of William

1Deseret News, May 14, 1863, p. 368.

2Millard County Courthouse, Fillmore, Utah, Deed Record Book No. 2, pp. 510-511.
H. Kesler.

Today, 1966, the importance of Cove Fort as the juncture of major arteries has in no way lessened from that of the aboriginal or pioneer periods. U.S. Highway 91 from Salt Lake City and Utah State Highway 13 through Clear Creek Canyon intersect at that point. The Utah State Road Commission has recently constructed a leg of the new Interstate Highway 15 about two miles west of Cove Fort while the new east-west Interstate Highway 70, linking Denver and Los Angeles by way of Richfield, is slated to pass within three-fourths of a mile to the south. These two vital highways will intersect at an interchange a short distance southwest of the Fort.
CHAPTER II

FORT WILLDEN—FORERUNNER

Fort Willden. — No complete examination of the circumstances surrounding the Cove Creek area and the erection of Cove Fort can be accomplished without first investigating the construction and occupancy of Fort Willden, 1860–65. This ranch-fort was built by the Charles William Willden, Sr. family in the years just prior to the formation of Cove Fort in 1867. They operated a facility which provided an important measure of safety in the interim years when no other protection was afforded the traveler on his sojourn through this mid-point.

The services of the Willden family in creating a refuge for the numerous wayfarers who passed through the Cove Creek region during the very critical years, 1860–65, have gone largely unheralded. It is imperative that they receive the recognition which they rightly merit for maintaining this vital post during an era of need.

Charles William Willden Sr. Visits Cove Creek. — Before his arrival in America and the Territory of Utah, Charles William Willden Sr. had been employed in the steel mills at Sheffield, Yorkshire, England. He was a refiner of steel by trade. Because of his valuable abilities, Brigham Young specifically called him to assist in the ironworks which had been partially established at Coal Creek [Cedar City] in the southern extremities of the Territory. Subsequently he and his family left Salt Lake City on October 11, 1852, enroute to their new home. In the course
of their travel they were obliged to spend one night at Cove Creek. As Charles looked over the valley he noted that it would be a lovely place to settle. However, such contemplations were necessarily shelved with the resumption of their assigned journey south the next day. They arrived at Coal Creek settlement on October 29, 1852.\(^1\)

While living in Coal Creek or Cedar City the Willdens gained some very practical experience in the proper methods of constructing pioneer forts. They were participants in the erection of both the initial fort (100 yards square) and a larger fort (100 rods square) erected due to the population growth, 1853-54. The walls of the new and larger fort were made by the use of stone foundations and adobe.\(^2\) The means of construction learned here undoubtedly proved valuable to them in the completion of their later dwellings on Cove Creek where stone and adobe were again employed.

The complete failure of the iron industry at Cedar City in the latter 1850's caused the Willdens to move further north to the badlands or sinks southeast of Beaver, then called lower Beaver. They arrived at that location on Sunday, March 24, 1859. Charles Sr. and his four sons, Elliott, Charles Jr., John, and Fergus each took up 20 acres of land.\(^3\)

When the newly acquired land proved to be of poor quality, Charles Sr. purchased 160 acres of land on Cove Creek from Matthew McEwen of Beaver who had sheep on the Creek.\(^4\) On September 19, 1860,


\(^2\) Ibid., p. 15.

\(^3\) Ibid., p. 16.

\(^4\) Ibid., p. 17.
certain of the family moved to the place where their new home was to be built and started the construction process.\(^1\)

It is evident that only a part of the family participated in making improvements at Cove Creek in September of 1860 and that the bulk of the family was not brought to the site until March of the following year:

Cove Creek was well known to early pioneers as a favorite camping place for travelers, but no attempt was made to settle on the little creek until the fall of 1860 when Charles Willden and his son Elliott commenced to make improvements on the creek with the view of making homes. But Brother Willden did not move his family there until March 1861. For sometime afterwards the place was known as Fort Willden.\(^2\)

**Construction of Fort Willden.** ---During the fall of 1860 an adobe house was built on the south bank of Cove Creek. However, the doors and windows to the dwelling were not put in place until the following year, sometime in March 1861 or shortly thereafter. The house was enclosed with a corral and cedar post stockade. The posts forming the stockade were 8 to 10 feet high and placed side by side so that a solid wall was formed. Construction was discontinued at this point and after caching a supply of wheat for spring planting, the Willdens returned to Beaver for the winter.\(^3\)

That winter, 1860-61, a dugout was unexpectedly constructed at the site of Fort Willden when winter snows trapped Ann Jane Willden

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\(^2\)Hancock, "Biography of Charles Willden," p. 17.

\(^3\)Ibid., p. 17. A diagram of Fort Willden's physical layout appears in Figure 1, p. 22.
Fig. 1.—Diagram of Fort Willden's physical layout as taken from a pencil sketch by Otto Kesler, July 10, 1965.
Johnson, a daughter of Charles Willden, Sr., and her husband Neils Christian Johnson:

In February or March of the following spring, 1861, as Ann who had married at the age of 16 and her husband, Neils Johnson, were returning home from Salt Lake after a fruitless effort to find work, they were caught in a terrible snowstorm between Fillmore and Cove Creek. By the time they reached Cove Creek, Wild Cat Canyon between there and Beaver was blocked for wagon travel so they stopped at the house where they hung blankets and quilts at the doors and windows and built a fire in the fireplace. Even this did not keep out the cold so Ann and her husband made a dugout.

It wasn't long before they ran out of food and so found the wheat her father had cached and boiled it. For a change her husband ground some of the wheat between two stones and she strained it through her veil, using the coarse siftings to make some salt-rising bread.

After several days someone passing through on their way to Beaver noted their plight and told her parents. Charles and Eleanor loaded the wagon with the doors, windows, provisions and other necessities and moved to Cove Creek in March.

On April 24, 1861, in her cellar home Ann's first child, a girl, was born, her mother being the midwife. Little Henna Jane Johnson was the first child born at Cove Creek.\(^1\)

Shortly after the arrival of Charles and Eleanor in March 1861, Elliott and his wife Emma moved to Fort Willden and built themselves a two room house.\(^2\)

In an interview with Otto Kesler of Fillmore the writer has learned some interesting details regarding the layout, construction and the final disposition of the physical properties of Fort Willden. Otto first saw the site of Fort Willden on April 25, 1904, when he journeyed to Cove Creek from Beaver with his family. His father, William Henry Kesler, had leased Cove Fort and the surrounding acreage from the L.D.S. Church.

\(^1\)Ibid., p. 17. For a listing of the children born at Fort Willden and at Cove Fort see Appendix A.

\(^2\)Ibid., p. 17.
Although Fort Willden was badly deteriorated there were still important evidences of the old structure identifiable some forty years after its original construction.¹ Otto registered the following observations:

Fort Willden was about a block east of Cove Fort just a few feet west of the old cottonwood trees planted by the Wildens. There were once five trees but now only two remain and one of them is almost dead.

The old house was made of adobe and straw or mud and straw. It had a rock foundation and then the adobe and straw on top. The mounding and the roof were all gone. You could see where it had been. There were still some of the adobe, the old adobe, standing on the ends, but it was about all tumbled down. The doorways on the north and east were all gone. The windows which had originally been on all four sides were also gone. From the foundation I'd say the house was 35 feet long and maybe 25 feet wide, something like that, according to the old foundation there. It was divided into rooms, I'd say, four pretty good sized rooms. It was just kind of a big home made of adobe and then this big fort around it.

On the west of the house was a cellar lined with rock. The roof was formed with a ridge pole, tapered cedar posts running off of this and dirt piled on top of the posts. There were rock steps that went down from the east side and rock walls to the sides of the steps. The walls were all rocked up from the floor to the height of two feet above the level of the ground and the roof rested on them. The cellar was about 12 feet wide, 16 feet long and 8 feet in depth including the 2 feet that extended above ground.

The Fort was built of up-and-down cedar posts. I should judge that the enclosure would have been 150 feet square with the adobe house forming the southeast corner of the enclosure. When we arrived most of the old posts had been haggled off next to the ground and used for wood or something.

They had stables inside of the Fort. Judging by the rock floor the stable where they tied the horses was about 16 feet by 40 feet with a manger on the south side. They had laid flat rocks for the horses to stand on so that they didn't tramp holes in there. We had farmed that ground, did farm it for years and years and we've hauled lots of rocks off from that ground. Dozens and dozens

¹Otto Kasler, tape-recorded interview, February 1, 1964, of which a tape-recorded copy and a typewritten transcript are in the possession of this writer, p. 4. Cited hereafter as Otto Kasler, "Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964."
of loads of rocks were hauled off for years. Many of them were dumped into ditches to fill them up where they were cutting.¹

Save for an occasional rock, today's examiner, 1966, can find no evidence of the structure which once stood on this plot of ground. The writer asked Otto Kesler if there had been any indication of the two room house built by Elliott and his wife Emma. He replied, "If there was a second house or a foundation it was no longer to be seen when I went there with my father. All trace of it had disappeared. It may have been that the second house was just made of logs and when the logs were taken it would leave no trace of the house."² Details of the layout of Fort Williden are shown in the sketch on page 22 which is an adaptation from a drawing by Otto Kesler, July 10, 1965.

When Beaver County was created by a Legislative Act in 1866 the boundaries of said county were delineated as follows:

All that portion of the Territory bounded south by Iron County, west by Nevada, north by a line running due east and west through a point two miles due south from the south side of Fort Williden on Cove Creek and east by the range of mountains dividing Beaver and Pauvan valleys from the valley of the Sevier is hereby made and named Beaver County, with county seats at Beaver.³

J. F. Tolton, County Surveyor of Beaver county, was asked at a later time, about 1908, to establish the northern line of the county. He went to Elliott Williden in an attempt to fix the exact location of Fort Williden.⁴

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¹Ibid., pp. 7-9, 42; also, Otto Kesler, Interview, July 10, 1965.
Tolton was informed that:

"It was located some 500 feet East and 300 feet north of the South East Corner of the present structure [Cove Fort] on the South bank of Cove Creek. At that time a cottonwood tree still marked the site and yet exists, together with stubs of cedar posts which marked the boundaries of the stockade enclosure then existing."¹

**Occupants of Fort Willden.** --On the morning of May 20, 1861, President Brigham Young and company left Fillmore bound for their evening camp site at Cove Creek. After traveling thirty-five miles they reached their destination at 3:20 p.m. The biographer of the camp records the setting of the Willden holdings which they found at that place.

". . .There is at the ranch a corral, two houses, one dugout, and three families, including five men, who had sown nine acres of grain. An extensive range surrounds the ranch, and there is an abundance of sulphur in the vicinity. . . ."²

The three families spoken of in this account were the Charles William Sr. and Eleanor Willden, Elliott and Emma Jane Willden, and the Neils Christian and Ann Jane Willden Johnson families. In addition to the heads of these households the other two men mentioned were probably John and Feargus Willden, sons of Charles William Willden Sr.³

John Willden married Margaret McEwen of Beaver on June 3, 1862, and brought her to live at Fort Willden. The first two children of this couple, John Hyrum and Mary Mahala, were born there. John and his family probably lived in the dugout. Charles Sr. married a second wife, Sarah Smith, on March 19, 1864, under the plural wife concept exercised at that

¹Ibid.

²*Deseret News*, June 12, 1861, p. 116.

³Hancock, "Biography of Charles Willden," p. 17.
time by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She also came to occupy quarters at the fort.¹

**Significant Occurrences:**—The lonely outpost at Fort Willden provided an important margin of safety to people on the road. The inhabitants of the fort were likewise gladdened by the travelers who encamped at that location or merely stopped for a meal and a chance to water their stock. One can imagine the excitement engendered among the occupants by the visit of such an auspicious figure as President Brigham Young, particularly when accompanied by a large retinue of Church dignitaries. On September 8, 1862, President Young with Elders Lorenzo Snow, John Taylor, Ezra T. Benson and others stopped briefly at Fort Willden after a brisk journey from Corn Creek:

Bright and early on Saturday morning horses and mules were fed and harnessed, and the company were quite anxious to prosecute the journey before them. We merely halted long enough at Cove creek to give our animals time to indulge freely in the cool limpid stream which goes trickling along that way. This was quite a disappointment to Bro. Willden's family, all of who evidenced great anxiety to treat us to some fine looking goat meat, but as Pine creek, six miles a-head, had been selected for our midday eating, on we sped to that place where we found an abundance of grass and plenty of good water.²

Although the Willden's were disappointed that Brigham Young was not able to accept their hospitality and dine with them on the eighth they were recompensed on September 19th when upon his return from the south he did stop for dinner. President Young then continued north to Corn Creek where he preached a sermon in the evening.³

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²*Deseret News*, September 17, 1862, p. 96.

³"Journal History", September 18, 1862.
The region surrounding Cove Creek has not gone without some physical disturbances of notable proportion. The occupants of Fort Willden were witnesses to the effects of a series of earthquakes which extended for four days, January 23–26, 1865, creating considerable excitement to the householders:

**SHOCK OF EARTHQUAKES.**—By letter from brother Charles Willden, of Cove creek, Millard county, we have received the following items respecting shocks of earthquakes that have been felt in that neighborhood, of late:

On Monday morning, the 23d ult., we experienced quite a shaking from 1 o'clock till 7. There were four heavy shocks and eighteen light ones, the heaviest one occurring at the last named hour. The effects were that the bell in the clock rang, being struck by the hammer very rapidly; the crockery rattled and the tables and chairs got a terrible shaking.

Other shakes, of an apparently exhausted character, have visited us to-day, the 26th. All the shaking seems to arise in the west and travel eastwardly.

Similar effects have been experienced previously in this region of country, but they were neither so heavy or numerous as the present visitation. ¹

John's wife told of the young cottonwood trees swaying until their tops almost touched the ground. ²

**Evacuation of Fort Willden.**—The difficulties of a remote frontier existence manifest themselves in the extreme during the winter of 1864–65, for the Willden Family. The severity of the weather was marked by Fergus O'Connor Willden in a letter to the editor of the Deseret News on April 20, 1865, "...We have had a very hard winter. The deepest snow was 22 inches, on the morning of November 17, 1864...Quite a number of cows and calves have died here this year, also a great

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¹*Deseret News*, February 8, 1865, p. 149.

²Hancock, "Biography of Charles Willden," p. 18.
many sheep and a number of goats. . . ."¹

A large number of the Willden sheep died of the scab. ² Other external influences such as the increased hostilities of the red man to the immediate north, south and in the Sevier Valley to the east also had a decided effect. Indian depredations in the whole region had grown in volume due to conditions created by the Blackhawk war. These hostilities posed a very real threat to the continuation of the isolated ranch-­fort.

The writer has discovered only one account of a possible direct encounter with the Indians by the Fort's occupants. The date on which this experience occurred is not known but would surely have impressed the inhabitants with the dangers inherent to their location. Mrs. W. A. Ray, a daughter of Ira N. Hinckley, stated in 1923, that, "...It is said that Mrs. Willden narrowly escaped death one time when the Indians attacked the place, and was only saved when Kanosh was called. . . ."³

The hard winter and the discouragements of succeeding months finally prompted the removal of the families from Fort Willden to Beaver, Utah, in the fall of 1865. ⁴ The writer has not been able to obtain the exact date of their leaving; however, it would have been some time after July 12, 1865. On that date Charles Sr. contacted the Deseret News regarding the receipt of mail at the Fort. The comparative isolation of the Willdens gave additional importance to the safe arrival of mail and

¹Deseret News, May 3, 1865, p. 244. This article also contains a carefully observed table of snowfall by date and totals of amounts received at Fort Willden from October 24, 1864, to April 18, 1865. The figures were compiled by Feargus O'Connor Willden during this period.

²Hancock, "Biography of Charles Willden," p. 18.

³Deseret News, January 6, 1923, sec. 3, p. VI.

⁴Hancock, "Biography of Charles Willden," p. 18.
printed matter. Apparently some difficulty was experienced by the inhabitants in receiving postal items belonging to them. Charles Willden Sr. became exercised enough over this failure to address a special letter to the Deseret News decrying the, "HOLES IN THE MAIL SACKS":

SOUTHERN MAIL.---Mr. Charles Willden, Cove Creek, Millard county, July 14, writes that the News packages of June 21 and July 5 had not come to hand, and that letters and other mail matter for that place were also missing. He suggests that "HOLES IN THE MAIL SACKS" may partially account for the failure. Will postmasters and carriers see that Cove Creek is supplied with the mail matter that belongs to it? If Mr. Willden will learn who is at fault and inform us, we will help him remedy the evil.¹

The service performed by the Willden family in the construction of Fort Willden is one of importance. The facility which they created continued to afford an element of protection to the many travelers who were continually passing through that region even after their departure.

¹Deseret News, July 26, 1865, p. 341.
CHAPTER III

THE ERECTION OF COVE FORT

The Need for a Permanent Fortification.--Both as a deterrent and as a protection against actual hostilities by the redman, the Mormon pioneers made a decisive effort to erect forts and stockades about their settlements in the early Territorial period. The Walker War, 1853-54, and the Blackhawk War, 1865-68, gave continued emphasis to the necessity of an adequate system of defense. Fort Louise at Parowan, Fort Harmony, Fort Sanford (near Panguitch), Fort Kanarra, and Fort Cameron in Beaver County along with numerous other fortifications were erected as a result of the uncertainties arising out of these troublesome times.

President Brigham Young felt the safety existent in numbers and the importance of removing "temptation" from the path of the Indian:

Ever since the Saints dwelt in an Indian country, President Young has been very urgent in his counsels to the brethren for them to locate in good forts, where their wives and children would be safe, that being so much better than for men to go off by themselves twenty, fifty or one hundred miles, with no neighbors but the wolves and the Indians. To take such a course is to throw temptations into the way of the Indian. Jesus taught his disciples to pray to the Father to lead us not into temptation in the way of others, not even in the path of the poor degraded remnant of the house of Israel, that wanders through this land. The Lamanite is ignorant; he has been taught to fight and steal, and it is a sore temptation to have white men come into his country bringing with them just those things he covets most, without being strong enough to successfully defend them. Indians have enough sense to know that they cannot make much by attacking a strong body of men in a fort, the risk is too great, and the chances of success too small; but when they see a solitary family locate by themselves, with their horses, sheep and cattle, they know that there
is an opportunity to run off the animals, steal what they want; and, if they are very angry, destroy the family. In just such a way have many Indian wars commenced, which would never have taken place if the white settler had been prudent and watchful, and not placed temptations in the way of the Indians, which they had not moral understanding enough to resist.1

As communities were established south from Salt Lake City travelers found increasing safety from the perils of the road by planning their day's journey from one town to the next. However, that stretch of road between Fillmore and Beaver created problems for the wayfarer. The distance was sixty miles, a long sojourn under ideal conditions. If the roads were clogged with mud or winter snows the travelers seldom had a choice but, "...to camp in the snow or hide in the cedars to avoid nocturnal visits from unwelcome strangers."2

Although the settlement of Kanosh in 1859, lessened the distance from one point of safety to another the traveler often found himself having to encamp without the benefit of a stockade. There was a definite need for a facility to provide accommodations for the many travelers going to or coming from northern Utah, Sevier country, "Dixie," Nevada or southern California.

Cove Creek was the natural site for a night's encampment. It marked the mid-point between principal communities, Fillmore being 35 miles north and the settlement of Beaver 25 miles to the south. It afforded both water and ample feed, in season, for livestock. All travelers stopped at the creek for water, if only momentarily, since there was no


other place between there and Kanosh to the north and only the tiny stream of Pine Creek between Cove Creek and Beaver to the south.

Unfortunately the Creek itself could not provide sufficient water for the needs of an entire community or it undoubtedly would have become an ideal location for settlement. The Charles W. Willden family did find the supply of water adequate for them to establish a ranch-fort there, however. During their stay on Cove Creek, 1866-65, an important element of safety was provided the traveler in the substantial stockade which the family constructed. However, with the abandonment of Fort Willden in the fall of 1865, the necessity of a more permanent fortification at that vital juncture became imperative. The geographic condition which made the Cove Creek area a favorite overnight campsite for the freighters and stage-coach travel of the times also made it a rendezvous for wandering tribes of Indians, some of whom were very hostile and were creating a great deal of trouble in the valleys to the east.¹

Evidence of an awareness of Cove Creek's strategic importance on the part of the territorial officials is manifest in the text of a letter written by General Daniel H. Wells from Headquarters, Nauvoo Legion, Adjutant Generals Office, Great Salt Lake City on June 1, 1866, to Brigadier General Erastus Snow in St. George. General Wells expresses his concern that Cove Creek and certain other stations be maintained as much needed links in the program of defense against the marauding Indians participating in the Blackhawk uprising:

...If the brethren of the settlements on the Muddy build good and sufficient forts and otherwise take energetic measures to protect themselves and property, it would not be objectionable for them to remain, at least at the most of those respective places. It is also deemed advisable to keep up the points of course upon the same conditions, upon the usual line of travel through Iron County and Beaver County including Cove Creek, if that place is within your district, which I at the present writing do not remember, but rather think it is in Beaver County. Of course this arrangement will still continue the settlements if so protected, of Cove Creek, Beaver, Paragoonah [sic], Parowan, Cedar, Kanarra, Harmony, Toquerville, Harrisburg, Washington City, St. George, Fort Clara and probably some other places which might be necessary, where they could be well protected. ...1

A concern for the maintenance of facilities at Cove Creek was not prompted wholly by the desire for the protection of the traveler or as a settling element in the midst of Indian difficulties. It was also necessary that a degree of safety from hostiles and the severities of the weather be extended to the carriers of the U.S. Mail, operators of the Deseret Telegraph, agents of the stagecoach line, and freighters who sought the refuge and convenience of that place in the performance of their services.

Among the purposes stated for the erection of a fort on Cove Creek it would be well to examine briefly a charge levied by the Omaha Herald. That newspaper thought that they had uncovered an ulterior motive for the construction of the Fort when word of its existence reached their office, ",. . .The Mormons are preparing to defend themselves against the enforcement of the laws, and are constructing a large and strong fort near Cove Creek. . . ."2 The Mormon reply to the Herald's accusations bears a dis-

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1 "Journal History", June 1, 1866.

2 Ibid., May 26, 1866.
tinct note of disdain for that paper's failure to acquaint themselves with the actual circumstances. The Deseret retorted:

Dew Tell! What a mare's nest the Herald man has found! And the "Mormons" are actually building a fort? and it's nigh in the middle of Utah, too, at Cove Creek. Can't believe it is in an isolated position, and only erected to protect the telegraph operators from marauding Indians. Nobody can be gulled by that now-a-days- Oh, no; there's treason in it, and defiance of laws, and--one family who keep the telegraph station. Hark ye, friend Herald, several "Mormons" went down east this Spring' better watch them well, or they'll "wipe out" the Missouri river, and leave Omaha high and dry far from a river's banks. They're terrible folks!  

The Site of Cove Fort is Acquired by the L.D.S. Church.--The general location of the Cove Creek site was given by Andrew Jenson in a "Descriptive" of the Fort:

It is situated on Cove Creek in Millard County, Utah, near the boundary line between Millard and Beaver Counties. The fort stands on the south slope of a hill or ridge and is 5950 ft. above the level of the sea. It is 25 miles north of Beaver, 60 miles north of Parowan and 69 miles northeast by nearest road from St. George, 35 miles southwest of Fillmore, 38 miles southwest (by way of Clear Creek Canyon of Richfield), 30 miles northeast of Milford, the nearest railway station and 185 miles south of Salt Lake City.  

Matthew McEwen of Beaver was apparently the first holder of the property which later encompassed the site of Cove Fort. In 1859-60, he sold his 160 acre holding of Cove Creek to Charles William Willden. The L.D.S. Church then purchased the property in about 1867. Of these

1"Journal History," May 26, 1868.
2L.D.S. Church Historian's Library, Millard Stake, Wards A-G MSS file. Salt Lake City, Utah.
3Jennie Hancock, "Biography of Charles Willden," p. 17.
4L.D.S. Church Historian's Library, Millard Stake, Wards A-G MSS file. Salt Lake City, Utah.
early transactions the writer can find no written record. The first recorded deeds pertaining to that parcel of land omit any mention of McEwen or Willden and make the transfer of property from the United States of America, by the President, U.S. Grant. By D. D. Cone, Secretary, S. W. Clark, Recorder of the General Land Office, to Solomon A. Wixom, acting for the Territory of Utah. The deed was dated August 15, 1868, but was not recorded until March 13, 1893. Solomon A. Wixom in turn conveyed the land to Brigham Young:

Solomon A. Wixom,  

WARRANTY DEED.  

-TO-  

Brigham Young.  


Dated Sept. 6, 1875.  

Ack'd Sept. 6, 1875.  

Two witnesses. Seal.  

Recorded Sept. 6, 1900.  

CONVEYS AND CONFIRMS: All that certain piece or parcel of land known and described as follows, to-wit:  
The NW1/4 of the SW1/4 of Section 28, and the SE1/4 of the SE1/4 and the SW1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 29, Township 25 South, Range 6 West, containing 160 acres of land. Together with all appurtenances thereunto belonging.  

To this initial parcel of land other pieces were added over a series of years to form the property which was eventually conveyed by the L.D.S. Church to William Henry Kesler on August 21, 1919.  

Ira Nathaniel Hinckley Supervises Construction.--The necessity of placing a permanent fortification on Cove Creek prompted Brigham Young to purchase the required property and to select a person of ability to supervise the construction on that site. After contemplating the poten-

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1 Millard County Recorder's Office, Fillmore, Utah, Book "I", p. 269.  
3 Ibid., Book No. 7, pp. 510-11. See Appendix "G".
tial candidates President Young determined to obtain the services of Ira Nathaniel Hinckley who was then residing in Coalville, Utah Territory. The selection of this man was undoubtedly spurred by a knowledge of Ira's previously demonstrated skills in matters of construction.

In the spring of 1857, Brigham Young had called I. N. Hinckley to take charge of a company of men sent out by the "Y. X." Company [Young's Express Company]. These men were to guard the United States Mail from the Indians and to assist in building forts for that purpose. The fort stations were built about 25 miles apart. Ira acted as company blacksmith.¹ He personally took charge of the construction of a fort at Horseshoe Bend, thirty miles west of Fort Laramie.²

Ira was again called to guard the mail and telegraph lines in the spring of 1862. In this capacity he assisted in building the roads and stations along the route. Following his release on August 14, 1862, he received yet another call to superintend the building of the first meeting house in Coalville, Utah Territory.³ It was while living in that community that the following letter was delivered by special messenger on April 15, 1867:

President's Office
Great Salt Lake City
April 12, 1867

Elder Ira Hinckley

¹ Parnell Hinckley and others, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His Life," n.d., n.p., p. 5. A mimeographed copy is in the possession of this writer. Cited hereafter as Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His Life."
² Ibid., p. 6.
³ Ibid., pp. 6-8.
Dear Bro.:

We wish to get a good and suitable person to settle on and take charge of the Church Ranch at Cove Creek Millard County. Your name has been suggested for this position, as it is some distance from any other settlement, a man of sound practical judgment and experience is needed to fill the place. Cove Creek is on the main road to our Dixie, Pahranagat, & lower California, ~Some 42 miles south of Fillmore, and some 22 miles north of Beaver. If you think you can take this mission, you should endeavor to go with us. We expect to start a week from next Monday. It is not wisdom for you to take your family there until the fort is built, etc. There is a mail and telegraph station. Should you conclude to go, let us know by the bearer of this letter, and when you start, come with conveyance to accompany us.

Your Brother in the Gospel,

(Signed) Brigham Young.

P.S. The object of building a Fort at Cove Creek is to afford protection from Indians to the Telegraph & Mail Stations and to travelers who are almost constantly on the road. Also to furnish food and protection from bad weather to this latter class. There is farming and hay land plentifully, also herding facilities, good firewood in abundance, close by.\(^1\)

Although only a girl of seven, Luna Adell Hinckley remembered very clearly the arrival of the messenger with President Young's letter:

We were living in Coalville. Father was building and preparing for the permanent home of his families. He was a blacksmith by trade. On this day the messenger rode up to the front entrance, dismounted, let down the bars, led the horse inside, replaced the two bars, mounted his horse and rode up in front of father and passed him the letter. Father read it carefully and said to his assistant, 'Take the horse home and care for him!' and to the messenger, 'Come with me!' He was introduced to the family; a meal was prepared; he ate. The answer was ready and the messenger prepared to return. My father was a man of action -- not a

\(^1\)Brigham Young, *Letter Book No. 10, Church Business*, pp. 128-29, L.D.S. Church Historian's Library.
latter-writer. His answer was, 'Say to the President I
will be there on the appointed day with conveyance pre-
pared to go.'

So was one of life's programs changed in an hour.
Our thoughts of a permanent home in Coalville were given
up forever, and the thought of a home in a fort out on the
highway between settlements occupied our attention. . . . ¹

I.N. Hinckley left Coalville for Salt Lake on April 17, 1867,
to join President Young on his forthcoming trip south. Upon his arrival
in that city he found that a Bro. Crosley had also been called to assist
him in the fort building enterprise and would accompany the group on the
journey.² The company moved out from the City on Monday, April 22, 1867,
and reached Cove Creek on the eighth day of travel, Monday, April 29th.³
Both Ira and Bro. Crosley left their families behind to be brought to the
construction site as soon as proper accommodations could be arranged.

Bro. Hinckley's first concern at the location was to fix up the
existing facilities (Fort Willden) to house the workmen during the period
of construction. Commenting on this design and the early loss of Bro.
Crosley to the project Ira states:

We commenced by building a picket fort and repairing
old buildings (then standing on the ranch) to make a place
of shelter during the building of the Rock Fort.

On the Prests [President Young] return Bro. Crosby
[Crosley] got permission from him to return north for the
purpose of moving his family down here, but whilst away
got released from his mission.⁴

¹ Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His Life,"
p. 10.

² Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Letters to George A. Smith, March 27,
1869, written copy, Brigham Young University Library, Film 920, No. 9.
Cited hereafter as "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Letter to George A. Smith,
March 27, 1869";

³ "Journal History," April 29, 1867.

⁴ Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Letter to George A. Smith, March 27, 1869.
With the completion of the picket fort, Ira awaited the arrival of the promised workmen who were to help him in the erection of the structure.¹

Artisans Who Assisted in Building the Facility.--The assemblage of skilled artisans and workmen at the site of the contemplated fort was effected by Brigham Young through a request that an adequate number of men be supplied from the wards located in the communities of Beaver and Fillmore.² Among those responding to the call from these and other towns were, "... Hans Hanson, Horace Owens, Albert Shales, Nathan Baldwin, Christian Hanson, Allen Russell, Dorus and Orange Warner [This should be Orange Warner Sr. and Orange Warner Jr. rather than Dorus and Orange Warner according to a grandson, A. LeGrande Davies] ... .³

Arrangements were made with the workmen who came to the Fort which enabled them to receive tithing credit for their labors. Receipts were issued for the number of days worked and at a pay scale commensurate with their assessed abilities as craftsmen. The receipts were signed by Ira N. Hinckley as superintendent and clerk for the project. Among those who took advantage of this opportunity were the following individuals:

George W. Eldridge, September 11, 1867, 10 1/4 days work on Fort @ $2.50 per day, credits $26.25: John Dawson, September 13, 1867, 11 days work on Fort $2.50 per day, credits $27.50: Robert Brown, September 17, 1867, 13 days work @ $1.50 per day, credits $19.50: James

¹Ibid.

²Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Letter to George A. Smith, March 27, 1869.

Melville, October 7, 1867, 11 days work on Rock fort @ $3.00 per day, credits $33.00.¹

Still others who came to ply their respective trades were Nicholas Paul, his son William, J. D. Smith, and John Trimble.² Alexander Melville [father of James Andrew Melville], and George W. Larkin also lent their assistance in building the structure.³ A young man by the name of Josiah Call from Fillmore was reportedly killed at the lime kiln by Indians while working on the Fort.⁴ A Hutchins from Beaver also served as one of the masons.⁵ Arza Erastus Hinckley, brother of I. N. Hinckley, came from Salt Lake City in answer to Ira’s request for his services in the construction project.⁶

Charles W. Willden Sr. and some of his sons returned to their former ranch site, Fort Willden, from Beaver to work on the new fortification. They lived in their old home while doing so. Eleanor, the

¹Helen Hinckley Jones, Interview, January 26, 1966. The copies which Ira N. Hinckley made of the original receipts issued to these workmen are in the possession of Mrs. Jones.

²Old Cove Fort, Southern Utah, Pamphlet, pp. 4-5.

³Maud C. Melville, Interview, April 30, 1943. Interview conducted by Vida Cardon Adams. A typewritten copy of these notes is in the possession of the writer. Cited hereafter as "Maud C. Melville, Interview, April 30, 1943."

⁴A. LeGrande Davies and Mary Kesler Davies, Tape-recorded interview, February 1, 1965, of which a tape-recorded copy and a typewritten transcript are in the possession of this writer; p. 7 of the transcript. Cited hereafter as "A. LeGrande Davies and Mary Kesler Davies, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1965."

⁵Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, p. 28.

⁶Helen Hinckley Jones, Interview, January 26, 1966. Figure 2, p. 42, depicts Ira Nathaniel Hinckley and his brother Arza Erastus Hinckley. Both served as operators of Cove Fort.
Fig. 2.—Ira Nathaniel Hinckley and his brother Arza Erastus Hinckley.
wife of Charles Sr., cooked for some of the workmen. Among the Willden sons who returned was Feargus O'Connor. Of Feargus's labors his daughters state:

In 1867 father started for "Cove Creek" to work on the rock fort which is still standing and known as "Old Cove Fort." He worked 3-1/2 days at the lime kiln. On account of lime dust getting into his eyes, which resulted in them having to be taken care of, he returned home for a few days, much to the concern of the boss mason (Mr. Paul), who claimed that father could do the work of three men. Father returned to "Cove Creek" and began actual work on "Old Cove Fort" on August 5.

Feargus had participated only a short time before in the erection of another fort, Fort Sanford, north of Panquitch. He had been called on March 18, 1866, by J. R. Murdock to assist with its construction. The experience obtained at that site certainly made Feargus a distinct asset to the Cove Creek project.

Nicholas Paul, a Mormon convert from Capetown, South Africa, acted as head mason. He had been a builder in Africa. After his conversion he came to Utah and located in Holden. Nicholas did the masonry on many of the homes in Holden. A number of these homes still stand as evidence of his meticulous workmanship. He also worked on the old Salt Lake Theatre. The keystone arch above the east gate of Cove Fort displays his abilities as a stone mason. He was assisted on the arch and with a large portion of the trowling and facing of the rock on the Fort proper by his son William Paul. Nicholas later met an untimely death in the des-

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1 Hancock, "Biography of Charles Willden," p. 18.
2 Mary and Ruth Willden, "Biography of Feargus O'Connor Willden," pp. 11-12. The biography is in the possession of Ruth Willden, Beaver, Ut.
3 Ibid., p. 12.
4 Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, p. 27.
art to the west. He had two daughters who had married and were living in the west end of Snake Valley out in Burbank. He was going out to see them in his buggy and lost his way. When found, both he and his horse were dead. The horse had apparently choked to death. Nicholas had stayed with the buggy and likewise perished. His watch, ring, glasses, powder cup, song book and New Testament are all on display in the present day museum at Cove Fort.¹

Other workmen who helped with the masonry on the structure were J. D. Smith and John Trimble. J. D. Smith assisted in quarrying stone and tending mason. John Trimble also tended mason and obtained poles from the neighboring mountains for use as scaffolding.²

Orange Warner Sr. and his son, Orange Warner Jr., helped to produce the lime used in the masonry. These men were also shingle makers by trade.³ Christian Hanson was superintendent of carpenters at the Fort. He also supervised the building of the barn. Christian and his son, Hans C. Hanson, were on the woodwork.⁴

Meals for the laborers were prepared and served at the Willdan dwellings. Some of the workmen also found lodging there while others pitched their tents in the vicinity. A vegetable garden was planted on

¹A. LeGrande Davies and Mary Kesler Davies, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1965, pp. 6-7.
²Old Cove Fort, Southern Utah, Pamphlet, pp. 5, 6.
³A. LeGrande Davies and Mary Kesler Davies, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1965, p. 7.
⁴Maud C. Melville, Interview, November 1943. Interview conducted by Blondel Porter Smith. A typewritten copy is in the possession of the writer. Cited hereafter as "Maud C. Melville, Interview, November 1943."
Cove Creek to supply food for the workers. This garden gave rise to a humorous incident as related to Maud C. Melville by Hans C. Hanson who said that "The men who worked there liked good, practical jokes:"

The virgin soil produced vegetables of prodigious size. One summer evening when time hung heavy one of the boys, to fool a fellow worker, carved a candle from a gleaming white turnip, and set it on a saucer in his friends tent, just before he was ready for bed. The ruse was successful. The fellow tried to light the tail which had been left sticking up like a string.1

In October, 1867, I. N. Hinckley left the building site for a hurried trip to Coalville. There he secured his household belongings in two wagons and brought his first wife, Adelaide, and their family back with him to Cove Fort. He made arrangements while in the north for his plural wife, Angeline, who was expecting a baby, and their family, to remain in Salt Lake City until after the arrival of the new infant.2 Ira also made arrangements with his brother Arza Hinckley, whose home was in Salt Lake City, to take charge of the family interests in Coalville. Arza's response was in the affirmative and he and his family removed to that locality about October or November, 1867. They settled in Grass Creek, just a short distance from Coalville.3

At Cove Fort Adelaide and her daughters Eliza and Minerva commenced to cook for the builders. Church authorities and travelers also began to stop for her excellent meals and . . . "Adelaide's work for the next ten years had begun. She was hostess to everybody, workers and tra-

1Maud C. Melville, Interview, November 1943.
valers -- everybody. 1

Methods of construction and materials employed.--Within the com-
paratively short space of time which elapsed between April and November,
1867, the primary structure of Cove Fort was completed, "...the ground
was measured and staked, lava rock delivered on the ground, lime kilns
built, a shingle-mill established, and all necessary craftsmen employed
and directed. ..."2

All of the materials used in the construction of the Fort were
obtained within the general vicinity save for the metal work. The stones
employed in the walls were found inside of a three or four mile radius of
the construction site. These stones are a combination of siliceous
volcanic (Ryolite), volcanic ash, ryolitic slate, jasperoid, and a dark
limestone with calcite banding.3

The large lava rocks (ryolite slate) which are predominant in
the formation of each of the four corners of the Fort and scattered
throughout the walls were quarried one-half mile southwest of the struc-
ture. The writer has visited the quarry which is still readily dis-
tinguishable in an outcropping of lava near an existing windmill. The
pink stones (siliceous volcanic ryolite), which were used primarily in
the keystone arch, the tops of certain of the fireplaces, and in the


2 Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His
Life," p. 10. Figure 3, p. 47, depicts the external appearance of Cove
Fort as it looked shortly after the completion of the primary structure.

3 Rocks used in the construction of the Fort were identified for
the writer by a geologist, Harold V. Allen of Logan, Utah, from speci-
mens obtained in the area.
Fig. 3.—Cove Fort, Utah Territory, as it appeared about 1868-69.
the chimneys, came from a shelf approximately four miles to the east of the Fort.¹

Joe Kesler, son of Otto Kesler the owner of Cove Fort, took the writer to the site of the old kilns used in the preparation of lime for the mortar. The kilns are located about a mile-and-a-quarter northeast of the Fort. They are badly deteriorated, a good deal of earth has fallen in on them and covered up much of the rock used in forming the walls of the kilns. Adjacent to the kilns there is still considerable evidence of the lime which was burned.

Otto Kesler said that he and his sons, Joe and Calvin, had discovered a pit of lime which had been burned, slacked and then buried immediately behind the Fort on the west side:

It has been there ever since the Fort was built. Its not clear white, its a blue white, prettiest color you have ever seen. We dug into it once. As quickly as we hit it we stopped and just covered it up again. You see, they dug squares and put this slack right in and poured water over it and slacked it, and covered it up with dirt. . . . It gets hot and cooks. It becomes smooth so you can plaster with it, right smooth. Then you put sand with it.²

Otto thought that some of the lumber used in the Fort came from saw timber obtained in the Shingle Creek area twelve miles to the east of Cove Fort and south off of Clear Creek Canyon. The cedar posts were secured from the hills to the east.³ It is evident that some of the

¹Otto Kesler pointed out to the writer several of the geographical locations where materials were secured for the building of the Fort. Otto was acquainted with a number of the men who worked on the Fort and has had association with their posterity over a succession of years.

²Otto Kesler, Transcript of Recorded Interview, February 1, 1964, pp. 29-30.

³Old Cove Fort, Southern Utah, Pamphlet, p. 4.
lumber was acquired in the close proximity while still another portion was brought from a distance, ". . . All the doors, windows, frames and moldings were made by hand from rough lumber sawed at Beaver and freighted to the fort by team, a distance of 26 miles."¹

In a memorandum from the Beaver Ward Tithing Office, dated June 2, 1868, there appears a recapitulation of the amounts of materials disbursed by that Ward in support of the construction from its outset to December 31, 1867. It is evident from this sheet that a considerable amount of lumber was furnished from the Beaver Area. One item indicates that 10,794 feet of lumber at 5 cents per foot or $539.70, was sent to the site. The cost for hauling part of this lumber to Cove Fort was $136.09.²

The walls of the Fort are comprised primarily of black volcanic rock and dark limestone laid up in lime mortar. They form a square which is 100 feet on a side. These walls are 18 feet high from the level of the ground to the vertex.³ A 4 foot foundation, when added to the 18 feet appearing above ground, make a total of some 22 feet of wall. In thickness, they narrow from 4 feet at the base to 2 feet at the top.

Calvin Kesler, while installing a water pipe through the north wall, dug down 4 feet from the surface of the ground and discovered that the foundation still extended slightly below that depth. As he cut into the wall he went through 1 foot of solid rock and then hit an inner core of loose rock measuring 2 feet in thickness. Proceeding on, he again hit

¹Old Cove Fort, Southern Utah, Pamphlet, p. 4.
²Beaver Ward Tithing memorandum, June 2, 1868. This memorandum is in the possession of Helen Hinckley Jones. See Appendix "C."
³Ira N. Hinckley, Letter to George A. Smith, March 27, 1869. See Figure 4, p. 50, for a diagram of Cove Fort.
Fig. 4.—A diagram of Cove Fort from a pencil drawing by Otto Kesler, July 10, 1965.
a 1 foot thickness of solid rock which forms the inner wall.¹

The height of the walls and the close-fitting masonry would have made it difficult for an assailant to scale the sides of the fort without some means of assistance. However, Otto made an interesting observation on this matter, "When I was a kid I climbed up the southwest corner many times. I'd just put my toes in the cracks and climb right up. Yes, that's the only one I could climb though."²

The writer counted a total of 25 loopholes in the fort walls through which the defenders could fire if attacked by hostiles. On the north there are 5 loopholes along the top of the wall. At the west are 9 loopholes in all, 5 along the top, 2 additional loopholes 17 feet out from the rear gate on either side at a height of 6 feet 7 inches up from the level of the ground, and 2 loopholes immediately on either side of the back gate, in the gate alcove, some 5 feet up from the door step. On the south there are 5 loopholes along the top of the wall. The loopholes on the east are situated with 5 along the top and two immediately on either side of the main gates, in the gate alcove, and at a height of 6 feet 6 inches from the ground.

On the north and south sides of the fort the loopholes at the tops of the walls could be utilised by the defenders were they to lie or kneel down on the sloping roofs of the rooms which had been built against the walls. Ella Hinckley, an occupant of the fort, 1877–82, indicated that there used to be a runway along the roofs on either side, but that

¹Calvin Kasler, Interview, July 10, 1965.
²Otto Kasler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, p. 27.
they had since disappeared.¹

On the east and west sides it was necessary to construct two sets of runways along the interior wall. One runway, placed high on the wall, gave a sentinel easy access to the loopholes at the top. The other runway was elevated some 3 feet above the level of the ground for the convenience of those who might use the lower loopholes. The wooden studs which support the upper runways were embedded right in the rock and mortar during the construction process.

Ella Hinckley also stated that at the time of her being at the Fort there was a stairway, beginning not far from the entrance to the first room on the northeast, which led up to the runway on the west side.² Otto Kasler told the writer that these were the only steps leading from the courtyard to positions anywhere on the walls. The steps sloped from the northeast corner of the courtyard toward the top of the arch over the main gate. They were still in place when he went there in 1904.³

There are two entrances to the Fort, a large gate on the east and a smaller one on the west. The gates and alcoves were described in detail by the supervisor of construction, Ira N. Hinckley:

On the east side is a gateway 14 feet square with a good substantial arch set-off inside 6 feet deep and 3 feet thick. . . On the west side is a small gateway 8 feet by 4, with a projection gateway inside 10/2 [10 1/2] feet

¹Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945. The interview was conducted by Blondel Porter Smith. Cited hereafter as "Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945."

²Ibid.

³Otto Kasler, Interview, July 10, 1965. See Figure 4, p. 50, for the positioning of the stairs.
Wide 12/2 [12 1/2] feet high and 2 1/2 feet deep. Both gateways are supplied with wooden gates 8 inches thick, and hung with strong serviceable hinges.¹

The preponderous front gates are secured by 3 hinges on each door while the rear gate has two heavy duty hinges holding its single door. A bar is used to secure the main gate and the small gate on the west can be locked and bolted.

Both gates are constructed of wood. The frames have been made of heavy timbers with planks nailed on either side of the uprights. The space between the planks was originally filled with sand as an added protection against the weapons of would-be attackers. Ella Hinckley made an interesting observation relative to the materials placed between the planks in the gate, "We learned early that sand was too heavy and replaced it with cotton, because cotton would stop bullets. Then even the cotton was taken out."² The writer has been unable to find similar mention of this elsewhere in his research.

Otto Kesler indicated that the main gate was of sufficient size to allow a large wagon to come into the Fort, "Yes, I've seen six horses and two wagons drive in at a time and park right there over night in the courtyard."³

The archway above the gate on the east is referred to as a "keystone" arch. The facing is made of a "pink" stone identified as a siliceous volcanic rhyolite.⁴ Nicholas Paul, the designer of the arch, placed

¹Ira N. Hinckley, Letter to George A. Smith, March 27, 1869.
²Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.
³Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, p. 27.
⁴Harold V. Allen, Logan, Utah, geologist.
a stone plaque on the archway above the gate inscribed with the words,
"Cove Creek Ranch Fort Erected 1867."\(^1\)

Mary Kesler Davies, who operates the Fort's facilities for the Kas-ler family as a tourist attraction, mentioned that this particular arch is structurally unique:

A lot of people recognize that arch as having something to do with Africa. It resembles a type of architecture found in Africa. Nicholas Paul, who was over that archway, was a convert from Africa. He came from Capetown. They recognize the arch when they see it. That's the way they make their bridges. I've had dozens of people tell me this. People who have been there. We've had people from Capetown and Johannesburg there at the same time. They weren't traveling together, just happened to be there at the same time.\(^2\)

Ella Hinckley described the rooms which were constructed for the Fort's inhabitants in the following terms:

...The Fort also contains 12 rooms 6 on the North and 6 on the South Side. Ten of which are 16 by 14 feet and two 16 by 17 feet. Height from floor to ceiling being 9 feet 6 inches. One chimney to each room 3 feet wide and 2 thick, standing 6 feet above the Fort walls. Sleepers for floors of said rooms being of hewn timbers. Ridge timbers and rafters being of suitable poles. Roofed with good shaved shingles.

The whole of the rooms contain unpennel'd doors with casing and moulding.

Also sixteen 15 light-windows 10 by 12 glass with pen-nel'd casing and moulding.\(^3\)

On both the north and the south sides, the two center rooms are not closed off from each other. There is no door separating them although a beam and side columns form an archway which distinctly ident-

\(^{1}\)Otto Kesler, Interview, July 10, 1965.

\(^{2}\)A. LeGrande Davies and Mary Kesler Davies, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1965, p. 6.

\(^{3}\)Ira N. Hinckley, Letter to George A. Smith, March 27, 1869.
ify the measurements of each room. Commenting on the two south rooms
Otto Kesler stated:

These were the amusement rooms or assembly hall. There's
no rock wall or doors between them, just an archway.
Years ago, after my folks came here, they took and made a
door on one side of the post, there's a post in there, the
arch, there's a square arch, with a big timber running a-
cross that holds the rocks from the ceiling. This big
square timber comes down, and on this side my folks built a
door. Then they had a linen closet built on this side and
on the other side a fruit cupboard. But now since we've
restored it, we've put it back in its natural state. Just
the big post is there in the middle, so it's just double
rooms. I suppose they held their meetings there when they
had a gathering.

Frames for both the doors and windows were fastened in with wooden
pegs rather than with nails. Certain of these pegs are plainly vis-
able to the inquirer. Hand-shaved pine shingles, rough but serviceable,
were hewn and used to cover the roofs which sloped inwardly from the
walls.

A visitor to the Fort who was a native of Wales made an enlight-
ening observation relative to the overall architecture of the living
quarters:

If you would take this end wall out and that end wall
out you would have a little village in Wales. Those win-
dows, the woodwork, the way the woodworks put in, and those
chimneys, I have never seen chimneys like that anywhere
but in Wales. They all join one onto another and their
windows are all set just like these windows are. Welsh
people helped build this.

A cellar was dug beneath the floor of the end room on the south-
west. This excavation was approximately 6 feet deep and 8' x 8' square.

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1 Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964.
See Figure 4, p. 50, rooms 09 and 10.

2 A. LeGrande Davies and Mary Kesler Davies, Transcript of recorded
interview, February 1, 1965, p. 5.
It had not been rocked-up. Entrance to the cellar was gained through a 3' x 3' wooden trap door in the floor of the southwest room. A ladder, nailed to the joist, extended down to the cellar floor.\textsuperscript{1} William H. Kesler, in 1903, found some worn out planes and other tools in this cellar which had been left by a former occupant.\textsuperscript{2}

A liberty pole [flag pole] was set up in the middle of the archway over the main gate. On this pole a \$35.00 flag of the United States was raised.\textsuperscript{3} The impressiveness of this scene to one traveler is recounted in the words of Mrs. Thomas L. Kane as she departed from the Fort in 1874, "Looking back on the fort, I watched the U.S. flag waving us farewell, until it was no larger than a carnation flower, the loveliest possible bit of color to my homesick eyes."\textsuperscript{4} The liberty pole is the original one although it has been spliced and repaired with new materials by Calvin Kesler.

The builders also acquired a bell which was hung above the east gate. It was intended that it be used in times of trouble, but was actually employed only to call people to dinner. The bell which you see at the Fort today is not the initial bell. The bell that is currently on display once belonged to Johnston's Army at Camp Floyd. It was stolen from the camp on a dare and eventually transported to Leeds, Utah. Will-

\begin{flushend}
\textsuperscript{1}Otto Kesler, Interview, July 10, 1965. See Figure 4, p. 50., room \#7.

\textsuperscript{2}A. LeGrande Davies and Mary Kesler Davies, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1965, pp. 9-10.

\textsuperscript{3}L.D.S. Church Historian's Library, Millard Stake, Wards A-G MSS file. Salt Lake City, Utah.

Iam H. Kesler learned of the bell and its interesting history at a later date and affected a trade with a Bishop McMullin for a newer bell which he, Kesler, had just purchased.¹

The ready availability of a water source within the confines of the Fort walls was of prime importance to the builders. A. Milton Musser, Superintendent of the Deseret State Telegraph line, visited the Fort in December, 1867. He indicated at that time that, "They hope to find water inside the Fort and have dug thirty feet already for it."² However, that they were unsuccessful in their attempts to find water is attested to by Mrs. Thomas L. Kane from an observation made during an overnight's stay some seven years later in the winter of 1874:

Two wells had been dug each one hundred feet deep but without striking water. It seemed to me a foolish thing to build a fort where a besieged garrison would suffer so much from want of water. But I was answered, when I hinted this, that the fort was only meant to defend travelers and the family of the ranch against Indian forays. It was too far from any settlement for a single family to be safe in the open country and there was too little water for irrigation to warrant the placing of a settlement.³

Otto Kesler identified the location of one of these 100 foot wells as being in the northwest corner of the courtyard, just off the door of the end room. He stated that the old well hole, though filled, would sink in whenever a lot of rain fell. Otto also indicated that still another well was attempted 3/4 mile south of the Fort, but to no avail. The well had originally been dug to a depth of 50 feet but when he saw

¹A. LeGrande Davies and Mary Kesler Davies, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1965, pp. 1-3.
²"Journal History", January 2, 1868.
the hole it had caved in and was only 25-35 feet deep.\(^1\)

The necessity of fresh water prompted the occupants to divert a portion of Cove Creek, which ran to the east of the Fort, so that it would come through the structure. For this purpose a ditch was dug to direct the flow. The water followed a course which took it right under the main gate, into a deep hole or cistern in the center of the courtyard, out the far end of this cistern or "well", under the west gate, and it finally emptied into a pond immediately behind the Fort where it was used for the watering of stock.\(^2\)

This original "well" in the courtyard should not be confused with either the cistern, which was put in by William H. Kesler in 1912 or 1913, nor should it be mistaken for the hydrant in the center of the courtyard which was also installed by the Kesler family at a later time. Today there is no trace of the first "well" or hole which was dug by Ira Hinckley.\(^3\)

Having the water run through the Fort proved satisfactory, save in the winter time when it overflowed and filled the courtyard with ice. At such times it had to be returned to its natural channel. Sometimes the stream dried up in the summer and it became necessary for the water to be hauled in from Cove Spring which is approximately two miles east up Clear Creek canyon. Otto Kesler said that Cove Spring had never gone dry in his lifetime.\(^4\)

\(^1\) Otto Kesler, Interview, July 10, 1965.

\(^2\) Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.

\(^3\) Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, p. 12.

\(^4\) Ibid., p. 13.
After seven months of arduous labor the Fort proper was essentially complete.1 I. N. Hinckley gives us an indication of the amounts of certain materials which went into the structure during this period, "The whole building contains 2250 perch of rock; 1975 bushels of lime, 34,342 ft. of lumber. . . ."2

In March of 1869, Pres. George A. Smith stated that the cost of the building to the present time was $25,000.3 Wilford Woodruff gave a more conservative estimate of expenditures in April, 1869, when he indicated that the outlay stood at $22,690.00.4

A. Milton Musser gave one of the first accounts of the new fortification to an expectant public as a result of a visit which he made in December of 1867:

The Fort at Cove Creek is a very creditable place, being one of the finest structures of the kind in the territory. . . . It is proposed to build a lookout and brick telegraph office over the main gate, which is on the east. . . . An orchard and shade trees will be planted out next spring; when it is designed to build stone corrals with nine feet walls laid up of rock and lime mortar. . . . Bishop Ira N. Hinckley talks of fencing a large portion of land next spring, and making further improvements. Cove Creek, will be a very desirable point for travelers to stop at, being about half way between Chicken Creek [Chalk Creek] and Beaver; in fact, it is the only point that can well be made to stop at when traveling between those two places. . . .5

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1Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His Life," p. 10.

2Ira N. Hinckley, Letter to George A. Smith, March 27, 1869. In measuring masonry a perch of rock is usually 24 3/4 cubic feet.

3"Journal History," March 27, 1869.


5"Journal History," January 2, 1868. Chicken Creek, later LaVan, was too far north. Musser probably meant Chalk Creek later Fillmore.
From Musser's statement it is evident that there were still some additions which I. N. Hinckley anticipated including as soon as practicable. However, the proposed lookout and telegraph office, though contemplated, were never completed. Perhaps it was determined that the existing facilities were adequate as the telegraph was placed in one of the twelve rooms already prepared, room \#11 on the southeast, and the effects of a lookout were accomplished from the height of the walls. When a barn was constructed a short time later its high windows, set just under the gables on the east and west sides, made perfect vantage points from which to scan the distance.¹

¹Otto Keeler, transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, p. 22.
CHAPTER IV

ADJACENT BUILDINGS AND PHYSICAL FEATURES

To facilitate the care of the stock and equipment used by the occupants and that of others who utilized the Fort, (travelers, stage lines, U. S. Mail Carriers and freighters), a substantial barn was constructed approximately 125 feet to the north. The front of the barn faced east and was on line with the front or eastern edge of Cove Fort. The barn covered an area some 60' x 60' including the leans which projected out from the main structure both on the north and the south sides. The leans extended out from the barn proper and were a continuation of the barn roof. They were supported by six posts on either side and were not enclosed. The barn was 30 feet in height.¹

In describing the barn, Otto Kesler stated:

I understand that the barn was completed just after the fort was completed. It was made of all wooden materials and they claim that the wood was all gotten out of the mountains east of there, just over the mountains, in what they call hogback country, and some of it came out over toward Indian Creek, but the material was all gotten within twenty miles of there.

It was not a log type barn, the timber had all been squared. The logs had all been sawed into lumber. There were plank rafters, poles and then sawed into planks. The planks were mortised and held together with oak pegs. The oak was hard wood and could stand a lot of pull. The shingles were homemade and put on by little square nails. They didn't use round nails like we use now. All the nails they used in the barn were square nails, even the big

¹Otto Kesler, Interview, July 10, 1965. See the diagram depicting the layout of the Cove Fort buildings and physical features, Figure 5, p. 62.
Fig. 5.—Diagram of cove fort buildings and physical features from pencil drawings by Ella Hinckley Hoopes, June 12, 1945, and by Otto Kesler, Jul. 10, 1965.
square spikes. We have some of them now. ¹

On the main floor of the barn were two granaries, one in the northeast corner and the other in the southeast corner. The latter granary was some 3 feet longer than the other. A row of 7 stalls with mangers was constructed along the north side. Each stall was a two-horse stall and so had the capability of 14 horses. The south side had 6 ½ stalls with a capacity of 13 horses. In the middle two small doors gave access to the barn from the sides, one on the north and its counterpart on the south. ²

In the front and rear of the barn were big double doors. They were large enough to allow a load of hay to be driven in, unloaded in the loft, and the hayrack then driven out at the opposite end of the barn. With twelve to fifteen horses being stabled there regularly, a tremendous amount of hay was used. Allowance also had to be made for the riders who must buy hay for their mounts or for teams pulling loaded wagons, so stacks of hay supplemented that which was stored in the barn. Great loads of hay were brought in from the surrounding areas. There was a hayyard immediately on the north side of the barn. ³

The barn performed a dual function as it also served as an excellent lookout. It had two windows on the east and two on the west side up under the gables. From this vantage point a sentinel could see to the north, south, east and west by sticking his head out from one or the other

¹Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, pp. 10-11.


³Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.
of those windows. A ladder led from the floor of the barn to each of the lookouts.1

When asked what had happened to the barn Otto replied:

Well, we tore the barn down when they built the road in there [U.S. Highway 91]. They couldn't get the road a bit further east. They pinched the road in until it had to come in and take some of the barn space. The barn was getting pretty bad. It leaked so much and the timbers were getting old and that. It was getting kind of dangerous, those big winds and that, so we tore it down. When we went there in 1904 the shingles were practically all gone off. You see, they had put these boards and left gaps in them. I think if they had put the boards right close together the shingles would have stayed better.2

Attached to the barn on the west side was a large, circular, stand-up-and-down, cedar post, corral approximately 150' x 200' known as the "wild horse" corral. It was round in shape so that if the Indians or anyone got the stock excited, they could run in a circle and wouldn't pile up in the corner thereby pushing the fence down. The posts were planted in a trench, side by side, in an upright fashion. The trench was 2 1/2 to 3 feet deep leaving the posts sticking out of the ground 6 to 8 feet. The builders then took moist rawhide strips about 1 1/2 inches in width and interwove them so that they passed on either side of the posts and securely laced them together at a height of 4 feet from the ground. Whenever a new strip was started it was held in place by a small, square nail. When the rawhide dried the fence was tight and strong. The posts wouldn't give unless the rawhide was to snap.3

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1Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, pp. 22-23.

2Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, p. 10.

3Ibid., pp. 6-7.
The corral was taken down just prior to World War II by the Keslers:

"We just didn't have any use for it there. The posts were getting all rotted off, a lot of them were pretty well rotting. We just tore it down to get it out of the road. Some of the old cedar posts are still in use in the fences to the northeast, across the road."

Some 35 yards west of the small gate at the rear of the fort, Ira N. Hinckl, built a blacksmith shop. The shop was 18' x 12' and was constructed of rock and mortar as high as the top of the door. The door was on the east with a small window on either side. The roof was almost flat save for a slight slope to the east and west from a center ridge pole. Cedar poles and willows were set on the roof with dirt placed on top of that. Otto remembers seeing many horse, ox, and mule shoes lying around in the shop. "It took 8 to shoe an ox, two per foot, and the mule shoes were different than the horses because of a narrower foot."

Unfortunately the mortar which held the rock in place was of poor quality and the walls were crumbling when William H. Kesler arrived at the Fort in 1903. The only thing remaining of the structure today, 1966, is a trace of the foundation which an observer can still see.

Approximately 4/10 mile northwest of the Fort was a race track for horses which was known to the inhabitants as the "1/2 Mile Race Track". It was about 1/2 mile in circumference and the width of the track upon which the horses ran was 20 feet. The track provided a periodic diversion for a people who appreciated witnessing the demonstrated abil-
ities of a good horse.¹

The water which was diverted directly through the Fort by damming Cove Creek, collected in a pond at the rear of the structure on the west side. The pond was also fed by a secondary flow of water which was directed from in front of the main gate to the northeast corner of the Fort where there was a large watering trough. The water was then allowed to proceed through a ditch which ran parallel to the north wall and into the pond at the rear.² The present day pond is twice the size of the original as the existing pond has been enlarged by the Keslers.³

Adjacent to the Fort were a pig pen on the west and a small log house just north of the northeast corner of the main structure.⁴ Who lived in the house or what purpose it might have served is unknown to the writer.

On the east side of the Fort the occupants cleared and planted about 12 acres of lucern. They fenced the area with what they called a "bull" fence consisting of cedar posts and stakes. To the west were five acres of wheat were put in and likewise fences. The meadow, down around the little hill to the northwest, was also surrounded by a "bull" fence. This meadow was full of wild hay. "The old native blue grass called Kentucky blue grass grew there. Years ago it used to grow around in the sage brush to beat the band. See, we used to cut it for hay and we've cut a lot of wild hay there different years. This is especially true

¹Ibid.
²Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.
⁴Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.
When there were wet years, "1

When the writer inquired as to how productive the land around
Cove Fort might be and the prospective growing season, Otto had a ready
response:

Good land! Good land! All you need is water and you
don't need much of that! On ordinary good years you can
raise two and sometimes three crops of hay with carp; wath-
ering. That's first crop watering you know. If you get a
little rain along in the summer, you can sometimes raise
a good third crop. There was a time or two that we've
saved patches of seed and raised a wonderful crop of seed
there, alfalfa seed.

We have a short growing season there. We've started
to cut hay long in the forepart of June three different
years, but ordinarily it runs between the middle and the
twentieth of June before you start to cutting the first
crop. So you would call June, July and August our best
growing months. Two years ago we had our first frost about
the last of August. Now last year it held off until about
in October before we had killing frost.2

A garden was planted on the west side of the Fort just out from
the rear gate. Wild currants and gooseberries were planted along the
fence to the northwest. Pie plant grew luxuriantly along Cove Creek and
squash was readily available beyond the apple orchard directly east of
the Fort. The apple orchard provided a rich abundance of fruit.3 Only
five of these trees remained when the Kesler family arrived there. All
of the original trees are now dead, save for three offshoots from these
first trees which still bare fruit today, 1966.4

A. Milton Musser indicated in 1867, that I. A. Hinckley anticipated

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2 Ibid., pr. 30-37.
3 Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.
planting shade trees at the Fort in the spring of 1868.\textsuperscript{1} However, Otto Kesler understood that it was some two years later before the existing black Locust trees were finally put in.\textsuperscript{2} From the initial planting, there are 9 locust trees that remain, 3 which were planted inside the Fort, and 6 that had been placed on the outside. Of the trees planted on the outside, 1 was put in at the northeast corner of the Fort and 5 placed along the front on the east, 2 south of the gate and 3 to the north side. These are the trees which persist today save for the locust tree nearest Highway 91 which was planted by William H. Kesler in about 1910.\textsuperscript{3}

It is interesting to note that in the picture of Cove Fort, Figure 4, p. 50, which was taken shortly after the trees were planted, there were at least 2 additional trees placed on the east side of the structure to the south of the main gate. These trees apparently died out in the intervening years as Otto says they were not there upon his families arrival.\textsuperscript{4}

Water from Cove Creek kept the locust and apple trees alive and likewise made it possible to grow a garden. Cove Creek has its initial source high in the Tushar Mountains. It is an intermittent stream, dependent upon the amount of run-off. In the early spring, according to Ella Hinckley, "It sometimes became a rambunctious flood, blocked with

\begin{itemize}
  \item[1] "Journal History," January 2, 1868.
  \item[3] Otto Kesler, Transcript or recorded interview, February 1, 1964, pp. 25-26. See also Figure 4, p. 50, in this thesis for the placement of the trees.
  \item[4] Ibid., p. 25.
\end{itemize}
ice and breaking its banks." In dry years it ceases to flow entirely.

Whenever Cove Creek dried up it was necessary to obtain water from Cove Spring located 2 miles east of the fort up Clear Creek Canyon in the base of the cove. This spring continues to provide water the year around, but its rate of flow is insufficient for purposes of extensive irrigation.

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1 Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.
CHAPTER V

COVE FORT PERFORMS ITS PRIMARY FUNCTIONS

A haven of Protection and Rest for the Traveler.--The primitive road which led past Cove Fort was the direct route to Southern Utah, Nevada, Arizona and California. For all travelers following this course the grassy banks of the creek in the cove were welcome and pleasant, spaced as they were a good day's journey between watering places. All must stop at Cove Creek for water, since there was no other watering place between there and Kanosh and only small streams between the Fort and Beaver. Thirty miles was a good day's drive with a loaded wagon so travelers habitually sought the comfort and safety of the Fort at its convenient midpoint:

Within its then impregnable walls were safely sheltered thousands, both good and bad, the venturesome and the timid, the desperado and the saint, as they moved westward in quest of gold, or eastward in disappointment, or back and forth in their routine duty. Without it, what might have been, no one knows.1

The erection of Cove Fort provided a much needed means of protection to all travelers on the "Southern Route" whether Mormon, Jew or Gentile. Although hostilities with the redmen had been minimized in that immediate locality, and a comparative air of peace prevailed, there was nevertheless a continuing awareness that difficulties could arise at any moment. This sentiment is expressed in the words of one traveler who

1Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His Life," p. 11.
enjoyed the safety afforded by the Fort:

The Indian outbreaks which have three times within the last twelve years partially desolated the neighboring settlements, may possibly recur, and Cove Fort revert to its original use. The ferocity of the untamable Indian nature is liable to crop up at any moment. Should one of them be killed in a quarrel, or even accidentally, a general raid on the peaceful farmers will likely ensue, and murder, rape, and arson will follow in its train. It is well that this place of refuge remains, to which men, women and children may flee from the wrath to come.¹

People who stayed overnight at the Fort were usually individuals using their own conveyances. "There were many covered wagons that came, but few open wagons. Carriages sometimes came, but they were unsuited to the rough roads. Many of the travelers brought commodities to exchange for a night's lodging."²

The seasons were signalized by these travelers. Spring and summer brought hopeful pioneers, whose wagons were loaded with children and household goods on their way south. This period also brought an influx of miners into the territory. In the fall the Dixie peddlers came from Southern Utah bringing wine, pickled grapes and molasses. The rich golden brown flavor of Dixie molasses was something to remember for a lifetime.³

A wide variety of sojourners trafficked through the Cove Fort gates. Ecclesiastical leaders, emigrants, soldiers, scientists, legislators, surveyors, miners, lawyers, cattlemen, educators, artists, writers and business men enjoyed a moment's respite from the trials of the road.


²Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.

³Ibid.
Employees of the Deseret State Telegraph, U. S. mail, stage lines and freighting companies also found lodging and safety at the Fort.

These daily travelers were a never-failing source of information and interest to the inhabitants of the Fort. They brought the news of the day, the political opinions, the current styles in songs, humor and dress. Their talk revealed the geography, economics and resources of the region.

Typical of the ecclesiastical leaders who stayed at Cove Fort were the following brethren from the L.D.S. Church: Elders Horace Eldredge, Joseph Young Sr., George Q. Cannon, Wilford Woodruff, Brigham Young Jr., and Presidents Brigham Young and Daniel H. Wells.1 This statement is recorded relative to their visit, April 23, 1869:

Between Kanosh and Cove Creek the brethren found the roads heavy in places, and it stormed upon the company the latter part of the journey. The company reached Cove Creek at 5:50 p.m. and were warmly welcomed and excellently cared for by Bro. Ira Hinckley and his family.
Quite a contrast between the present comfortable quarters for the company and their animals and camping out without any shelter which the brethren had done in former times, when they stopped at this place overnight.2

On still another occasion Brigham Young with a train of some ten vehicles spent the night at Cove Fort. Among the brethren accompanying this large cortege were Elders Lorenzo D. Young, Brigham Young Jr., Charles R. Savage, John W. Young, John G. Holman, A. Milton Musser, A. J. Moffit and President George A. Smith.3 Concerning their stay at the Fort, A. Milton Musser reports:

1"Journal History", April 23, 1869.
2Ibid.
3Ibid., March 1, 1870.
Our . . . and host at Fort Cove did the tidy very nicely while staying the night at that "impregnable fortress." His good ladies [Ira Hinckley's] had their hands full with so large a company to cater for. Cove Creek is getting quite low and some fears are entertained that a lack of snow deposits in the mountains will cause a lack of water for irrigating purposes in Cove Valley.\(^1\)

Leaders of other faiths were also obliged to seek the safety of Cove Fort. One evening a Catholic Father and four nuns camped just outside the walls. Their clothing was very strange to the children of the Fort who gathered to stare at them. Especially, they watched one lady whose head shook and ducked in her black and white bonnet. Afterwards, this group was referred to among them as the "shaker-bonnet ladies."\(^2\)

A profusion of travelers, each engaged in their individual pursuits, passed through the Fort's portals. The Utah artist H. L. A. Culmer, visited Cove Fort with the intention of staying only a day or two but lingered for two weeks, enjoying the hospitality of the place and leisurely painting pictures of the surrounding area. Soldiers from Fort Cameron, which had been established at Beaver in May of 1872, periodically came by and would camp on "Sunflower Flat" just south of the Fort. Entertainers would pay their fare with an evening's performance much to the delight of their fellow travelers and the Fort's occupants.\(^3\)

Numerous L.D.S. brides and bridegrooms on their way to the St. George Temple to be married were guests at the Fort. The Temple had recently been completed, the first Temple in Utah to be dedicated, April 6, 1877. Young couples made the long trip from northern and central

\(^1\)Ibid., March 11, 1870.

\(^2\)Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.

\(^3\)Ibid.
Utah, and elsewhere in the region, to St. George for the sacred rites:

Many young Latter-day Saint couples used to stay overnight on their way to get married in the St. George Temple. It was a dry dusty drive and they had to have barrels of water bound on the side of the wagon to provide water for both the people and the horses. Nearly everybody traveled in covered wagons.¹

Colonel Thomas L. Kane, the great friend of the Mormon people, his wife and two sons, stayed at the Fort while traveling through Utah on their way to Arizona in 1873.² In addition to Mrs. Kane, over a series of years many distinguished women found a comfortable nights lodging at the Fort. Eliza R. Snow, the Mormon poetess, Zina D. Young, wife of Brigham Young, and Emily Hills Woodmansee, the noted hymn writer, were among this number.³

The writer, John Codman, and his wife, stopped overnight at Cove Fort in the course of their extensive travels in the west. While there, the couple were ushered into the room which had been occupied only that morning by President Brigham Young. Mrs. Codman registered the following comment concerning this incident:

The idea of building a fort and afterwards devoting it to its present purpose originated with Brigham Young. As we took possession of the room he had vacated in the morning, we prayed the good Lord to forgive him his sins and to put this good work to his credit in account.⁴

To a number of travelers, Cove Fort has made the difference between

¹Ibid.
³Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.
extreme suffering or even death itself due to the severities of the
weather. Ira N. Hinckley gave assistance to one man from "Dixie" whose
wagon had broken down some four miles south of the Fort in the midst of
bitter cold and stormy weather. His attempts to aid yet another man were
not as successful:

Joseph Schofield, a young man whose mother is a widow,
and resides at Beaver, froze to death on the 23rd ult. It
appears that Schofield was employed with an elder brother
in herding sheep, belonging to Beaver, on Pine creek, three
miles west of the road. On the 22nd, he went out to the
road to meet the mail to get a pair of boots, but must have
lost his way while returning to the herd. On the 23rd his
brother, having kept up fire all night in hopes of attract-
ing him, started in search, and late in the day, found him
so badly frozen that he was unable to walk. He had stopped
during the night, in sight of Bro. Geo. Stringham's train,
which was enroute, for the south; but was unable to make him-
self heard, and the train moved off without knowing any-
thing about him being there. His brother, finding his knees
frozen, tried to carry him; but the frozen man became so
delirious and fought so desperately that he could do nothing
for him; but covered him with his coat and went to Cove Creek
Fort, five miles north for help. Bro. Ira N. Hinckley
immediately sent some men with a team, but they arrived too
late, to afford him any help. He was dead. The body was
carried to Beaver for burial.¹

Ella Hinckley recounts two sequences which occurred while her
father, Arza Hinckley, was proprietor of Cove Fort, 1877-82:

At dusk one cold, blizzard ing evening three strange
blanketed figures came down the road wrapping themselves
against the piercing wind. They at first were mistaken for
Indians, but they were white people, nearly frozen. They
had wrapped themselves in their bedding and had abandoned
their sleigh and exhausted horses and were fighting their
way to the fort.

When winter came the roads seldom were heavily trav-
el ed. One night a man came to the fort who said his horses
had gotten away from him during the night. He had left
them tethered to the wagon. But the storm had been fierce
and the snow had completely covered his wagon during the

¹"Journal History", February 19, 1868.
night. He was nearly frozen.¹

The turn of the century and the advent of the automobile had not curtailed the important function of Cove Fort in providing a "haven of protection and rest for the traveler." Otto Kesler enumerated for the writer several accounts in which he has given assistance to people in trouble. On one occasion he rescued a number of people from Clear Creek Canyon, at a point known as Blacks Hollow, where they had become stranded when their car broke down. It required the use of a big black stallion and wagon to affect the rescue.²

Deseret State Telegraph Station.--The 1860 passage of the Pacific Telegraph Act by the Congress of the United States granted a ten-year subsidy of $40,000 per annum to the company completing a telegraph line from the western boundary of the Missouri River to San Francisco, California. Two companies were organized to construct the proposed line. These were the Overland Telegraph Company, which ran a line east from Carson City, Nevada (to which point a line had been already built), and the Pacific Telegraph Company, which ran a line west from Omaha (the westernmost point of the Western Union line). The Overland line, Omaha to Salt Lake City, was completed on October 17, 1861, while the line from Salt Lake City to Carson City was finished a week later.²

Brigham Young saw the immediate advantages of not only this

¹Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.

²Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, pp. 31-33.

transcontinental line linking Salt Lake with the "outside" world, but also those to be derived from yet another line, a north-south line, which would connect one hundred or more isolated Mormon settlements within the Great Basin itself. For this reason he gave his full support to the completion of a second enterprise, a Territorial line. However, the north-south territorial line or Deseret Telegraph line was not commenced until 1866, five years after it had first been discussed. "Probably the war between the States made it impossible for the Mormons to get wire, batteries, insulators, sending and receiving sets, and other equipment."\(^1\)

The poles for the Deseret Telegraph were set and ready for wire by the fall of 1866. By the first of December, 1866, the line from Salt Lake City to Ogden was complete. Communication between Logan and St. George was opened by January 15, 1867, and the remainder of the projected line was in operation within thirty days.\(^2\)

Progress in placing telegraph poles through the Cove Creek area prompted John L. Smith to report from Fillmore, November 17, 1866, "The County apportionment [Millard County] of telegraph poles is nearly all up from the ridge south of Cove Creek Valley to the ridge north of Fillmore 4 miles."\(^3\)

Brother John C. Clowes, who was granted leave from the Western Union Company to supervise the work of establishing offices and the appointment of operators for the new line, gave the status of the Cove

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\(^2\)Ibid., pp. 124-26.

\(^3\)"Journal History", November 17, 1866.
Creek telegraph station as part of a lengthy letter written to President Brigham Young on February 18, 1867:

I arrived at Scipio Jan. 2nd and fixed up the office Zenos Pratt of Provo takes charge. Arrived at Fillmore 3rd fixed up office, and as neither of the Fillmore students were competent to take charge of the office, Richard Horn of Salt Lake took charge. Arrived at Beaver on the 7th (the line being some distance from Cove Creek Station was unable to open the office, arranged however to have all ready when returned.) I opened office at Beaver, S. A. Kenner of Salt Lake takes charge.

Sometime in January or by the first part of February, 1867, the telegraph line was strung to Cove Creek. Upon Clowes's return he was able to establish the office at that place:

We left for Salt Lake Jan. 30th and arrived Feb 16, calling at all of the offices, fixing up Cove Creek office, Clarence Merrill of Fillmore takes charge. . . . I left offices in as good condition as possible. Many supplies are still needed in most of the southern offices. I however requested the Bishops to supply the operators whatever was needed for the present. 2

The first telegraph operator, Clarence Merrill, probably maintained his office in the structure which remained from Old Fort Willden. It is undetermined how long Merrill kept his post at Cove Creek. He was installed in February, 1867, and by May 1, 1867, another operator had apparently taken his place, Volney King:

The establishment of a stone fort at Cove Creek will not only protect the Telegraph line, but secure protection to the traveler. It is now the most dangerous station on the telegraph line, as it is 30 miles to a station, each way, mostly uninhabited desert, the line leading through the mountain passes, the points of which are covered with cedar and brush too. Mr. Volney King, operator, is equal to the undertaking, and is prepared to give any red visitor, with

1 "Journal History", February 18, 1867.
2 ibid.
hostile intention, a warm reception. His office looks like a miniature arsenal.\(^1\)

The arrival of Ira N. Hinckley in April, 1867, and the subsequent construction of Cove Fort prepared a most adequate facility for the safe operation of the telegraph station. A communication sent by A. Milton Musser, Deseret State Telegraph Superintendent, mentions that the Fort's builders planned to erect a brick telegraph office over the main gate on the east side.\(^2\) However, the proposed office was never constructed.

Ella Hinckley states that during the time her family was at the Fort, 1877-82, the second room from the southeast corner was utilized as the telegraph office. Ella remembers that the telegraph was battery operated. "Blue violet stood in about gallon or gallon and a half jugs placed under the telegraph desk to generate power."\(^3\) The process is better understood from a description of this early means of procuring the necessary power to transmit the messages:

... The telegraph current was made from zinc and copperas; glass jars two quarts capacity being used, and a plate of copper placed in the bottom, with body of zinc suspended in the upper part of the jar. The jar was filled with water and blue stones or copperas was placed in the bottom of the copper plate, the jar being connected up, alternating from zinc to copper.\(^4\)

Jean Holbrook identified an additional telegraph operator who served at the Fort:

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\(^1\)WPA Publications MSS File XIX, "Utah Guide - Walled Cities," Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

\(^2\)Journal History", January 2, 1868.

\(^3\)Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945. See Room #11, p. 50 of this thesis.

One telegraph operator was an Englishman. He used to
drink. He had been assigned to Utah because Mormons didn't
drink. His name was Thomas Mather, I believe. He lived
north of the orchard.\textsuperscript{1}

A young man by the name of Maycock was also among those who oper-
ated the telegraph office during Ira N. Hinckley's supervision of the Fort.

Maycock had a very traumatic experience while in the company of two of
Ira's young sons, Bryant S. Hinckley and Edwin S. Hinckley. The account
is graphically recorded in the words of Bryant:

One day when our parents had gone away, we went into
father's bedroom and found his 38 caliber pistol. I was
in the bedroom with the pistol in my hand, standing at the
window which was raised. Ed and a young man, Maycock, who
was a telegraph operator, were standing on the outside. We
examined the pistol, looked down the barrel to see whether
it was loaded, which was a very dangerous thing to do. The
telegraph operator, after examining it carefully, said
that it was not loaded and put it up to his forehead and
said, "I wouldn't be afraid to pull the trigger." Fortun-
ately he did not, but he handed the pistol to my brother,
Ed, who accidentally pulled the trigger and shoot me in
the left leg, just above the knee. I have a vivid re-
collection of the hot blood filling my shoe and finally
things got dim and I fell on the floor. It was at this time
that my father arrived. He bandaged my leg and dispatched
one of the boys on a fast horse to Beaver, twenty-six miles
away, to bring a doctor. The doctor came and probed with a
darning needle to see if he could locate the bullet. I'll
tell you that wasn't so good. He did not locate the bullet.
They had no X-rays in those days, so perhaps I still have
that bullet in my leg. It was a long time before I could
run and play with the other boys. My leg used to ache
terribly at night. My father, no matter how tired he might
be, would get up and carry me in his arms and soothe me
until I went to sleep. I shall never forget his kindness
and the wonderful way he cared for me.\textsuperscript{2}

Between the years 1877 and 1881 at least five telegraph operators

\textsuperscript{1}Emily A. H. Holbrook, Interview, Mrs. W. D. Porter, n.d. According
to a record entitled, "Cove Creek Account With Beaver Tithing Office,"
Thomas Mather gave Bishop John R. Murdock 3 dozen eggs for tithing on
June 9, 1869. See p. 125 for the listing on that date.

\textsuperscript{2}Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His
worked in the Cove Creek office. A Mr. Miller was there when Arza E. Hinckley assumed management of the Fort in the latter part of 1877. He was followed by Arthur Thompson and his wife who were both telegraphers. A lady by the name of Mattie Devoir (October, 1879), came after the Thomsons. Arza's son Joel was the next operator. Joel received $35.00 in payment for his services on April 29, 1881. His name was last entered in the Cove Creek Record Book on May 6, 1881. Shortly after this time he secured a job as telegraph operator at Eagle Rock [Idaho Falls, Idaho]. Ella remembered how her brother Joel had mastered the art of transmitting messages and his subsequent death. He was murdered in a robbery attempt at the Franklin, Idaho office:

Joel had learned telegraphy by watching a Mrs. Thompson who was a telegraph operator at Cove Fort. Joel asked her to teach him but she suggested a fee which was higher than he could afford to pay. Therefore he decided to learn by himself and soon was able to secure a position as operator at Eagle Rock, and later became telegraph operator at Franklin, Idaho. He was killed by two masked bandits at Franklin on October 27, 1881.

While at the Fort, Joel was allocated $20.00 per month for board as part of his compensation for maintaining the station. Initially the various operators for the Deseret Telegraph line were regarded as missionaries and asked to serve without pay. "Later, however, all operators

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1Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.

2Arza E. Hinckley, "Cove Creek Record Book," 1878-79, p. 168. This record book contains a listing of monies received and expended in the operation of the Fort during the period 1878-79. The book is in the possession of the writer. Cited hereafter as Arza E. Hinckley, "Cove Creek Record Book."

3Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.

appear to have received a token wage from the local tithing office, from city revenues, or from public subscription.\textsuperscript{1} Mrs. Abby A. Bird, Springville operator, states that, "We would take our pay for office work from the Tithing Office. I well remember of taking some molasses to help preserve fruit, also meat and butter."\textsuperscript{2}

The primary purposes for establishing the telegraph line were amply met. A large portion of the transmissions were concerned with "Church" business:

\ldots the Deseret Telegraph system was indispensable to the effective administration of the expanding temporal and spiritual affairs of the Mormon Church by the general offices of the Church in Salt Lake City. After the construction of the line it was possible for President Brigham Young to direct the affairs of the Church from St. George, and for that reason he spent almost all of the succeeding winters of his life in Utah's Dixie. The longer religious messages from St. George to Salt Lake City were sent after midnight when the wires were clear.\textsuperscript{3}

The lines played an indispensable part in minimizing the hostile actions of the Indians in times of stress:

The Deseret Telegraph saved many lives during the latter half of the Black Hawk Indian War (1865-68) when the movements of the Indians in the central and southern part of the territory were relayed from settlement to settlement. It is indeed probable that the outbreak of Indian hostilities was one of the factors which prompted Church officials to revive the project in 1865.\textsuperscript{4}

Reports were forwarded over the wires to Salt Lake from the


\textsuperscript{2}Letter of Abby A. Bird to Mrs. W. D. Porter, July 15, 1943, Payson, Utah.


\textsuperscript{4}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 133.
various stations relative to the state of the weather in each locality.

A section of the weather information as transmitted on December 3, 1867, is as follows:

- **Logan**: cloudy and damp; snow nearly gone in the valley.
- **Ogden**: dull and looks like rain.
- **American Fork**: warm, but raining; very muddy.
- **Springville**: muddy; raining a little.
- **Nephi**: cloudy and raining.
- **Scipio**: rained all night; very muddy; still raining.
- **Cove Creek**: cloudy; has the appearance of a storm.
- **Beaver**: cloudy and warm.
- **Parowan**: cloudy, but very pleasant.
- **Tokerville**: very cloudy; looks like storming before long.
- **St. George**: cloudy; thermometer at 60.¹

To the inhabitants of the Fort the existence of the telegraph took a very special aspect. Ira Hinckley's daughter, Luna Adell Hinckley, has enumerated what it meant to have the news of the "outside" world continually coming over the wires. She stated, "In those early days it was not isolation to be at the fort. The news of the great, growing West throbbed over the lines into the telegraph office at the fort and through her post office passed the news of the new western empire."²

United States Mail Station.---Initially the transportation of mail into the territory of Utah and throughout the various communities was unofficial and largely a matter of chance. However, in 1849, the government authorized the establishment of a post office in Salt Lake City and appointed Joseph B. Heywood as postmaster.³ Congress subsequently

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¹"Journal History", December 3, 1867.

²Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His Life," p. 10.

authorized a number of mail routes in Utah, one of which traversed the Cove Creek region:

In 1852 a postal route was established from Salt Lake City by way of American Fork, Provo, Springville, Payson Summit, Parowan, Johnson's Springs and Cold Creek to Santa Clara and thence by way of San Bernardino to San Diego.¹

The community of Beaver, some thirty miles south of Cove Creek, was founded in February, 1856. It received its first mail service via freight wagon train. The wagon drivers would deliver the mail to the Bishop, and he would distribute it to the members of the Church. Finally a post office was maintained. Judge Thomas operated the office during the period 1864-65.²

Mail was delivered to the Charles Willden family during the time that they resided at Ft. Willden on Cove Creek, 1860-65. Apparently the service was less than satisfactory as Charles was forced to lodge a public complaint because of certain items being "lost" in transit.³

The United States Post Office Department published a document addressed to the Territory of Utah dated July 31, 1965. It contained a proposal for a new mail contract from July 1, 1866, to June 30, 1870. All persons desiring to bid for the contract were to notify the Contract Office of the Post Office Department by February 28, 1866. Affixed to the proposal were the schedules of departures and arrivals to which a contractor must adhere. Contract #10619 is of particular interest as it specifies a route involving a stop at Cove Creek and indicates the time required to

¹Ibid. pp. 54-55.
²Ibid. p. 64.
³Deseret News, July 26, 1865, p. 341. See p. 30 of this thesis for a transcript of his complaint.
complete the weekly round trip from Fillmore to Cedar City and return:

From Fillmore City, by Meadow, Petersburgh, Cove Creek, Beaver, Paragonah, Parowan, and Summit, to Cedar City, 118 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Fillmore City Monday at 6 a.m.
Arrive at Cedar City Wednesday by 6 p.m.
Leave Cedar City Thursday at 6 a.m.
Arrive Fillmore City Saturday by 5 p.m.¹

One of the carriers employed under the terms of this contract was William R. Anderson. He transported the mail from Fillmore to Cedar City commencing in the fall of 1866, and continuing until June, 1870. On one of his trips to Fillmore he passed by some Indians who had scalped a white man. As he rode near them they held up the scalp for him to see. In commenting on the experience he reflected, "You bet I never stopped to ask any questions but hurried on my way very thankful to get away safe."²

Soon after the establishment of the telegraph station at Cove Creek in February, 1867, a mail station was also put into operation. With the erection of Cove Fort, the mail station was housed within its walls. The post office was set up in the room on the southeast corner. Initially it served some eight or ten ranches, the sulphur miners, and the people living at Pine Creek, five miles south.³ Travelers passing through Cove Creek also took advantage of the postal services provided.

"In 1870, a mail route from Beaver to Fillmore was established, known as the Pony Mail. John A. Skinner was the first rider and Alonzo Hinckley [Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, called "Lon", son of Arza E. Hinckley]

¹"Journal History," July 31, 1865.
²Kate A. Carter, Pioneer Mail Routes, Carriers and Contractors, p. 84.
³Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.
of Cove Fort was the second. 1 Lon had the mail route from Kanosh to Beaver. He used two boys to ride the route. The first would come from Kanosh with the mail; the second would travel from Cove Fort to Beaver.

Among the boys who were hired over a period of time was Edward (Ted) L. Black. Ted was 14 years of age when he took the mail from Cove Fort to Beaver and back. He slept at the Fort overnight, the round trip being 52 miles. His room at the Fort was the one in the southwest corner:

That was where all the boys slept who worked on the mail. We were expected to wait till eleven o'clock for the next mail. But it would be noon before we could get away, usually. I drove an old team of mules, Mr. Hinckley's good ones being used on his work at the railroad hauling freight.2

James Staples, another boy mail carrier, rode the route from Kanosh to Cove Fort. He got tired of driving two poky old horses, so Lon traded three of his old ones for two good ones. Lon, kept a corral in Kanosh for horses.3

Nelson S. Bishop, a lad of only eleven, also was a carrier. Nelson found that the route was not without its inherent dangers from the redmen:

... he was met by five mounted braves, who stopped his horse, surrounded him, and while several sat on guard, one dismounted and examined him, his horse, and saddle bags. The thoroughly alarmed boy was greatly relieved when they

1Kate E. Carter, Pioneer Mail Routes, Carriers and Contractors, p. 64. "Lon Hinckley, born March 15, 1857, should not be confused with Arza Alonzo Hinckley who was not born until April 23, 1870.

2Edward (Ted) L. Black, Interview, June 8, 1949. Interview conducted by Vida Cardon Adams. A typewritten copy of these notes is in the possession of the writer.

3William Staples, interview, June 1949. Interview conducted by Vida Cardon Adams. A typewritten copy of these notes is in the possession of the writer.
let him ride on. The incident burned deeply into his impressionable mind.1

Lou Hinckley's responsibilities required him to make a number of trips carrying mail to Cove and Richfield. The payment which he received for his services on this route for a particular period in April, 1878, is recorded in Arza's Cove Creek Record Book:

April 15. To carrying mail to Richfield & to Cove.
April 21 & 22. To carrying mail to Richfield & to Cove.
By cash - $21.47

Ella Hinckley said that one day the children at the Fort got into the post office and took a sizable number of stamps from the shelf. They then gleefully floated $30.00 worth of the same down the creek. As Joel Hinckley was responsible for the office at the time, he was held accountable for the loss.3

Stagecoach Station.--Two stages stopped at the Fort each day, one from the north and one from the south on what was called the 'Salt Lake-Pioche Stage line' or some referred to it as the 'St. George line.' A stage office was maintained in conjunction with the post office in the room at the southeast corner of the Fort.4

The stage line was operated initially by Wells-Fargo but eventually reverted to the Gilmer & Salisbury Overland Stage Company. Of the derivation of this latter company, Bancroft records:


2Arza E. Hinckley, 'Cove Creek Record Book,' p. 107. The Cove mentioned in this account is not Cove Fort, but rather it is the small community of Cove 25 miles due east from the Fort.

3Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.

4Ibid.
In 1860 there was a weekly stage to S. L. City, conducted by Russell & Waddell, who during the same year started a pony express. In 1861 they were bought out by Ben Holliday, and in that or the following year a daily line was established to S. L. City. In 1866 Wells, Fargo, & Co. purchased Holliday's interest, believing that the railroad would not be completed for six or seven years. They lost by the transaction, among their purchases being $70,000 worth of new coaches which they never used, and afterwards sold to Gilmer & Salisbury for one fourth of the cost.1

As the stages came in, the station performed its services. Passengers were fed and fresh horses obtained:

Gilmore [Gilmer] and Salisbury Stage Lines passed through twice daily, carrying passengers to and from St. George, Pioche, Nevada, and on to the Coast. The stage-coaches were large and heavy, drawn by six fine horses. The passengers carried gold and currency as checks were not used. Wells-Fargo & Company used strong, steel express boxes to transfer treasures and gold and silver, guarded by such daring messengers as Eugene Blair, Phil Barnhart, and others. Passengers took dinner at Cove Fort while horses were exchanged.2

Stable boys were hired by the stage company to take care of the relay horses as they were exchanged for fresh animals. These boys had rooms in the barn with sleeping accommodations and a cook stove. One of the boys was John Woolsey and another was a Hutchinson:

Hutchinson was clever at fooling people with cards, and the girls were all in a tizzy until Arza learned what was happening and forbid any cards at the fort. He had always given the girls to understand that there were forbidden areas, and when he learned that fortune telling had been indulged in, he drew the line. Cards had never been allowed, so the boy was asked to leave, and the girls reprimanded so thoroughly that they never forgot the lesson.3

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2Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His Life," 11.

3Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.
Charles William James Rawlinson, a stage driver on the route between Corn Creek (Kanosh) and Sevier Bridge, describes the nature of the stagecoaches used on the line at that time:

The stage was rather heavy like a wagon with springs. The place where the passengers sat was closed in and the seats were arranged so that they sat facing each other. The luggage and mail were carried on the top of the coach. The driver sat high on the driver's seat or "boot" as it was called. A strap buckled around his waist kept him from being thrown off as the roads were rough and they drove fast. In cold weather he had a buffalo robe tucked around his feet and legs. Other than that there was no protection from the weather and they drove regardless of weather conditions. They usually drove four horses unless the roads were muddy—then they drove six. The lead horses had to be especially well trained.¹

One of the stage drivers who frequented the Fort was Frank Ripley.² Ella Hinckley identified yet another driver as a Mr. Metler.³ Frank Hinckley stated that "The heroes of my childhood were the stage drivers. One of them was a man by the name of Miller. He drove the stage between Fillmore and Beaver at that time."⁴

From a meal book kept by Arza E. Hinckley for the Gilmer & Salisbury Company, we learn the names of still other of the companies personnel who traveled that route either periodically or regularly and took their meals at the Fort. The book lists Massena Cannon, B. Cannon, John Henry Hague, Palmer Delong, W. D. Bird, E. Brooks, J. Willes, Francis

¹Kate B. Carter, Pioneer Mail Routes, Carriers and Contractors, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Lesson for November, 1950, pp. 68-69.
²Mary Louisa Hinckley, Interview, n.d. Interview conducted by Mrs. W. D. Porter.
³Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.
⁴Franklin A. Hinckley, Interview, n.d. Interview conducted by Mrs. W. D. Porter.
At the time Arza E. Hinckley began his operation of the Fort, Massena Cannon and John Henry Hague were apparently the regular stage drivers. Over a period of approximately eighteen months Massena ate at the Fort 272 times (50c per meal) while John Henry Hague dined 370 times. Ella said that these drivers vied with each other to see who could check in first, sometimes one, sometimes the other reaching their destination first.

The stage did not enter the Fort. Its passengers were discharged at the main gate on the east and they walked into the interior. The lading left on the stage was never molested. The runway along the east wall of the Fort provided the children with a vantage point from which they could watch the arrival of the stage and witness the passengers without the travelers knowing that they were being observed. It furnished them with a good deal of amusement:

Once, a young lady refused to leave the coach even after the horses had been taken from it. The children wondered why, so up the stairs they went to peek from the ledge. They saw the lady glance out of the coach door, and, seeing

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2Ibid., pp. 1-34

3Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.

4Ibid.
no one but the boys at the stable down the road, she emerged, got her valise from the rack where it had been stowed, and climbed back into the stage. In a few minutes she stepped out in a pretty fresh outfit, hesitated a moment, then, after pinching her cheeks to a red glow, she walked smartly into the courtyard where she joined the other passengers.¹

In Arza's Cove Creek Record Book, under the heading "Gilmer-Salisbury & Company," some insight is given relative to the areas of income and expenditures in the operation of a stage station as registered during the months of August and September, 1878:

Gilmer-Salisbury & Co.

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<th>Cr.</th>
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<td>By freight to Peach [sic]</td>
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<td>Aug 2</td>
<td>To 4 entry horses</td>
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<td>&quot; 3 &quot; 2 &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<td>&quot; 8 &quot; 2 &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<td>&quot; 19 To 150 lbs oats 21/2 cents per lb</td>
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<td>&quot; 27 &quot; ? entry horses</td>
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<td>By cash</td>
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<td>&quot; 30 By cash Joel's fair</td>
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<td>Sept</td>
<td>To 3 &quot; &quot; &quot;</td>
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<td>1.00</td>
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<td>&quot; 17 &quot; 2 &quot; &quot;</td>
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¹Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.
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<th>Cr.</th>
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**Freighter's Refuge.**—The rich ore deposits discovered in southern Utah and eastern Nevada during the 1870's and 1880's had a decided effect on the traffic which passed through Cove Fort. From the mid-part of 1870, to the early 1880's, tons of ore and bullion were freighted through the Fort on its route to Salt Lake City and the east.

The Frisco mining district in Beaver County was for ten years, 1875-85, Utah's richest producer of silver. ... Frisco produced nearly 60 million dollars in silver bullion—most of it from a mountain-side hole that was 900 feet long, 400 feet wide and 900 feet deep. Bancroft describes this and other mining districts which sprang up during this period:

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In the San Francisco district in Beaver county, fifteen miles west of Milford and about 240 south of Salt Lake City, the leading mine was the Horn Silver, the outcrop of which resembled the top of a hay-cock, and was discovered by accident. In 1882 it had been opened to a depth of 500 feet, the ore being a decomposed argentiferous galena, some 50 feet in thickness, from which at the close of that year about $6,000,000 worth of silver and lead had been extracted, and $1,500,000 paid in dividends. The Frisco Mining and Smelting Company, in the same district, owned the Carbonate mine at the town of Frisco, the Cave, Bigelow, and other locations in Granite Range, and a large tract of auriferous ground in Osceola county, Nevada. . .

. . . The Harrisburg or Silver Reef district was in Washington county, south of Milford, and in the basin of the Colorado. The town of Silver Reef in this district was so named for a silver-bearing sandstone reef 100 miles in length, and yielding in places $30 to the ton. The Leeds Silver Mining Company, a San Francisco organization was the pioneer location of this district, and from its ground about $800,000 have been extracted.1

The mines of Pioche, Nevada, were major contributors to the myriad of freight wagons passing through the Cove Creek area:

It is worthy of note that from the tailings of the Raymond and Ely mine, near Pioche, W. S. Godbe and his associates had extracted bullion to the amount of $750,000 up to the close of 1884, and it was believed that the value of that which remained in the pit exceeded $1,250,000.2

The gleanings from the mines were transported by heavy duty wagons. The teamsters walked beside their teams as it was impossible to ride and keep the oxen moving with regularity:

Oxen were the cheapest and most reliable teams for long trips, where draft animals had to live on available grass. These great beasts of burden were capable of traveling 2,000 miles a season if properly driven. In reliability mules came next and horses last.3

The heavily laden wagons were left outside the walls of Cove

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1Bancroft, History of Utah, pp. 744-746.
2Ibid. p. 748.
Fort and not brought into the inner courtyard. At the Fort the freighters obtained their meals and a night of protective rest before pursuing their journey to Salt Lake.

The advent of the railroad sounded the death knell to a major portion of the freighting which came through Cove Fort. Under the direction of the Utah Central and Utah Southern Railroad Companies, the rails were extended as far south of Salt Lake City as Chicken Creek (Juab), fourteen miles south of Nephi, Juab County, in 1878-79. A new company was then organized to continue the line further south:

... a new Utah Southern Railroad Extension Company was formed to run the road south from Chicken Creek to Milford, Beaver County, with a branch line running to Frisco—a distance of 130 miles. This company was formed by Jay Gould and S. H. H. Clark, of Union Pacific, in association with magnates of the Horn Silver Mine near Frisco and some representatives of the Utah Southern. The obvious intention was to provide railroad connections for the newly opened mining claims in the San Francisco Mountains of Beaver County, which yielded over $50,000,000 in ore from 1875 to 1885. This extension was completed in 1880, and a year later, in June 1881, the Utah Central, the Utah Southern Extension were all combined, under the auspices of Union Pacific, into a company called the Utah Central Railway System. The combined line ran from Ogden to Frisco, a distance of 280 miles.

The mining companies now directed the bulk of their ore to the convenience of the nearest railroad loading station. Cove Fort felt the brunt of the new system. As the freighters dwindled so did the stagecoach passengers and certain of the regular wagon travel. The inhabitants of the Fort were experiencing a new era.

As evidence of the effect of this curtailment on travel, Ira N.

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2. Ibid.
Hinckley was prompted to write his son Ira Noble Hinckley:

...Lucian is looking after Cove but there is not much to be made there for we have not stock and horses or cattle to make anything there of any account. There is no travel on the road only that kind that camp out.¹

Maintenance of the Church Tithing Herd.—The establishment of a permanent fortification in the midst of a natural herd ground stimulated the development of a great stock raising area with Cove Fort as the focal point. Tithing, paid in the form of cattle and horses, was brought into this local from the various communities in the region. As a part of his duties as superintendent of the Fort facilities, Ira Hinckley was charged with the responsibility of supervising the Church herd.

In September, 1869, A. Milton Musser commissioned Ira to gather the tithing and PEF (Perpetual Emigration Fund) stock, which had accumulated at a number of southern Utah communities and bring them to Cove Creek herd grounds. Included on his itinerary were the sites of Beaver, Minersville, Parowan, Cedar City, Kanarra, Harmony, Toker, Rockville, Virgin City, Washington, St. George, Santa Clara, Leeds, Harrisburgh, Pine Valley, Pinto, west of Pinto and also on the Muddy.²

A. M. Musser provided Ira with a stock memo book to take with him on the drive. On the inside cover of the book was inscribed a directive to the bishops of the several communities:

Cove Creek Fort Sept. 8, 1869.

¹Letter of Ira N. Hinckley to Ira Noble Hinckley, August 14, 1884, Provo, Utah. This letter is on file at the Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

To All The Bishops South:

You will please furnish meals and feed to bro. Ira N. Hinkley (sic) & animals on his way south to gather the tithing, PEF Co. & stray stock, and enter all such, disbursements, together with the No. of head of stock gathered from each place in this memo. & when it reaches the General Titling Office at the City [Salt Lake City] orders will be forwarded therefor.

Respy &c

A. Milton Musser

In the stock memo book, Ira kept a careful account of each transaction occurring along his route of travel. Excerpts from the record for the communities of Cedar City and Parowan are indicative of the entries which he made:

Bp H. Lunt  Cedar City

| 1 | Two year old heifer | $20.00 |
| 1 | Two year old steer  | 16.00  |
| 1 | Three year old heifer| 25.00  |
| 1 | Three year old past steer| 35.00 |
| 1 | Three [sic] old past heifer | 30.00 |
| 1 | Cow & calf          | 25.00  |
| 1 | Three year old steer | 27.00  |
| 1 | Cow & calf          | 35.00  |
| 1 | Steer calf          | 8.00   |
| 1 | Two year old steer  | 25.00  |

$246.00

also 2 Heifers & calves $40.00 Estray for P.E. Fund.

H. Lunt Bp

1869 Parowan Titth Office
Nov 22 Ira N. Hinkley (sic)
To Parowan Ward

| 2 | Mares & 1 colt      | 65.00 |
| 1 | 3 1/2 yr old steer  | 35.00 |
| 1 | 2 1/2 yr "          | 25.00 |
| 1 | 1 1/2 "             | 35.00 |
| 1 | 1 "                 | 10.00 |

1Ibid.
1 2 Yr ol Bull 18.00
1 Steer calf 7.00
5 cows 155.00
1 2 Yr old Heifer 20.00

$370.00

also 1 colt Estray for P. E. Fund 15.00
To 1 1/2 bush corn 2.25
12 meals @ .35 4.20
Hay Church stock 12.00

Wm H. Dame Bp

Under the necessity of acquiring additional summer and winter range
for the use of the expanding Church herd, Ira Hinckley sought the aid of
the court in securing the needed ground:

County Court of Millard County in regular session
in the county clerk's office. Fillmore City, March 7,
1870.

Upon petition of Ira N. Hinckley the court granted
to him the land formerly covered by the Cove Creek
grant to Wm. & John R. King; also the ground covered
by the grant to R. A. McBride also east of Cove Creek
dort for a herd ground for the church. 2

When the time came for the fall round-up of the stock, the men
from the surrounding areas would come to help with the cattle drive. The
hundreds of head of cattle which had been grazed on the range during the
spring and summer months were now to be brought into corrals where they
could be segregated, branded if need be, and either sent to winter feeding
grounds, exchanged in California, or delivered to Salt Lake City for dis-
tribution from there. 3

During the drive hundreds of additional animals were brought in
from pioneer communities in the region to augment the Church Herd. In

1 "Bp Ira N. Hinkley's Stock Memo South, 1869," pp. 8,10.
2 Millard County Recorder's Office, Fillmore, Utah, Book "B" p. 46.
3 Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.
this land where the chief mediums of exchange were still produce and live-
stock, these cattle represented the payment of tithing, in kind, or a
contribution to the Perpetual Emigration Fund Company.

Anticipating the arrival of the numbers who would assist in the
drive, the inhabitants of the Fort made preparations to take care of the
influx. Several beeves were hung, ready for cooking. Large quantities
of butter and eggs were put in storage in the cellar under the corner
room on the southwest of the Fort, and stacks of bread, cakes and pies
were lined up in the cupboards. The men came on horseback or in wagons,
bringing their bedding with them. Fort facilities were overtaxed and wagon
beds had to furnish sleeping quarters for many of the drivers.¹

The men brought herd after herd in from the ranges. All these
cattle had to be checked at the corrals for earmarks and brands. Those
not marked kept the men busy with ropes and branding irons. Constant
bellowing and bawling came from that quarter. In the evenings, after
supper, the men would gather around the camp fires outside the Fort walls:

You'd think they would be too tired to play jokes and
tall stories, but it was sort of an outing for them. We
would hear them for a long time after we went to bed, when
an extra good joke made them laugh loudly. We could also
hear their voices as they sang.²

A song of that period and locality was entitled "Dog Valley".
It was sung by William Staples as a young man while a rider in the Cove
Creek region. The "Dog Valley" mentioned in the song lies immediately
north and slightly east of Cove Fort and was on the main thoroughfare to
the north:

¹ibid.

²Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.
DOG VALLEY

We started for Dog Valley and Three Creek too;
We had some buttermilks [calves] and they were poor too:
We whipped and we slashed till we was all give out too,
And the poor little buttermilks, they was give out too.

Chorus

Hurrah!  Hurrah!  We work hard, you bet!
We work like the devil and come out in debt.
Hurrah!  Hurrah!  We work by the day;
We work for the co-op, and we're good for our pay.

Last Sunday morning we killed a white calf.
And the bishop sent over and almost got half.
We killed it for the thresher and for himself, too.
And if he ain't able to pay for it we're able to.

Chorus

Hurrah!  Hurrah!  We work hard, you bet!
We work like the devil and come out in debt.
Hurrah!  Hurrah!  We work by the day;
We work for the co-op, and we're good for our pay.1

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1William Staples, Interview, June 1949. Interview conducted by Vida Cardon Adams. A typewritten copy of the interview is in the possession of the writer.
CHAPTER VI

FAMILIES WHO HAVE OCCUPIED THE FORT

Ira Nathaniel Hinckley Family, 1867-77; 1882-90.—On April 15, 1867, Ira N. Hinckley was contacted in Coalville, Utah, by a special messenger sent from Brigham Young. President Young requested that Ira superintend the construction of a substantial fort on Cove Creek. The call was accepted and Ira, without his family, journeyed to Cove Creek in a company which was then going south under the direction of President Brigham Young. He arrived at the site on April 29, 1867, and commenced the work of erecting the needed fortification.

In October, 1867, Ira made a hurried trip north to Coalville where his two wives (he was then married to two women following the doctrine of the plurality of wives practiced at that time by the L.D.S. Church) and their families resided. Arrangements were made for Adelaide, his first wife in plural marriage, and her children to accompany Ira on his return to Cove Fort. Angeline, his second wife and an expectant mother, took her family to Salt Lake City until such time as conditions should be appropriate to her coming to the Fort.

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2"Journal History," April 29, 1867.

3Helen Hinckley Jones, "Adelaide, A Restoration of a Tintype." For a listing of the I. N. Hinckley members who lived at the Fort see Appendix "D".
Although one of her children was born at Cove Fort, Arza Alonzo Hinckley, April 23, 1870, Angeline spent very little time at that place.\(^1\)

Relative to the time of residence of the two wives at the Fort, LaFayette Hinckley Holbrook records:

Adalaise and family were in the fort longer than Angeline, our grandmother, who moved to Salt Lake City, then to Provo, and later to Fillmore, to maintain a home for the older children of both families while they attended the John Morgan College, the Brigham Young Academy, and the Millard Stake Academy. The lack of schooling for Ira may have been responsible for his great urge to have his own children and others who it was his privilege to influence get the best education possible. Grandfather sacrificed much toward that goal and Grandmother was a great helpmate in it.\(^2\)

Ira directly superintended the operation of Cove Fort until his appointment as President of the Millard Stake, July 22, 1877, precluded his continuing in that capacity. The requirements of the new office necessitated his moving to Fillmore where he was to preside for the next 25 years.\(^3\)

Ira enjoined his brother, Arza Erastus Hinckley, to come to Cove Fort and oversee its operation. Although Arza was called to serve as manager of the facility, legal title to the Fort and Cove Creek Ranch property remained in the name of Ira N. Hinckley as entrusted to him by the E.U.M. Church.\(^4\) Ira later directed certain of his immediate family in the continued operation of Cove Fort, 1882-90, following the tenure of

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Arza E. Hinckley.

_Arza Erastus Hinckley Family, 1877-82._—Arza Assisted his brother, Ira, in the construction of Cove Fort. At the request of Ira, he then took his families (Arza had three wives under the plural marriage contract) to Coalville, Utah, to oversee the family interests which I. N. Hinckley had been required to leave when he removed from that community to supervise the work at Cove Fort.¹

When Ira was called as President of the Millard Stake in July, 1877, he contacted Arza at Coalville and asked that he come to Cove Fort to manage the operation there. Arza, then a probate judge, arranged his affairs and conducted his families to the Fort, arriving in September, 1877. He purchased certain of the Fort's furniture and supplies from Ira on October 23, 1877.²

Concerning the conditions of the move, Ella Clarinda Hinckley, daughter of Arza and Temperance Hinckley, stated that:

Apples were getting ripe when we moved into Fillmore, then to Cove Fort. We stayed at Fillmore only about three weeks. Father rented a place till arrangements could be made to buy a farm. It was first planned that the school-age children would live in Fillmore for the winter. But father later decided to accept the advise of his brother Ira and have all his family together at Cove Fort, so Temperance was there after the first three weeks. ³

Arza's three wives, Amelia Woodhouse, Temperance Ricks, and Mary Christina Heiner, all resided with their families at the Fort. Mary did not enjoy good health. Her condition steadily became worse until Arza

¹Blondel Porter Smith, Interview, February 3, 1964.

²Arza E. Hinckley, "Cove Creek Record Book" p. 101. For a listing of the Arza E. Hinckley family who lived at Cove Fort see Appendix "D".

³Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.
finally took her to St. George where it was hoped she could be assisted in her recovery. However, she failed to respond and died on October 11, 1879.¹

Arza E. Hinckley remained at Cove Fort until November, 1882, when a call to serve as a missionary among the Indians in Arizona prompted him to return the operation of the facility to his brother, Ira N. Hinckley. On the day that Arza left Cove Fort, November 5, 1882, he recorded this excerpt in his journal, "Loaded family up and effects started for Logan Cache Valley. Stayed with Hance Christiansen of Kanosh 22 miles."²

Ira Nathaniel Hinckley Family, 1882-90. -- Aware of Arza's intended mission, Ira commenced his preparations for the continued maintenance of Cove Fort facilities. In a letter to his son, Ira Noble Hinckley, then on a mission for the L.D.S. Church in New Zealand, Ira reiterated his future plans:

... Your Uncle Arza is going on a mission to the southern [sic] part of Arizona [sic] and new and old Mexico and his family is going to their folks north and I have least [sic] the Fort for 5 years I think. Holbrook [LaFayette Holbrook, husband of Emily Angeline Hinckley] will go down next spring to live and we will stock the ranch with sheep and some horses and stock for I find horses and cattle is good property to have. Stock is raising in price for I have sold some cows for $30 a head steers 3 years old $35 4 yrs old $40. So you see stock is good to have. ... ³

In December, 1882, James and Lois Framton (James married Ira's daughter, Lois Electa Hinckley) had taken up their residence at the Fort

¹Ibid.

²Arza E. Hinckley, "Journal No. 1," 1882-84. A typewritten copy of this journal is in the possession of the writer.

³Ira N. Hinckley, Letter to Ira Noble Hinckley, October 10, 1882. The original letter is in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
for the winter.\textsuperscript{1} Adelaide Hinckley moved down to Cove Creek from Fillmore in the spring of 1883.\textsuperscript{2} Lucian Noble Hinckley removed to the ranch sometime in April or May, 1884.\textsuperscript{3} Lucian was married to Ada Robison on April 3, 1884, and took his new wife to live with him there. In July, 1884, the following was recorded concerning Lucian's activities at the Fort:

Lucian is living at Cove looking after the stock. He had two hired men and a hired girl so Frank [Frank Hinckley] said when he was up, Porter Collister and Tom Turner. He will have to make something to pay all of his hired help. . . .

Upon his return from New Zealand in the latter part of 1884, Ira Noble Hinckley assisted his brother Lucian with the operation of the Cove Creek Ranch. Illustrative of the effect which the railroad had in diverting the passengers, freight and activity which had once been an integral part of life at the Fort, Ira Noble mused, "Friday Cleveland will be inaugurated. Quite an adue in all other parts but old Cove is the same most every day."\textsuperscript{5}

Ira Noble Hinckley married Lillian King on October 21, 1886, and brought his bride to live at Cove Fort.\textsuperscript{6} They later removed to Fillmore leaving Lucian and his wife, Ada, to supervise affairs. Lillian King

\textsuperscript{1}Ibid., December 11, 1882. This letter is in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

\textsuperscript{2}Ibid., April 30, 1883. Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

\textsuperscript{3}Angeline Wilcox Noble Hinckley, Letter to Ira Noble Hinckley, April 23, 1884. Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

\textsuperscript{4}Ibid., July 21, 1884. Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

\textsuperscript{5}Ira Noble Hinckley, "Dairy Number 5," March 4, 1885. This diary is in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

\textsuperscript{6}Ibid., February 21, 1887.
Hinckley, in a letter to her sister Josephine Thornley, identifies the first part of November, 1890, as the date when the last of the Hinckleys left Cove Fort. She states, "Ada & Lucian moved up from Cove for good last Saturday, have been with me ever since."¹

Concerning the final phase of the Hinckley occupancy, LaFayette H. Holbrook stated:

Parnell's father [Ira Noble Hinckley] and uncle Lucian were the last Hinckleys to operate it. Unfortunately both are now gone, and neither may have left anything in writing concerning it. Bryant [Bryant Stringham Hinckley] next to these brothers knew the most about it. He once told me before selling it, the Church first offered it to the Hinckleys. He wondered if I would be interested in joining in buying it. None of us wished to live there, so the title passed to others.²

For approximately twenty-three and one-half years the Hinckley family directly supervised the Cove Fort facilities. They witnessed its construction in the midst of the Black Hawk war and assisted in promoting its primary functions as a protection to the traveler and a telegraph, stage coach, U.S. Mail and freighting station along a then perilous route. Although the property deed still remained in the name of Ira Nathaniel Hinckley as custodian for the L.D.S. Church, the actual management of the holdings passed into other hands.

John Black Sr. Family, about 1890-1900.--John Black Sr. secured a lease from the L.D.S. Church and became the proprietor of the Cove Fort facilities in about 1890. He and his wife, Jane Paxton Black, farmed at that place for approximately ten years. Alfred Black, son of John

¹Lilian King Hinckley, Letter to Josephine Thornley, November 7, 1890. This writer has a photostate of the original letter which is in the possession of Parnell Hinckley, Salt Lake City, Utah.

²LaFayette H. Holbrook, Letter to Blondel Porter Smith, April 27, 1964. This letter is now in the possession of the writer.
Black Sr., and his wife Lydia Barney also lived at the Fort in rooms on the north side. The Blacks supplied the milk for the mine workers at nearby Sulphurdale.¹

John's granddaughter, Delila Soule, recounts the following concerning the Black's occupancy:

Granddad lived there many years before going to Beaver. It was a stopping place for Drummers [salesmen]. There used to be a big barn & corrals & the pond west of the Fort for irrigation & the two back houses - His & Hers.

There were 6 rooms on each side on the north side were the kitchen & dining room, grandma's & pa's bedroom - then the drummers room - quite nice, 2 beds - & Old Billy's room, an old soldier that lived there & helped around the place.

On the west was 2 or 3 camp rooms, a room for odds & ends & one was the milk house - milk & butter & food stuff & there were two big locust trees [three locust trees] inside the fort, & a stairway that led from the ground to the top on the west side (it was the catwalk) we used to go up there with the spy glasses & look for travelers.²

Another granddaughter, Mrs. Glen Hutchings, elaborated still further:

Grandmother had rooms for the drummers as they were called then (now salesmen) and she also cooked for them as long as they stayed there.

Grandfather was good in music, he played the organ and violin. He would walk from the Fort to Sulphur-Beds (now called Sulphur Dale) to furnish music for church and dances. He was a kind hearted man and pleasant to be around and loved by all that knew him. Grandmother was a hard working woman and managed well with what they had.³

¹Maud C. Melville, Interview, May 1, 1943. This interview was conducted by Vida Cardon Adams and Blondel Cardon Porter. A typewritten copy of the interview is in the possession of the writer. Maud C. Melville had interviewed Annie Black White, a daughter of John Black Sr., in 1935. For a listing of the Black family members who resided at the Fort see Appendix "D".


³Mrs. Glen Hutchings, Letter to this writer, January 31, 1966.
Alonzo Foutz, 1900.—Alonzo Foutz, a dentist from Richfield, did not occupy the Fort, but he did utilize the facility in 1900. Alonzo had dry farm land in the vicinity of Cove Creek and stored his farm machinery in the vacant Fort.¹

Snow McDonald Family, 1901–02.—Snow McDonald apparently did not lease the Fort but merely took up residence in the uninhabited structure. He worked in the sulphur mines some two and one-half miles away. Otto Kesler recounted a disastrous accident which resulted in extensive damage to the Fort due to the carelessness of Mrs. McDonald:

She was baking bread one day and she put some long wood in the cook stove and left the door open and went in and took a nap. When she woke up a stick had fell [sic] out on the floor and set the house on fire — and they were all afire — no water to put the fire out and no help to do with, and nothing she could do but let it burn. That was what burned the north side of the Fort out. There were six rooms on the north side that were burnt out.²

McDonald left the Fort right after the fire. He went to Joseph's Sevier County, Utah. "This was about a year and one-half before my father, William H. Kesler, went there."³

William Henry Kesler Family, 1903.—During the month of June, 1903, while fulfilling a contract to supply cord wood for Kimberly, William H. Kesler stopped at the Fort and was impressed with the desire to work the neglected land. In the fall he leased the acreage from the L.D.S. Church and, leaving his family in Beaver, commenced to repair the

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¹Helen Hinckley Jones, Interview, January 26, 1966.
damaged facility, December 1903.\(^1\)

Otto recited the extent of the work which faced his father as he attempted to make habitable the sadly rundown structure:

You see the south side, nobody had lived there and they had just used it for horse stables and one thing and another. The travel then was all by horse and teams you know, either by saddle-horse, buggies or wagons. He had to fix the windows in it. You can imagine how it goes when nobody has lived there for two or three years and the north side facing south was the main side that they lived in and that was already burnt out. The other side they didn't pay much attention to, so he had to go to work and get that in shape before he could move the family in. That's what we had to live in when we first went there.\(^2\)

William and Sarah Keeler moved their family to the Fort from Beaver on April 25, 1904. Otto remembers very clearly the days journey to their new home:

The day before, we had two milk cows and a calf, my father drove them out to Wildcat [Wildcat Ranch] by horseback and he left the cows out there and rode the horse back. He then took us with the wagon and furniture and what we had left to take out on the wagon. When we got to Wildcat, between my father and Ferrell and me, we drove these cows on the saddle horse. My father drove the horses going down hill. He didn't trust my mother with them. When we got on top of Pine Creek Hill we could see the Fort way over in the distance. My father showed us where the Fort was so we could see it. This was in the afternoon.\(^3\)

When Otto was asked if there was anyone living at the Fort at the time the family moved there from Beaver he replied:

Yes, an old gentleman pa had staying there by the name of Fife. He'd been helping pa do some carpentry work. He'd helped to fix the windows in and the one thing and another

\(^1\)Otto Keeler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, pp. 1-2.

\(^2\)Ibid. pp. 2-3.

\(^3\)Ibid., pp. 4,5. For a listing of the names of the Keeler family who have resided at the Fort see Appendix "L".
fences. He had been there only just a month or two. He stayed there about a month after we came and then he went. He was what I think you would call a footman, just going through the country. He was quite an old gentleman.1

In 1917 William sought to repair the extensive damage done to the north rooms during the McDonald fire. Up to this time the Kesler family had been living only in the rooms on the south side of the Fort. William hired three men from Fillmore to assist him in the restoration:

There was Wren Hansen, he is still alive in Fillmore, and his brother Henry Hansen that died, and a man whose first name is William... he's dead also. They are the ones that rebuilt the Fort. Of course in those days they would drive out and stay a week at a time with a buggy. They came out in a white-top buggy. I [Otto] helped haul most of the material from Milford. You see, the railroad lumber yard was down there. Most of the material, cement and lumber, came from down there.2

William leased the Fort from the L.D.S. Church until 1911. In June of that year he made a special trip to Salt Lake City to confer with President Joseph F. Smith concerning the possibility of purchasing the property. The Church was agreeable to such a proposal and a price of $8,500 was set as the cost of the transaction. "Of course that was a lot of money and of course he bought it on time and the interest is what added up. It was a lot of interest."3 Eight-hundred acres were included in this original parcel of land. A clear title to the holding was given to William Kesler on August 21, 1919, under the hand of President Heber J. Grant as Trustee-in-Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.4 President Grant had succeeded President Smith who had died in 1918.

1Ibid., p. 6.
2Ibid., pp. 1, 2.
3Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, p. 4.
Subsequently, Otto Kesler acquired possession of the Cove Creek ranch from William. Concerning his purchase of the property from his father, Otto stated, "He sold it to me several years before he died and then of course I had to pay the heirs their portion of it."\(^1\) Otto kept his father and mother in their declining years. William H. Kesler died in Fillmore, Utah, September 27, 1947.

\(^1\)Otto Kesler, Interview, February 1, 1964, p. 41. For additional information on the tenure of the Kesler family at Cove Fort see "Cove Fort in the Twentieth Century", Chapter X, p. 158 of this thesis.
CHAPTER VII

FAMILY LIFE AT THE FORT

Household Facilities and Activities.—Considerable insight into the facilities utilized by the occupants of Cove Fort in implementing their various functions can be obtained by studying a detailed listing of household items, farm equipment and animals which were purchased for continued usage at the Fort by Arza E. Hinckley. Arza procured a substantial number of supplies from his brother Ira at the time of the latter's leaving the Fort and recorded the sale in the Cove Creek Record Book. Examination of this transaction lends understanding to the material employed by both families in their operation of the establishment. Registered in the record book, commencing with October 23, 1877, are the following items:

Cove Creek Record Book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dr.</th>
<th>Cr.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1877</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 23</td>
<td>To bus potatoes dug</td>
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<td></td>
<td>By 100/lbs Flour</td>
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<td></td>
<td>16 lbs Beef</td>
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<td>6/lbs pork</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17/lbs molasses</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>1 pr shoes</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>cook stove</td>
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<td></td>
<td>dining table</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sink</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23 chairs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 lounge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 box stove</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>round stand</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wash stand</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mirror</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bedstead</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>125 lbs flour</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>84 lbs beef per lb 6¢</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 lbs beef</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

111
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dr.</th>
<th>Cr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>By 25 yds carpet 75¢ per yd.</td>
<td></td>
<td>18.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 1 wash bowl and pitcher</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 1 chamber</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 &quot; 100 lbs salt 3-1/2 cents pr lb</td>
<td>5.60</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 &quot; 12 lbs pork 20</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 17 molasses 9</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 20 beef 6</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 200 flour 3-1/2</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; pr boots</td>
<td>6.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 &quot; 152 lbs beef 6 cents pr lb.</td>
<td>9.12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 8 bars soap</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 3 barrels</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>335.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>p. 102.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1877</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 20</td>
<td>Brought over from page 101</td>
<td>335.65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; By 18 lbs pork</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; coffee mill</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; To 2 men and horses herding</td>
<td></td>
<td>78.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 days $3.00 per day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; Man &amp; team 13 days $4 per day</td>
<td></td>
<td>52.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; By bord</td>
<td>18.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; hay and grain</td>
<td>26.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 1 pig</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; cash</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 34 lbs sugar</td>
<td>7.15</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 17 lbs coffee</td>
<td>6.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 28 lbs d [dried] apples</td>
<td>2.80</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 50 chickens</td>
<td>17.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 1 w. barrow</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 2 plow &amp; harrow</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; pick &amp; shovel</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; wagon</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; nogs</td>
<td>45.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 330 roads of fence and land claims</td>
<td>165.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 &quot; 105 lbs flour</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25 To 3719 lbs grain hauled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 cents pr hd.</td>
<td>18.59</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>148.59</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 8</td>
<td>By 183 lbs beef 6 pr lb</td>
<td>10.98</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>By 170 lbs &quot; 8 &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>13.60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; Can carcien [Karosene]</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 2 lamps</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; brass kettle</td>
<td>6.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 1 caster</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 3 table cloths</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 6 glass tumblers</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; 6 cups &amp; saucers</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The facilities of the Fort were always kept in an immaculate state of preparedness for the dual benefit of the inhabitants and the multiplicity of travelers who found food and lodging there over a period of years. Even the courtyard was swept and cleaned:

The courtyard at Cove Fort was used so much that grass never had much time to grow there. In warm weather, each day, we used to keep the yard as clean as any floor. We swept the dirt down to hardpan then sprinkled it.  

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1"Arza E. Hinckley, "Cove Creek Record Book." pp. 101-103.

2Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.
Fresh straw matting was periodically laid on the floors of the various rooms and then handwoven rag rugs placed on top of these mats. "States" carpet (carpet made east of the Mississippi River) was purchased for use in the dining room only. Straw was used in the bed ticks, "When we filled the bed ticks with new straw the beds were too high for us as children to crawl onto, so we pulled chairs up by the bed, climbed onto them and leaped into the middle of our beds." There were four such beds in the girl's room which was next to Aunt Mary's room (Mary Christina Heiner).  

The walls of the individual rooms were white washed and, at the windows, crisp, white, starched, curtains with their fine hand-knitted lace edgings hung. Each room had its own fireplace. People often exclaimed about the comfort of these big fireplaces. Sometimes overnight travelers would set their bread to rise at night, and bake it on the hearth the next morning before they started on their day's journey. The spare rooms, of which there were two, were always full of such travelers. In each guest room were two large double beds with knitted covers. Sometimes makeshift beds had to be set up for extra guests, and the children were required to sleep on their crackly straw ticks on the floor, which pleased them very much.

In the dining room was a large dining table covered with a spread made from "Dixie" cotton. A silver self-waiter or whirling caster having eight condiment containers was placed at the center of the table. At the

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1 Ibid.
2 Ibid. See the diagram of the utilization of rooms at the time of Arza E. Hinckley's occupancy of the Fort, Fig. 6, p. 115.
3 Ibid.
Fig. 6.--Diagram of the utilization of rooms at the time of Arza E. Hinckley's occupancy of the Fort, 1877-82, from a pencil drawing by Ella Hinckley Hoopes, June 12, 1945.
northeast corner of the room was the table at which the telegrapher sat to operate his key. In the opposite corner stood a spool table with a red and black Turkish cover and the family Bible. An organ, purchased by Arza E. Hinckley for $50.00, was also in the room. ①

The kitchen reflected the requirements of a hostelry used for producing meals for as many as 75 persons at one time:

President Brigham Young used to stay at the fort on his trips south. When he came from Fillmore to Cove Fort a guard from Beaver would meet him there [at the Fort]. We have fed as many as 75 at a time when President Young came. At such times we youngsters slept on the floors.②

It was not unusual under such circumstances for Adelaide to cook as much as a quarter of beef at one baking.③

A big double stove with tea kettle was in the kitchen and a number of large utensils for cooking. A huge brass kettle, filled with water, was placed over a built-up rock fireplace. The water was used for dishwashing, laundry, cooking killing pigs and Saturday night baths for the tenants as well as inhabitants. The kettle was likewise employed in the making of soap and butchering of animals. (the Fort had a meat room where several animals often hung at one time). There were also wooden bowls, large stone crocks with lids to keep the milk cool, a butter ladle, churn, wooden sink and a wooden dish drainer devised by a hired girl of German extraction. In one corner stood a 40 gallon water tank where it was readily

① Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.

② Jean Hinckley Holbrook, Interview, 1941. Interview conducted by Blondel C. Porter. A typewritten copy of the interview is in the possession of the writer. Cited hereafter as "Jean Hinckley Holbrook, Interview, 1941."

③ Ibid.
available for household use, and also for use in the wash room prepared for travelers. It was the children's daily task to fill the tank from the well (a hole in the ground into which some of the water from Cove Creek was allowed to run as it followed a ditch dug through the center of the Fort) in the courtyard.\(^1\)

In the spring of 1878 meals were served daily to 18 members of Arza Hinckley's own household plus a telegraph operator, stage drivers, stable boys, one or more hired girls, and certain of the sulphur miners. Travelers, of which there were many, added to the large number who dined each day.\(^2\)

To provide for such numbers as these and others over a period of years a well-ordered kitchen had to be run and creditable meals served. Much of the produce that was consumed was grown in the gardens on the west of the Fort, meat came from the range as well as from the pigs and ducks, which were raised. Chickens provided a continuous supply of eggs.\(^3\) Ira Hinckley maintained a herd of 30 cows which made milk plentiful.\(^4\) Butter, vinegar, sausage, yeast and cheese were all homemade. Apples were provided from the orchard on the east and rhubarb grew in abundance along Cove Creek. The rhubarb was preserved so delectably, sugar packed and sun dried, that it was stolen like candy from the large crocks in which it was stored. Ella Hinckley recalls this process:

Mother [Temperance] made crocks of preserves. She

\(^{1}\)Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 12, 1945.

\(^{2}\)Ibid.

\(^{3}\)Ibid.

\(^{4}\)Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His Life," p. 19.
used wooden buckets too, in which molasses came. When the season was right the molasses venders came from Dixie. Then we had a treat of molasses on our mush, and could make us some molasses candy. Sometimes we hoarded a piece of candy and later had it on our mush and let it soften in the milk, of which we did have plenty. But we never had enough sugar for my liking.¹

Preparations for winter demanded a good deal of planning and foresight. Anticipating the food requirements, the root cellar was stocked with potatoes, squash, carrots, cabbages, beets and onions. The flour and grain bins were stocked and bags of beans and corn hung from the ceiling. The men were prepared to keep the meat room in good supply. Dried apples were an important supplement. The apples were gathered in season, pealed, quartered and spread out on muslin covers which had been laid out on the runways beneath the port holes on the east and west sides of the Fort. A muslin cover was also placed over the top of the fruit. In this manner many pounds of fruit were dried in the sun, put in bags and preserved for the winter. A large quantity of wood was also hauled in and piled in readiness to meet the demands of the 12 fireplaces called into use under the rigors of winter weather.²

The larder was occasionally supplemented by some wild game. One of the most avid hunters at the Fort was Joel Hinckley. Ella, Joel's sister, cited his interest in this pursuit:

Joel particularly enjoyed hunting. He hunted ducks, deer and grouse for the table, and other animals such as coyotes and wildcats as well. He made his bullets from every scrap of tinfoil which was brought into the fort. One of the chief sources was the tinfoil sheet which lined each

¹Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937. Interview conducted by Blondel C. Porter. Cited hereafter as "Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.

²Ibid. Pie-plant was also dried in the sun. Chunks of fruit were first dipped in sugar and then sun-baked to make candied treats.
large wooden China Tea box which came in. Joel melted the tinfoil and poured it into iron molds. Three sizes of bullets could be moulded at one time.¹

There was a place which was reserved for guns at the Fort in the southwest room. An unfinished opening beneath one of the windows provided a storage space where weapons were readily accessible.²

To aid in the heavy domestic requirements of Cove Fort, a number of "hired" girls assisted in performing the necessary chores, as well as the girls in the respective families. Among those employed were Annie Black and Martha Prows.³ Two Indian girls, Ruth and Eliza, were helpers at the time Ira N. Hinckley was at the Fort. They were the wives of an Indian named Sussic. Jean Hinckley remembered Ruth and Eliza very clearly:

"Sussic was the only Indian that stayed around the Fort while I was there. He had two wives, both of whom were reared in Mormon homes. Ruth was reared by the Holbrooks and Eliza was reared by the Jacob Hamblin Family. The two wives would do any heavy work, though Eliza was better at it. She learned quicker and stayed at it longer than Ruth. They would scrub floors, peel potatoes, bake, polish knives and forks, and do laundry work.⁴

The men were as engaged in the performance of their work as were the ladies in the duties consigned to them. Their activities included the breaking up of the land for sowing the seeds, cultivating and irrigating, planting grassland for increased pasturage, mending telegraph lines and poles, and putting in the garden. The orchard was planted, thinned

¹Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, n.d. Interview conducted by Blondel C. Porter.
²Ibid.
³Fernie Tindrell, Interview, n.d. Interview conducted by Vida Cardon Adams.
⁴Jean Hinckley Holbrook, Interview, 1941.
and harvested, horses had to be shod, harnesses kept in shape and farm tools repaired. The stable boys kept the stage horses, raised and fed the calves, and were responsible for cleaning the stable. There was feed to be stored and livestock to be cared for. The cattle and horses needed to be taken to and from the range and checked on periodically. There were always fences to build or mend.1

Home manufacture was a necessity with the Fort's occupants. Not only did they make their own butter, (10 to 12 pounds daily in a "hand dasher" churn) cheese and other food stuffs, but also their own soap and candles. Adell Hinckley remembered her experiences in soap making:

I made the soap that summer. We slaughtered a good many pigs and cattle and saved all the fat in two large barrels. I weighed out the fat and knew just how much lye to add and how to cook it in our huge brass kettle.2

Ella Hinckley recalled the process of candle making:

Venison and other greases when melted down made excellent candles. A handful of pine needles dropped into the melting fat improved the odor. Our mold made eight candles at one time. Strings were threaded through the tubes from top to bottom and crossed over small sticks to hold them in place. After they had been poured and cooled you had to be careful in freeing them from the mold.

Candles were seldom used during the long summer evenings or early mornings, but when dark, wintery days came they were used a good deal. The outer walls of the fort served as walls for the rooms and had no windows. When the light in the courtyard grew dim the rooms were often gloomy even at mid-day. The candle light and open fireplaces helped this situation.3

Dyes were made from rabbit-brush, indigo, copras, logwood, and barks of trees. Shoe and boots were blackened with stove black or

1Ella Cardon Hoopes, Interview, 1937.

2Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His Life," p. 19.

3Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, n.d. Interview conducted by Blondel C. Porter.
bears grease. Bats were carded for quilts and rolls to spin into yarn. Stockings were knit for the whole family:

We didn't know any other hose than black wool and white cotton. How we hated the cold weather to come, for we knew we would be tortured with itchy, long black wool stockings. But they were warm and saved many feet from frostbite.

Occasionally the Fort's occupants would purchase materials for clothing from a traveling salesman. The salesman would spread his wares out on the dining room table for all to see. Such selections as black alpaca, a blue-gray brocade called "Moonlight on the Lake," a piece of broadcloth called "Doe", a maroon wool shot with silver-gray thread, or brown broadcloth for a man's suit were available.

Where trained medical assistance could not be had for miles in any direction or when winter snows drifted and blocked the road, the necessity of providing their own antidotes for illness, wherever possible, is evident. Temperance Hinckley served as doctor, nurse and pharmacist for both her family and travelers. Some of the home remedies which she practiced included such herbs as horehound, which grew plentifully along the roadways. It was a small greyish plant with blue flowers and prickly seeds. The tea from the leaves of this plant were mixed with honey or molasses and used as a cough medicine. Marshmallow plants, commonly known as "Cheese," were made into a tea which was good for kidney trouble. The inner bark of slippery elm was for pregnant women as they traveled. It helped to straighten their stomachs. Sage tea had a double purpose, to "cure what ails you," and, as a concession to vanity, to keep hair pretty. Additional medication was achieved through caster oil, turpentine, and "Golden Seal"

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1 Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.

2 Ibid.
for canker, powdered burnt alum for sore mouth, ginger for cramps, and also wild sage tea, spring tonic, with sulphur and molasses for cramps.¹

Afflictions of a serious nature had to be treated as best they could. Mary Christina Heiner, wife of Arza E. Hinckley, bore a pair of twins which were premature. They both died at birth. A mid-wife, Ann Long Woodhouse Holbrook, from Kanosh, was attending Mary, but her services could not save the infants. The twins, too tiny to be listed as ever having lived, were buried under the current bushes immediately northeast of the Fort. Flowers were placed there from time to time but no marker was ever set to designate the spot.² These twins constitute the only known burials at the Fort.

The successive families living at the Fort were large in size and when added to the personnel required to run the operation, a small community was virtually made within itself.³ Initially there were from 8 to 10 ranches in the general vicinity whose inhabitants came to the Fort periodically.⁴ John King and his family operated a ranch nearby.⁵ The Wilcoxes ranched northeast of the Fort. They had a hired girl to assist them named Fernie Tindrell. She milked 24 cows every night and morning.⁶ A sulphur miner, Charles Alexander Sealer, lived in a dugout immediately east of the

¹Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.
²Ibid.
³United States Census Report, Cove Creek, Millard county, Utah 1870 and 1880, Films No. 6156 and No. 973, Genealogical Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, See Appendix "E".
⁴Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, June 1945.
⁵See Appendix "E".
⁶Maud C. Melville, Interview, November, 1943.
Fort. Semler took his meals in the dining room regularly and engaged in many of the family activities. He was there throughout the occupancy of both the Hinckley brothers, Ira and Arza.¹

Religion.---The occupants of Cove Fort were adherents to the faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Practicing the tenants of that faith was an integral part of their everyday lives. Ira N. Hinckley was a practical religionist:

Father was not interested in the mysteries of the Kingdom. The thing that characterized his religion was its application to everyday life. He had little use for religion that did not register in one's life, that did not manifest itself in his behavior. He never regarded religion as a cloak that could be laid off and put on at one's convenience. . . .When it came to paying tithing, helping to build a meeting house, assisting the poor, donating to the temple or supporting a school, he led the way. If he prayed for a thing he went to work to get what he prayed for.²

Ira Noble Hinckley recalled that his father, Ira, was very particular about family prayers, "While at Cove Fort and associated so much with non-Mormons, we had a room on the north side of the Fort, and no matter what was going on, father took the family there, and had family prayers."³

Sunday services were usually held at the Fort because of the time-distance factor in going to Kanosh. Luna Ardell Hinckley indicated that her father, Arza E. Hinckley, "used to take us into the bedroom on Sunday morning, where he and Lon would bless the bread and water, and pass it for the sacrament. Other Sundays we went to Kanosh and sometimes

¹Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.

²Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His Life," p. 47. This statement was registered by Bryant Stringham Hinckley.

³Ibid. p. 23.
to Beaver to conference."\(^1\)

When going to church in Kanosh, the family had to be up by 4:00 a.m. in order to be there for the 10:00 a.m. meeting. On such mornings there was much to be done. The horses needed to be fed, watered and harnessed, cows milked and pastured, numerous heads brushed and all given a hearty breakfast because they would be gone from home the whole day. It was 25 miles to the meeting house in Kanosh where meetings would be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and an afternoon meeting from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. After that there would be the long ride home.\(^2\)

Special meetings were called when Brigham Young or other Church dignitaries visited the Fort. Jean Hinckley distinctly remembered one particular visit by President Brigham Young and Elder Joseph F. Smith:

Father always held meetings when Pres. Young and company came. Once when I had to take care of the children I took them into mother's sitting room and kept them quiet while Pres. Young held a meeting in the dining room. I started to tell the children stories to amuse them. Pres. Joseph F. Smith, then much younger, of course, came into the room and listened quietly for a while to my stories. I was telling "Blackmoor" stories and making them as scary as possible. I think I was trying to show off a bit, too. I remember I was showing the children a picture of a child who had turned yellow, when young Smith stopped me. He said, 'So you think it is right to frighten children out of their wits, when there are so many good stories about courage and strenth and honor?' I never told another "Blackmoor" story.\(^3\)

George A. Smith records a meeting conducted by Brigham Young at the Fort in May, 1868, (it may have been the same meeting as described

\(^1\)Luna Ardell Hinckley, "Notes Written by Aunt Dell Paul Concerning Her Father, Arza E. Hinckley," n.d. A typewritten copy of these notes is in the possession of the writer.

\(^2\)Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.
by Jean Hinckley as Joseph F. Smith was present on that occasion), "In
the evening we preached at Cove Creek Fort, the most substantially built
fort in the Territory, and although the congregation was small, yet it
comprised the entire settlement and the meeting was very interesting."¹
On March 10, 1869, George A. Smith, Erastus Snow, William Snow and Augus
M. Cannon conducted a gathering, "We have just held a meeting in this fort,
which its inmates and the neighboring families attended."²

Tithing was meticulously paid and also donations given toward the
construction of both the St. George and Manti Temples.³ Tithing was paid
in kind by Ira N. Hinckley and others at the Fort to the Beaver Tithing
Office. Evidence of such payments can be found in a ledger page entitled
"Cove Creek Account with Beaver Tithing Office for the year ending Dec-
ember 31st 1869:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Cove Creek Dr for hay for animals</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>&quot; &quot; &quot; &quot; Max Parker</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>&quot; &quot; &quot; &quot; 1200 lbs hay @ 50¢</td>
<td>1&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 Pd U. Dr. of April 6th in favor of H. Lemkins</td>
<td>37&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 &quot; &quot; &quot; 1000 lbs hay @50</td>
<td>5&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 &quot; &quot; &quot; Hay fed to animals</td>
<td>75&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; &quot; I. N. Hinckley to me Tithing mare</td>
<td>55&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>Thomas Mather to 3 dox eggs</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>I. N. Hinckley to one hifer [sic]</td>
<td>20&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 7</td>
<td>U.D. of May 7th in favor of D. Levi, for lumber</td>
<td>100&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novem 8</td>
<td>U.D. of Aug 19th &quot; &quot; Tom Carlow for stock</td>
<td>185&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 I. N. Hinckley to meals</td>
<td>2&quot;</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>22 &quot; &quot; &quot; one bus corn</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23 &quot; &quot; &quot; 6 meals</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decem 2</td>
<td>To Hay for feed for 2 span of animals</td>
<td>1&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 &quot; &quot; &quot; 4 meals to men for hay</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 I. N. Hinckley to 8 tons hay @ 10$</td>
<td>80&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 To U. D. of Dec 13th in favor of David Levi</td>
<td>87&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹"Journal History," May 20, 1868.

²Ibid., March 10, 1869.

³Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His
Life," p. 23.
Decem 31 To U. D. of May 7th in favor of David Levi 40"
" U. D." Jan 31st 1870 (Dec 31st 1869) in favor of Max Parker for nine bushel potatoes 675
" U. D. of Feb 14th 1870 (Dec 31st 1869) in favor of James Low 57" 68995

John R. Murdock Bp
Per Wm Fotheringham Clerk

The Hinckleys observed the first Thursday of each month as Fast Day, "At this time members fasted for three consecutive meals, usually from sundown to sundown. Before the end of the second day there was little work accomplished. Everyone was too hungry."\(^2\)

Periodic trips were made to the St. George Temple after its dedication on April 6, 1877. Arza E. Hinckley and his wife Mary Christina Heiner were in St. George and attending Temple sessions together just prior to Mary's death, October 11, 1879.\(^3\) Ella Hinckley made the journey with her family in September, 1882:

Father took his family of growing girls there to go through the temple. I had the privilege of going through this great temple September 20, 1882. This was one of the great events of my life, and by having had my endowments there, I was given a ticket to the dedication of the Logan Temple, for we had moved to Logan in the fall of 1882, to live near grandfather Ricks while father went on a mission to Arizona.\(^4\)

**Education.**—On a visit to Cove Fort in December, 1867, A. Milton Musser noted that, "They have a school kept by Mrs. Dodson."\(^5\) Recalling

\(^{1}\)John R. Murdock and William Fotheringham, "Cove Creek Account with Beaver Tithing Office," December 31, 1869. This account is in the possession of Helen Hinckley Jones.

\(^{2}\)Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.

\(^{3}\)Ibid.

\(^{4}\)Ibid.

\(^{5}\)"Journal History," January 2, 1868.
her experiences under the tutelage of this woman, Jean Hinckley Holbrook
stated:

The Dodsons lived in a house northeast of the orchard. They had helped Father move down from Coalville to the fort, and then stayed on. Mrs. Dodson was a refined southern gentlewoman. Later they moved to Pine Creek and then to Minerva. Mrs. Dobson taught the fort children. The schoolroom was Mrs. Dobson's kitchen-living room. Mrs. Dobson often baked bread during school hours. That bread smelled so good and made my mouth water so that I couldn't study. Mrs. Dobson had a buggy whip and if the children didn't study she flicked them with the whip. I got more than my share.  

I. N. Hinckley was anxious that his children should be properly educated. This fact is attested to by his son, Ira Noble Hinckley:

He was very desirous that his children should have an education, and spent a lot of money for this purpose. He bought Lucian and I "Life Scholarships," valued at about $160.00 each. The two of us came to Salt Lake and boarded with Aunt Em, (mother's sister). Mother came later and kept the boys and girls, while they went to the John Morgan School. Aunt Em was a teacher in the school. She was very kind to us boys, and took great pains to dress us and keep us looking well. . . . Father not only spent money to educate his family, but was one of the founders of Millard Stake Academy. He and Joseph V. Robinson and some of the leading men of the county started the school and donated very liberally for a number of years to keep it going. Josiah Hickman and the Greenwood boys, Joshua and Alma, taught there for years. Millard County patronized the B. Y. Academy more according to its population than any other county. Lucian and I attended in 1881–82, when I left for a mission to New Zealand. All the boys attended later. The older children got the least education: the younger ones got more.  

Lois, Eliza and Minerva were sent to Salt Lake City to the University of Deseret. Frank Hinckley attended the Brigham Young Academy. Edward eventually went on to school at Ann Arbor Michigan. Nellie, Sam

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1Jean Hinckley Holbrook, Interview, 1941.

2Farnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His Life," pp. 22-23.
and Sarah received their high school training at the New Millard Stake Academy.\(^1\)

The Arza E. Hinckley family was similarly desirous of obtaining the learning of the day. Ella Hinckley has left a detailed account of their educative process:

Mother [Temperance] used to make us children quit play and come in the house for a certain period each day while she taught us to read, spell and write figures, also small letters in writing copies which she set. Mother had memorized a McGuffey Reader and she taught this to us from memory. She also bought school books from which to teach us while we were at Cove Fort.

When I was eleven years old \((1878)\) mother and her children [Temperance's] and my two sisters, Mary L. and Luna Arde\(^1\), [Mary's children] went up to Provo to attend the B. Y. Academy under Brother Karl G. Maeser. This was my first regular school. We had "Normal Students" as teachers. No finer teachers could be found than those we had. Joel had gone to the academy the previous year \((1877)\) as well as being with us that year. It was a wonderful time for all of us.\(^2\)

It's interesting to note that William H. Kesler, as Ira Hinckley in an earlier era, was also under the necessity of hiring a teacher to instruct his children during his tenure at the Fort. Otto Kesler stated:

He [William] hired a teacher in the winter time and the teacher would stay right there. We had a different teacher every winter. There was a Miss Taylor from Ogden. Her people were working for Walt James down at Black Rock. She graduated from High School and she was about 18 or 19 years old. I had her one year. And then they had Miss Pointinson from Beaver. I had a Miss Dave from Fillmore here, and I had a Miss Watts from Kanosh. I also had a Miss Brunson from here [Fillmore]. They had their room and board and were paid a little bit.\(^3\)

\textbf{Entertainment.}--The Fort's inhabitants were not a part of a


\(^2\)Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.

\(^3\)Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, p. 39.
regular community structure and so, in their comparative state of isolation, they had to devise their own means of entertainment and periodic diversions. For the children, with their vivid imaginations, this posed little problem. Bryant Stringham Hinckley commented, "The Fort was a very interesting place for boys. There were wild horses, wild cattle, Indians, cowboys, Mexicans, and many other unusual visitors."¹

Ella Hinckley has enumerated some of the things which provided amusement for the younger members of the family:

We used to play such games as 'Six and Four Make Ten,' and 'Dare the Redman out of His Den.' Shucking corn for drying in the fall was fun because we all joined in, and had contests and guessing games and such.²

Ella further indicated that on long summer evenings the family would sit in the courtyard and have a songfest. Joel had bought sheets of printed songs before leaving Grass Creek and these were sung by old and young alike. The sheet music included such tunes as "Come Sister Come," "Poor Little Soldier Boy," "Kittie Wells," and "I'll Be All Smiles Tonight, Love." Other favorite songs included "The Gypsies Warning," and "Sleep, Baby, Sleep." Joel would accompany the singers on his "Jew's" harp. When Arza E. Hinckley purchases an organ it was often utilized for family singing.³

The verses to a number of songs were remembered by Ella although the titles had often been forgotten. Here is one song whose verses were recalled:

¹Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His Life," p. 49.

²Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.

³Ibid.
"Write a letter to my mother
Far across the deep blue sea.
It will fill her heart with pleasure.
She'll be glad to hear from me.

"How she wept when first we parted
How her heart was filled with pain,
When she said, Good-bye, God bless you
We may never meet again!"

"Tell her to be glad and cheerful
Pray for me wher'er I roam
Till some day I turn my footsteps
Back toward my dear old home."¹

When winter set in, the amount of travel on the road was greatly reduced, and the Fort was more isolated than ever. The children would entertain themselves with a number of activities:

We loved to make a big wheel in the fresh snow out on 'Sunflower' flat when we played 'Fox and Geese.' If we spoiled the snow circle in one place we could move onto another. We had homemade sleds and even owned homemade skates. We would slide on the pond behind the Fort when it froze over.²

One of the sports on a winter's evening was to form a "Shocking-line." Fifteen or twenty people would take hold of hands; the first in line would touch his finger to a spot on the telegraph set and all down the line the tingle of electricity would shoot, the last in line getting it strongest. Martha used to beg the others not to make her stand in line, because, she said it hurt her the most, no matter where she stood.³

Christmas was a special occasion at the Fort, "My first doll was a rag one but she had a pink dress. On Christmas we had molasses candy

¹Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.
²Ibid.
³Martha Adelgunda Hinckley, Interview, June 13, 1949. The interview was conducted by Blondel Cardon Porter.
and molasses on our mush, because we didn't have sugar."¹ Charles Alexander Semler, a sulphur miner and friend of the family, was particularly nice to the children of the Fort at Christmas time. When Minnie Hinckley Bowen was asked if she remembered his kindness she replied:

Oh Yes! He was the only Santa Claus I ever knew! He brought us a Christmas tree with real oranges on it. He must have purchased the oranges at Fillmore for we never saw oranges between Christmases. He gave me the prettiest blue beads in the world. I have never been able to find any others that blue. My eyes may have been different then, or I look with different eyes now. He gave me a white muff and a tippet, a beautiful set of white fur with black touches in it. He chose gifts that made us remember him. One was a little stove with a red grate that glowed as though it had a fire in it. I used to carry it around in my arms.²

The myriad of travelers who passed through Cove Fort inevitably brought a number of professional entertainers through its portals. These people usually came in their own vehicles, and, to pay for meals and sleeping accommodations, presented their performances for the benefit of Fort audiences.

Once a ventriloquist called at the Fort. He carried a pencil which he used to write the children's names on their handkerchiefs, and it must have been magic, for it would not wash out, which pleased the children greatly. He had several magic tricks to display, among them of course was the throwing of his voice. It was amazing to have a man sit by the fireplace and have his voice come out of a cupboard or from a doorway. Joel, of course, wanted to learn the trick and tried to imitate the ventriloquist's various voices. It was more difficult than he had

¹ Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.
² Minnie Hinckley Bowen, Interview, February 5, 1964.
supposed and until he could become a little more proficient in the art he decided to hide Arthur in the cupboard to answer his questions. The ruse worked for only a little while.1

Another time a pretty little English woman presented her performance in the dining room. She both danced and sang. One of her songs so pleased the children that she taught it to them:

Oh the man in the moon is looking love,
Looking love, looking love.
The man in the moon is looking love,
And each little star
Knows just where we are.2

Among the most remembered evenings of entertainment at the Fort was when Philo Dibble stopped there while on a tour of southern Utah towns. With him he brought a moving picture scroll. It was a large colored chart which turned on two large rollers. Mr. Dibble's whole outfit was set up in the Fort dining room, and at first it was feared there was not enough space, the rollers were so tall. When all was in place the scroll was unrolled slowly from one side of the room to the other, and the sensational history of the Mormon Church from its beginnings was revealed to the audience.3

Animals.—A large number of horses were maintained at the Fort both as relays for the stage line and for personal use. These indispensable animals were highly valued by the occupants. Alonzo A. Hinckley gave an appraisal of his father's ability to assess quality horses and a

1Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.

2Ibid.

3Ibid.
resultant episode:

I thought father to be the greatest horseman in the world, not only as a driver, but as a judge of quality. He loved horses, high-spirited, good travelers, and what we would call "Dead Setters" on the pull. Father's sons inherited to a greater or lessor degree this very high regard for fine horses. In those early days we paid tithing in kind. I remember on one occasion hauling a big load of hay off the meadow with this fine team. The load was so heavy that the wheels cut through the sod over the fillys and it was all the team could do to move it a few feet at a time. My brother, Frank and Ed, were there with me, witnessing the wonderful pulling qualities of the team. Frank spoke up and said, 'Don't let father know what we think of these horses or he will turn them in for tithing.' We were all agreed that would be a calamity. Sure enough, Monday morning, after having spent a Sunday in Fillmore, father came down to the farm, looked over the team that we then had at work again, and said to Frank, the driver, 'Frank, isn't that a fine span of horses?' Frank replied 'Yes, the best span of horses we ever had.' 'Well, I want you to shine them up and take them up to Thomas C. Callister [President of the Millard Stake]. I have turned them in for tithing.'

In addition to the horses utilized at the ranch, the surrounding country was full of wild horses and wild cattle as well. Bryant S. Hinckley was witness to various attempts to round up this elusive stock:

Some of the exciting experiences were corralling wild horses and wild cattle. In the adjacent hills were cattle and horses that had never been corralled. They were as wild as deer. It was great sport to see those cowboys, riding fleet-footed horses, go into the mountains and bring out some of these wild animals. When they got down on the flat where we could see them, we would get on the walls of the Fort and, with the aid of field glasses, watch the excitement. When they would come near the corral they would break away. Then the cowboys would go in hot pursuit and, to see whether a horse carrying a man could out-run a horse without one on its back, was always a thrill. They usually brought them back and finally corralled them. These wild horses had never had rope on, and after they were corralled the cowboys would put a rope around their necks and one on their feet, tie them down and brand them with a hot branding

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Wild horses were still prevalent in the area when the William H. Kasler family moved to Cove Creek, 1903-4. Otto recalls the numbers that remained and also tells us why they disappeared:

There were still lots of wild horses. My, there were horses by the hundreds. They trailed in there for water from the west and then on the north and the south side both. You'd see several bands a day with 20 to 50 head to the band. They trailed up east to water and back again. Then they'd go back out toward the desert more, back in the cinders and the clay hills, down toward Antelope mountain. We tried to catch them. Gosh, it's a wonder I didn't get my neck broke as a kid chasing those things. But my father, he would never let us get one and bring it in. He wouldn't let us get one around. He was prejudiced against it so we didn't dare tell him about it if we chased one. If we caught one we had to turn it loose. The government finally had them killed off. Yes, they gave about a dollar and a half a pair for the ears. They hired fellows--there were fellows from Fillmore and Kanosh that went out and shot them down by the hundreds.  

At the Fort proper there was a wide variety of domesticated animal life. Horses, mules, cows, pigs, chickens, ducks, and sheep were all to be found. In the nearby hills were numerous forms of wild life such as deer, bobcats, coyotes, eagles, grouse, ducks, prairie dogs, jack-rabbits, lizards, and snakes. A pet deer frequented the Fort; Joel hunted bobcats, coyotes, grouse and ducks and mistakenly shot an eagle thinking it to be a vulture. There were prairie dogs in "Dog Valley" on the way to Kanosh; jack-rabbit hunts were organized in the area to eliminate them as a menace to crops; Ella was scared by a lizard while collecting pine

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1Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His Life," p. 49.

2Otto Kasler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, pp. 35-36.
nests and snakes got into the hen house to rob the chicken eggs.¹

**Insect Infestation.**—The occupants of Cove Fort have been plagued periodically with the crop destruction wrought by crickets and grasshoppers. The threat that such invasions posed is best described in a report sent out from Cove Fort by George A. Smith as he visited that place on March 10, 1869:

The almost total destruction of crops by grasshoppers, together with the loss of the dam at Deseret City on the Sevier river, tell fearfully upon the inhabitants of this county, many of whom are destitute of bread and seed grain, and the Egypt to which they look for corn is Beaver county, where it bears a high price.²

On June 2, 1870, the Deseret Telegraph line gave the general status of crops in Millard and Beaver counties following an infestation of grasshoppers:

...Fillmore. Crops destroyed at Chalk Creek. Meadow and Corn Creeks good: Cedar Springs and Oak Creek good. Cove Creek. not much damage here; at Pine Creek they have taken a good portion. Beaver. Destroyed nine-tenths of small grain in Beaver, Greenville and Adamsville; good crops at Minersville. Parowan. Grasshoppers nearly all gone; crops look better than ever before. Cedar City. Destroyed one-eighth of the wheat crop; rest looks well. Good crops at Hamilton's Fort—no hoppers there. . . .³

Luna Ardell Hinckley (Dell) described what it was like to fight the onslaught of an invading horde of crickets:

About the time mother died [Mary Christina Heiner

¹Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.

²"Journal History," March 10, 1869.

³Ibid. June 23, 1870.
Hinckley, October 11, 1879] we had crickets so bad we all went out to fight them. One day [Arza E. Hinckley] fainted. Lon had tried to get him to go in, but the crickets were so close to the lucerne that he told Lon he could not quit. Lon worked so hard that day that he was exhausted and wasn't I glad when we got them turned. I can hear those crickets squack now.¹

Ella Hinckley gave a graphic description of the advance of the crickets:

They came from the southwest. The crickets attacked the 5 acre patch of lucern south of the orchard. The family fought them off with sage brush branches. They beat them into the creek where they drown. Crickets were no respectors of persons. They would crawl up our legs and we would have to dance them down.²

No less destructive were the crickets and grasshoppers which moved in on Cove Fort during the tenure of William H. Kesler following the turn of the century. Otto Kesler saw the effects when the countless numbers of insects settled on their acreage:

We've had crickets there at Cove Fort and grasshoppers several times. Two different years we had grasshoppers. I remember the first time I ever knew what a cricket was. They came in from the southwest. They came across the fields. They didn't just go around the Fort they just climbed over it and down and over the walls, and right on and just kept a going. Oh, gosh, just armies of them, black, the ground was just black with them. They just ate as they went. Only they didn't stay long. They just ate it as they went. They trimmed off what they wanted and just kept a going. But if they had stayed we wouldn't have raised anything. They sure eat it down.

The grasshoppers seemed to stay more. They ate when they came and stayed right there until you poisoned them. We used to poison them with brand, but that's an old time method. It killed a lot of them but there are new methods. Now spraying is the only way to kill them, to spray poison for them. You can kill them, just kill them by the millions.

¹Luna Ardell Hinckley, "Notes Written By Aunt Dell Paul Concerning Her Father, Arza E. Hinckley," n.d. A typewritten copy of these notes is in the possession of the writer.

²Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.
It kills them right now, you're done with them.\(^1\)

**Drought and Earthquake.**—In 1878 a severe drought afflicted the entire region around Cove Fort. Week after week no rain fell. The orchard, garden and field crops withered as with a blight. Cove Creek became a trickle of water and eventually ceased running altogether. Each day water had to be hauled by wagon from Cove Spring 2 miles east of the Fort. Five fifty-gallon barrels were needed for the day's supply at the Fort. As each barrel was filled, a canvas cover was drawn down over the top by a hoop to hold out the heat and retain the water during the return trip. Many evenings were spent by the men in clearing and improving the roadway to the spring.\(^2\)

There were fewer travelers in the late summer. Those who came arrived thirsty, bedraggled and weary. The heat made slower traveling a necessity because the horses had to pull their loads through miles of deep dust. All along the route, water was at a premium. Stage coaches carried special containers. The horses needed more water to make the trip—so did the passengers. Barrels and canteens fastened to the sides of the wagons were emptied long before they reached a fresh supply at the Fort.\(^3\)

Pine Creek, the tiny stream five miles south of Cove Fort dried early in the season, but the ranchers there had success in digging a well from which they sold water to travelers at twenty-five cents a bucketful.\(^4\)

\(^1\)Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, p. 34.

\(^2\)Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.

\(^3\)Ibid.

\(^4\)Ibid.
During that exceptionally dry summer, the occupants of the Fort were startled by a series of earthquakes that very much unnerved them. The first of these quakes occurred on August 14, 1878, and was immediately relayed to Salt Lake via the Deseret Telegraph, "This a.m., at 26 minutes after 10 o'clock, a distinct earthquake was felt at this place, lasting about 8 seconds, jarring the windows, and opening and closing doors that had been left ajar."¹

The next day there were three more shocks the last of which was much stronger than those previous:

In addition to the earthquake on the 14th, there were three more yesterday. One at 20 minutes to 7 a.m. one at 29 minutes to 8, and the other at 16 minutes to 8 p.m. The first two, slight, the last one being quite severe, lasting about 15 seconds, rattling dishes, jarring windows, shaking the whole building, and giving the people here quite a scare."²

¹"Journal History," August 14, 1878. On January 23, 25, 26, 1865, Charles Willden and his family experienced a whole series of quakes while living at Fort Willden on Cove Creek, see p. 28.

²Ibid. August 16, 1878.
CHAPTER VIII

EXPERIENCES WITH THE INDIANS

Cove Fort Never Attacked By Indians.--Cove Fort was erected in the midst of an Indian war which proved to be the costliest in Utah history, the Black Hawk War, 1865-68:

The war began as an incident during a peace conference in Manti on April 9, 1865, in which white officials and Ute representatives met to iron out charges and countercharges relative to cattle stealing. John Lowry became involved in a personal controversy with a young Ute chief Yenewood whom he dragged from his horse and proceeded to thrash. The chief found ready support among his tribesmen. Messengers carried the war spirit to distant camps, and soon a renegade war party was formed. Sometime during the summer raids Chief Black Hawk emerged as a leading spirit... In the struggle which continued sporadically into 1868 about seventy lives were lost, at least twenty-five settlements had to be abandoned, and according to Adjutant General Clawson of the Nauvoo Legion the expenditures ran into a million and half dollars.¹

Despite the fact that the Fort was an isolated outpost between major settlements and on a main Indian thoroughfare, Cove Fort and its occupants were never attacked nor placed under siege during this perilous and often brutal Indian war. At no time subsequent to the close of that war were the occupants ever bothered by the redman. Throughout its history the structure has remained a bastion of safety for all those who have sought refuge within the fortification. Relative to this circumstance, Luma Adell Hinckley, commented, "There were many stirring in-

cidents in connection with early fort history, but few Indian troubles
and no tragic one ever found place near its sheltering walls."¹

Alonzo A. Hinckley, in response to a question by Frank Beckwith
as to whether the Fort had ever been attacked, replied, "No, Mr. Beckwith,
it was not attacked by Indians. Its grim walls, those threatening port
holes, the sense of absolute security which those solid rock walls and
those heavy gates gave, no doubt, deterred the Indians from ever attempt-
ing an attack."² President Heber J. Grant responded to a similar inquiry
with the comment, "Take my word and your mother's [Ella Hinckley] that
there were no Indian fights within the confines of Cove Fort. But there
were scares."³

One of the "scares", or perhaps an incident which startled the
Fort's occupants more than "scaring"them, occurred shortly after the
arrival of Ira N. Hinckley's family from the north. Luna Adell Hinckley
recalled the happening very clearly:

Soon after the arrival of the family all seemed quiet. My Father [Ira] went out of the east gates, and there stood
seven fine specimens of Indians. Greetings were exchanged
after which the visitors were taken in. The family was
asked to prepare breakfast and with it to serve plenty of
good coffee.⁴

Ella Hinckley recounts that one evening her father, Arza E.

¹Farnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His
Life," p. 11.


³Heber J. Grant, Interview, 1940. Interview conducted by Blondel C.
Porter. A typewritten copy of the interview is in the possession of
the writer.

⁴Farnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His
Hinckley returned in a hurried fashion from a trip to Fillmore where he had been warned by the authorities in that community that the Fort might be in danger from a band of Indians coming through the canyon. A large number of Indians did encamp that night at Cove spring. The gates were shut and sentinels posted throughout the night. In the early morning three Indians came to the Fort, one of them being Moshoquop who had been friendly to the whites. In conversation it was learned that the sounds which the occupants had heard emanating from the Indian camp during the night were merely their lament for the son of a chief who had died. Ascertaining that the Indians were in no way hostile, Arza invited the three riders into the Fort for breakfast. Both Arza and Moshoquop offered vocal prayers on this occasion as they sat together in the dining room.\(^1\)

_Treatment of the Indians by the Fort's Occupants._—As already seen, Ira Hinckley set the tenor of the Fort's relationship with the redman at the commencement of his stay on Cove Creek by showing his willingness to assist them. Alonzo A. Hinckley pointed out that his father's actions were prompted by an adherence to an established policy:

Acting under the wise instruction of Brigham Young, my father faithfully carried out in rigorous exactitude that policy early laid down, 'Feed the Indian rather than fight him.' That was the greater reason why there was no attack. For always we maintained the most friendly relations with our red brother.\(^2\)

Jean Hinckley Holbrook states that "Whenever father [Ira] killed a beef he gave the Indians a forequarter, and like as not a sack of flour

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\(^1\)Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.

Ira Noble Hinckley was a witness to this fair treatment of the Indian when he commented, "Father was always extremely kind to the Indians. He used to kill beef for them and always treated them well. I never in my life knew him to turn any one away from his door hungry."2

Two Indian girls, Ruth and Eliza, were used by Ira N. Hinckley to assist at the Fort. Both of these squaws were the wives of an Indian named Sussic. White families had originally reared these girls. Ruth had been brought up by the Chandler Holbrook family and Eliza by the Jacob Hamblin family.3 Bryant S. Hinckley describes these Indians and the eventual fate of Sussic:

The wives and their children lived in wickiups west of the Fort, and the women worked for the family. They did washing and other jobs. This Indian [Sussic] was a cruel looking man, rash-tempered, and hard to manage. He had been gone for several days and returned one morning. My Aunt had prepared breakfast for him and he was eating it when the officers from Beaver appeared on the scene. They called father out and asked him if the Indian was there. He said, 'Yes,' and they directed him to have all his family put in one corner room of the Fort and to close the gates, explaining that they must take the Indian prisoner. They had brought an extra horse, so they arrested the Indian, put him on one of the horses, tied his feet under the horse and his hands behind him. He had killed one or two men in the mountains east of the Fort and had on his back at the time of arrest a shirt worn by the murdered man. The squaws were terrified and almost instantly disappeared and could not be found. One hid herself in a clothes basket and put the dirty clothes on top of her. The other had gone down under the floor in one of the rooms to hide away. The Indian was taken to Beaver where he was executed for the murder of these men.4

1Jean Hinckley Holbrook, Interview, 1941.

2Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His Life," p. 23.

3Jean Hinckley Holbrook, Interview, 1941.

4Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His Life," p. 45.
Ira Hinckley and his brother Arza, who followed him as manager of the facility, were each concerned with the proper treatment of the Indians. A comparison of the two in this regard is given by Ella Hinckley:

Both of the Hinckley brothers who lived there at different times, believed that the Indians had some toll coming to them from their land as original settlers. Neither ever lost cattle or horses through theft committed by Indians, though other sections were tormented. There was never an Indian who came to the Fort in need that they turned away.¹

An Indian by the name of Charlie and his wife Mary lived on a knoll north of the Fort during Arza's residence on Cove Creek. Charlie helped at the stables. He gave Temperance Hinckley the only $5.00 he had in the world so that she might buy material and storelace to make a christening outfit for his baby which was to be born soon. He specified that the clothing must be just like that which Temperance made for her own babies. The dress, when finished, was a yard long and a yard wide with a foot of tiny tucks of lace at the hemline. When the infant came it was appropriately dressed and christened after her mother, "Mary."²

The policy of assistance to the Indian rather than the threat of destruction by the Fort's occupants and others in the vicinity was reciprocated by the Indians. Perhaps the most notable example of this can be found in the person of Chief Kanosh of the Pauvan Indians. Kanosh lived at the community of Kanosh and was a frequent visitor to the Fort. He is personally credited with having saved the Willden family from difficulty with a band of hostile Indians (this was at Fort Willden, on Cove Creek, before the erection of Cove Fort).³

¹Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.
²Ibid., Interview, June 12, 1945.
³Deseret News, January 6, 1923, sec. 3, p. VI. See also p. 29 of theses.
The friendly attitude displayed on this and other occasions by the Chief and his tribe was a significant deterrent to clashes between the white and redmen in the area:

The Pauvan Indians were among the most friendly of the Utah tribes. Their chief was named Kanosh. He was good to the Mormons. 'He did all he could to prevent trouble with the whites, and gave his word that he would always protect the colonizers, which he always did.' Chief Kanosh was an unusually intelligent and influential native.¹

Following the turn of the century, the Indians still continued to traffick through the Cove Creek area in considerable numbers. William H. Kesler maintained the spirit of kindness toward these people that was inherited from the past. Otto relates his father's acceptance of the Indians passing through Cove Creek:

The Indians came by in big bands. They had their old buggies and buckboards and their little old ponies. They took about everything along. I was scared of them because I'd heard so many stories about them when we were kids. Father was always good to the Indians, father and mother, they used to give them quite a bit of stuff, give them flour and give them meat and stuff like that. They gave them feed to feed their horses. They camped out from the Fort to the east and north a little ways. They would tie their horses up along the fence to feed them, you know, pull sage brush and build fires, carry sage brush all around. It was mostly the women who did the carrying.²

Customs Practiced By Indians Visiting the Fort.—The braves who came to the Fort often wore only a breech-clout, the children were bare, only the women were covered with their dresses. In the winter they wore skins fashioned into clothing. Buffalo robes and rabbit skin blankets were usually in evidence. Ella Hinckley remembers a humorous incident in

¹Hunter, Brigham Young the Colonizer, p. 285.

²Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, p. 18.
dress which she witnessed on one occasion:

Almost all the women of the Pahvant tribe came to the Fort all wearing full long white chemises which some L.D.S Relief Society had given them. The Indian women were so proud of their newly acquired attire that they were wearing the chemises on the outside of all their clothing. The Indian bucks, when given sturdy woolen trousers immediately cut the seats and fronts out leaving only the legs.¹

The Indians often sat along Cove Creek to fashion their arrows. They also came to the stream to make their baskets. Along its banks and in the canyon they found bushes, which they wove into baskets after treating them. They also used a grass to make finer baskets. The grass bore many tiny yellow blossoms in the spring. Indians called the plant ragweed. It bore a black seed about the size of a kernel of wheat. The Indians gathered it in the fall to add to their pemmican. Pemmican was a form of biscuit. Ella describes one of these biscuits acquired by her brother Joel and brought to the Fort for the girls to taste:

Joel traded some squash seeds for some pemmican. It was sort of dark brown with darker specks in it, and was made of seeds, berries and crickets, the Indians told him, the ingredients being ground into a rough mixture, and, after being stirred up with water, were formed into flat cakes and baked on hot rocks by the campfire. It was so hard we couldn't dent it with our teeth. The jerky he brought at the same time was delicious.²

The Indians' supply of venison for "jerky" was secured in the fall when the meat was at its prime. The people at the Fort often watched the Indians drying their meat:

Using two heavy forked sticks which branched about a yard above the ground, they placed across them a longer heavy pole. On this they threaded the meat to dry. Starting with venison strips about as big and as long as a

¹Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.
²Ibid.
persons arm, they cut the meat into smaller portions, slit near the top like an eye for the threading, and then the pieces were strung to dry in the smoke, sun and wind. They were then ready to be shredded for food, or chewed as occasion demanded.  

Sunflower seeds were gathered by the Indians on the area south of the Fort known as "sunflower" flats. Arza E. Hinckley incurred their displeasure on one occasion when he planted lucern on the sunflower patch. It had been their place for gathering seeds from time immemorial. Here they came with their big baskets, shaped like coolie hats turned upside down, and brush the seeds into the baskets in a winnowing fashion. Otto Kesler remembers how the Indians would cook their rabbit meat while camped near the Fort:

They'd make a big fire and they'd kill rabbits and clean the entrails out. When the fire would burn down to coals then they'd kind of scrape the coals back and throw these rabbits in with the hides on and then scrape the coals all in over them and cook them. The hide would burn off. It was sure nice looking meat. When it was done they'd just pull it out and you could pull pieces off. It sure looked good.

In the fall the Indians brought pine nuts and venison to trade for sugar and flour. Bryant S. Hinckley indicates that other items were also traded:

The Navajo Indians from Southern Utah and Arizona used to bring wagon loads of blankets and buffalo robes to trade for horses. We would save up the horses that were hard to break until they came. They would buy the meanest of them and drive them home afoot. How they managed to keep those wild horses from running away was difficult to understand,

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1Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937.

2Ibid.

3Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, p. 18.
but they did; they knew how to do it.\(^1\)

On September 20, 1870, Brigham Young and his party "nooned" with Ira N. Hinckley and family at Cove Fort and then went on to Meadow Creek for the night. From A. Milton Musser something is learned of the Indian's burial custom as practiced at that time:

On nearing that settlement, the sepulchre of the notorious Indian Chief Walker was pointed out to us by Bishop King, where, with a live boy and a dead girl (killed for the occasion)—both Pie de captives—and some twelve horses, were buried a number of years ago. The Chief, boy and girl were put in a kind of stone vault, around which the horses were strewn. Several days after the burial, while passing the grave, some Indians heard the boy begging for release, asserting that he was very hungry and thirsty, and that he wanted to be taken from the decomposing body of Walker. His cries were unheeded. He, the girl and the horses were all needed as servants by the Chief in the Spirit World. It is said this Chief—so much dreaded by all the surrounding nations of Indians and by the Spaniards in California, who offered a liberal ransom for his head—shrank from approaching death with terrible agony and dread, accusing God of deserting and mistreating him in the hour of sore trial.\(^2\)

\(^1\)Parnell Hinckley, "Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Some Events of His Life," p. 49.

\(^2\)"Journal History," September 17, 1870.
CHAPTER IX

SULPHUR MINING IN THE COVE FORT VICINITY

Sulphur Is Discovered in the Cove Creek Area.—The first sulphur production in Utah came from hot spring deposits found near Salt Lake City. Shortly after this the Cove Creek deposits were discovered. The L.D.S. Church made an early study of the area. Erastus Snow, who had organized a company of iron miners as a part of the Iron County Mission of southern Utah, was one of the early explorers of the region and imparted this information in December, 1852:

Between Cove and Pine Creeks, and about a mile east of the road, is the recently discovered bed of Brimstone, sufficient to supply the Territory, and to become an article of export.

These Creeks afford facilities for small settlements, and it seems a necessary post upon the great Southern route, and one too from which perhaps the Territory may yet be supplied with Sulphur and Powder. . . .

In May, 1855, E. P. Thomas gave a graphic description of an examination of the area by Brigham Young and his company:

. . . About one mile east of the road between Pine and Cove creeks at the foot of the mountains there is a sulphur bed, evidently the crater of an extinguished volcano, of two miles in circumference. It is covered with a crust of sulphur varying in thickness from one to several feet. The earth is hollow beneath, as the trampling of my horse's feet indicated, and the sound of waterfalls below may be

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2"Journal History," December 12, 1852.
heard by placing the ear over an aperture. There are several indications of recent small eruptions from the presence of volcanic cinders which encase the edges. Above this bed there is a beautiful magnesia spring, and below it another of magnesia and sulphur combined.

Sulphur was utilized for many purposes by the early inhabitants of the Territory, and its production, although on a small scale, provided a necessary ingredient in the preparation of a number of items:

The early-day sulphur production filled the needs of Uthans and other western settlers for sheep dip, gun powder, and medicinal purposes. The last mentioned revives childhood memories of 'sulphur and molasses,' the spring-time home remedy to thin that heavy winter blood.\footnote{1} \footnote{1}{"Journal History," May 27, 1855.}

The expanded thinking of an early Utah chemist relative to the possible uses for the sulphur gives us an interesting insight into the potential employment of this substance as visualized in November, 1855:

Purified Elements.—Dr. Loba, chemist, has shown us beautiful specimens of stick and flour sulphur, which he refined from the specimens brought from the sulphur bed near Cove Creek, in Millard County. He used the poorest pieces that he could pick on, and they yielded 50 per cent of as fine an article as we have ever seen.

He also exhibited a specimen of most excellent rosin, and residuum of some Lake salt which he had been refining, and purposes shortly to make a few pounds of gunpowder, by way of experiment.

The residuum from the salt will make an excellent ingredient in glazing, enamelling, and glass manufacture, and that from the sulphur will make a beautiful red paint... The sulphur and other elements are at hand in abundance (except the saltpetre which is now rapidly forming) to supply Utah with gunpowder, brimstone, rosin, tar, turpentine, red paint, glazing, glass, soap, &c., &c., so fast as men and facilities can be got ready to develop our varied resources.\footnote{2} \footnote{2}{Romney, "Utah's Cinderella Minerals: The Nonmetallics," \textit{Utah State Historical Quarterly}, Summer 1963, p. 229.}

\footnote{3}{"Journal History," November 28, 1955.}
That there was an extensive potential supply of sulphur available for usage in the preparation of these materials is attested to by the fact that, "In 1892, it was reported that the most important deposits of brimstone in the United States are found in Utah, at Cove Creek, 22 miles from Beaver, near the line of Millard County. . . ."¹

Early Cove Creek Sulphur Mining.—Sporadic sulphur mining was carried out on a very limited plane during the initial years of the discovery. However, the necessary impetus for a substantially increased mining endeavor was supplied in 1872. In this year the Gordon Mining District was organized:

At a meeting of miners held at Cove Creek in the County of Millard in Utah Territory on the 15th of June A.D. 1872, for the purpose of establishing a mining District, and adopting and prescribing local customs, and regulations of miners therein, A. P. Bonton was called to preside and Thomas Mather was chosen Secretary of the meeting.

Whereupon it was ordained and prescribed then and there by the miners of said District as follows: viz: I. A new mining District is hereby established which shall be called the "Gordon Mining District, with the following boundaries, to wit: commencing at Cove Creek Fort, running due north five miles thence east five miles, thence north ten miles, thence east five miles to place of beginning, and shall be known as the Gordon Mining District."²

Just prior to this June gathering at Cove Fort a number of mining prospectors had become active in identifying sulphur claims in the Cove Creek Area. Their activity probably gave rise to that organizational meeting. Typical of those who were interested in the minerals to be found was Thomas Mather.²


²Millard County Recorder's Office, Fillmore, Utah, Deed Record "B", p. 4. In all there are a total of thirteen articles cited which comprise the customs and regulations designed to govern the action of the miners in the new district.
found at that place were such men as Charles A. Semler, Robert Brooks- 
bank, Han Clausen, George D. Keaton, James Woods, and Jesse Knight.¹

Following the organization of the Gordon Mining District the number of interested parties steadily increased. Numerous prospectors trafficked through the Cove Creek area in search of deposits. None among this group were more active in staking claims than Charles Alexander Semler. Semler secured deeds for such claims as the "Julia Sulphur Mine," April 23, 1874; "Sulphur King Mine," December 15, 1874; "Cinderella Sul- phur Mine," October 6, 1875, and the "Conqueror Sulphur Mine," October 30, 1875.²

It is interesting to note that on at least two occasions Semler joined with Ira N. Hinckley, superintendent of Cove Fort, in obtaining deeds to land bearing sulphur deposits. The "Prince Albert Sulphur Mine," September 17, 1874, and the "Mariposa Sulphur Mine," October 21, 1874, were joint acquisitions by these men.³ Ira's brother, Arza E. Hinckley, also prospected for sulphur in the vicinity and was successful in filing on the "Electa Sulphur Mine," February 2, 1876.⁴

The sulphur deposits were removed by the process of open-pit mining. Eventually the sulphur was refined by a thermal process.⁵ The

¹Ibid. Dead Record "A", p. 367. See Appendix "F" for a description of their claim, the "Mammouth Sulphur Mine."


³Millard County Recorder's Office, Fillmore, Utah, Dead Record "B", pp. 376-380.

⁴Ibid. Dead Record "C-2", p. 90.

first taken to the market areas by wagon. With the advent of the Utah
Southern Railroad Extension Company, 1880, and emergence of the combined
Utah Central Railway System, 1881, it was freighted by wagon to the depot
at Black Rock where it could then be conveyed to its destination by train.

Of the mining enterprises that dotted the mining district, one
emerged as the largest and most productive: "The first year of successful
operation was in 1883, by the Dickert and Meyers (Myers, in other reports),
Sulphur Company. Peak output was 5,260 tons in 1896, and the yearly aver-
age for the 16 previous years was 1,372 tons."¹

The Importance of Sulphur Mines to Economy of Cove Fort.—The
history and economy of the Sulphur mines and Cove Fort are closely inter-
mingled. Men who worked the sulphur beds dined at the Fort regularly and
were the recipients of other services provided by its personnel. The
occupants were similarly benefited through the additional employment which
they found for themselves and their teams and equipment at the mines.
Accounts from each side reveal this close relationship.

Charles A. Semler, a sulphur miner, lived in a dugout immediately
east of Cove Fort. From Ella's description of the dugout it is very
probable that it was the same dugout-cellar constructed by the Willden
family in 1861.² Semler lived there during the tenure of both Ira and
Arza Hinckley. During this period of time, save for an occasional trip,

p. 28. Cited hereafter as Wideman, A Reconnaissance of Sulfur Resources,
1956.

¹Romney, "Utah's Cinderella Minerals: The Nonmetallics," Utah
State Historical Quarterly, Summer 1963, p. 229.

²See pp. 22-23.
he ate his meals at the Fort. The cost of a meal was 50¢ per meal or $1.00 for three meals if you were a regular diner.  

Semler was a German emigrant, short and stocky, and an incessant pipe smoker. He was a frequent figure at the Fort and was a part of many family gatherings. The earliest drawing of Cove Fort known to the writer was sketched by this man for his friend, Ella Hinckley, in 1878. It bears the inscription:

Is Ella's Home where the gondola rows,  
Or where the Fig, Lemon, Orange grows?  
Oh no! no, no! 'Tis not there!  
'Tis in this snugly Oasis Fort! there is ELLA'S HOME.  

Semler entered into a mining partnership with Ira N. Hinckley on two claims. At a later date he hired Joel Hinckley to assist him in mining sulphur ore. On January 13, 1885, Ira Noble Hinckley and his brother Lucian visited the sulphur beds where Semler and Ferdinand Dickert were at work:

Lucian and I went to Dog Valley on horse back got three of father's heifers brought them home. Had dinner hitched up the team and went to the sulphur beds. Met Messers Dicart [Dickert] and Semler. It is quite different than I ever saw it before. Smelter mill houses people etc. A large business is being done there or will be in time.  

1Arza E. Hinckley, "Cove Creek Record Book."  
2See Fig. 7, p. 154. The original drawing is in the possession of the writer.  
4Ella Hinckley Hoopes, Interview, 1937. Arza's son "Lon" also worked in the mines according to Ella.  
5Ira Noble Hinckley, "Diary Number 5," Wednesday, January 14, 1885. This diary is in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Fig. 7.—Drawing of Cove Fort by Charles Alexander Semler for Ella Hinckley, 1878.
In a letter to her brother, Ira Noble Hinckley, LaVern Hinckley records the element of prosperity and employment stirred by the activities in the sulphur bed, September, 1883:

... Father & Lucian came from Cove last night reported all well, and the sulphur mines are being worked causing some little money to exchange hands. ... Jim [James Frampton] and Lois [Lois Electa Hinckley Frampton] with Mrs Frampton as cook will take the boarding house at the mines which are three miles south east of Cove.\(^1\)

During the months of October and November, 1885, Ira Noble Hinckley worked hard in the sulphur mines. In December, 1885, he made arrangements with a number of men at the sulphur beds to bring them hay for their animals:

Last Thursday I went to the Sulphur Camp and made a contract or a verbal agreement to deliver 9 tons of hay at $9 per ton four to the Boreguard Boys, three to Dickert and two to Finn. Today we took one load up. It was all weighed by small amounts in order to give satisfaction.

In addition to hauling hay, Ira Noble Hinckley was commissioned by Dickert and Myres company to deliver 50 tons of sulphur to Black Rock where it could be shipped north by rail.\(^3\)

Shortly after the Hinckley family left Cove Fort in 1890, the John Black family moved into the structure. As their Hinckley predecessors, the Blacks became inseparably connected with the Cove Creek Sulphur industry. They supplied milk for the miners, and the men worked in the

\(^1\)LaVern Noble Hinckley, Letter to Ira Noble Hinckley, September 16, 1883. The original letter is in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

\(^2\)Ira Noble Hinckley, "Diary Number 5", December 6, 1885. When working in the mines, Ira was paid $2.00 per day.

\(^3\)Ibid. March 8, 1887.
Edna B. Black stated that:

Sulphur beds were producing at this time under the management of John M. McFarland. His family and the family at Cove Fort were good friends. Men hauling the sulphur from the Beds to the rail-road made their headquarters at the Fort. John Black had a contract and it furnished employment for some of his sons. He believed in good outfits, horses & wagons.

"They operated the inside of the Fort as an inn or hotel as it were, for the travelers, but, most of their business came from the freighters, freighting sulphur from the sulphur mines." Among the freighters who hauled sulphur to the depot at Black Rock at this time were a number of men from Beaver, George Parkinson, Jesse Baldwin, and Burton Gillies. John Black Sr. was a musician and found an outlet for his talent at the mines. "Grandfather was good in music, he played the organ and violin. He would walk from the Fort to Sulphur-Beds now called Sulphur Dale [Sulphurdale] to furnish music for church and dances."

When the Black family vacated Cove Creek, Snow McDonald and his family took up a short term residence there while he worked in the sulphur mines. He apparently made little or no attempt to operate the Fort as a hostelry for the miners. Shortly after the disastrous fire which swept the north side of the Fort, McDonald left and the place remained comparatively vacant until the arrival of William H. Kesler in 1903. Otto told

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1 Maud Crane Melville, Interview, May 1, 1943.
2 Edna B. Black, Letter to this writer, April 4, 1966.
3 Claron Griffin, Letter to this writer, March 30, 1966.
4 Edna B. Black, Letter to this writer, April 4, 1966.
5 Mrs. Glen Hutchings, Letter to this writer, January 31, 1966.
the writer that he [Otto] had worked in the sulphur mines for a period of time a number of years ago.  

Cove Creek Sulphur Mining Today.--The "Home" mine has produced virtually all the sulphur which has been extracted by open-pit mining. Sulphur was removed through the use of a thermal process until 1951, when a flotation mill was constructed near the Home mine. The operation was short-lived, and no production was reported from the property.  

In 1954, hopes for the reactivation of the Sulphurdale mines was given revived credence with the announcement of a new refinery and recovery method:

The new refinery being constructed is the first of its kind in the country, . . . It will use a solvent recovery method which is old in the refining of other metals, but new in the sulphur industry.

The new plant, which represents a half million dollar investment, will be completed during December and be in operation by January 1. Production will be 100 tons of refined crystalline sulphur per day. . . . The sulphur will be sold at home and abroad for sulphuric acid, fertilizing, rubber and steel manufacturing.  

Apparently problems again developed in reactivating the plant because another attempt had to be fostered in 1961. The 1961, venture was no more successful and prompted this statement:

"Sulphur mining has been sporadic since the turn of the century, with intermittent attempts to establish commercial operations. The most recent was by Sulphurdale Chemical Company, which built a 100-ton-per-day mill in 1961 to produce powdered and beaded sulphur. The pro-

1Ibid. p. 30.-  
2Wideman, A Reconnaissance of Sulfur Resources, 1956, p. 28.  
3Deseret News and Telegram, October 20, 1954.

There had been no output from these mines since 1952, except for experimental purposes.\footnote{Otto Kesler, Interview, July 10, 1965.}
CHAPTER X

COVE FORT IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Present Day Functioning of Cove Fort.—William H. Kesler

first leased the Fort from the Church in December, 1903, and commenced to make improvements on the existing property. His family was moved to the site on April 26, 1904, and in 1911, he made arrangements to purchase the 800 acres comprising the Cove Creek Ranch from the L.D.S. Church. William renovated the south side of the Fort and made it habitable for his family. In 1917, with the help of outside contractors, he restored the north side which had been destroyed by fire. ¹

William and his family continued to operate the Fort as a hostelry for travelers on the road. The advent of the automobile inevitably brought with it the problem of supplying the necessary gasoline for an extended journey between major communities. A gas station of modest means was opened in 1916. It consisted of gas being drawn for the motorist from 54 gallon drums. The drums were hauled by wagon from Milford. Only 7 drums of 54 gallons could be carried at a time. The Keslers would take about 50 bushels of potatoes down to Milford for marketing and then bring gasoline back on the return trip. ²

In 1918, a one room store and hand operated gas pump were put in just north of the main gate, between the first two locust trees. The gas

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¹See Chapter VI, p. 107.

was first pumped out of a barrel and then a 300 gallon tank was placed under the ground. The site of the store and gas station, so familiar to the Cove Fort visitor of today, was first established on the east side of the roadway in 1927, across the street from the 1918 store and pump.¹

That year, 1927, a singular event transpired at the Fort which is most worthy of remembrance. The sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of Cove Fort was commemorated on April 25, 1927. Co-sponsors of the anniversary program were the Richfield Commercial club and the Salina Lion's Club. The invocation was offered by Bryant S. Hinckley. An imposing monument, costing in excess of $600.00, was then unveiled with appropriate remarks by Henry Elden Beal, secretary of the Richfield Commercial Club (the monument stands at the intersection of US-91 and U-13). Following the unveiling, W. O. Cluff, toastmaster, introduced the first guest speaker, who was also the first child born in the Fort, Edwin Smith Hinckley. Mr. Hinckley's remarks were full of important historical reminiscences. President Heber J. Grant was the next person to address those assembled. The second child born at the Fort, Alonzo A. Hinckley, gave the final talk on the program. The benediction was then offered by President Robert D. Young of the Sevier Stake.²

William Kesler constructed a cistern in the courtyard, 1912-13, and utilized water from Cove Creek to fill it:

We had it fixed so that when we had water running down we could run water from the ditch out in front of the Fort through a pipe and a filter box that had charcoal and gravel

¹Ibid.

in, and through the pipe and fill this cistern full of water. It held about 3,000 gallons. We just used it for drinking water and that would last a long time if you were kind of careful. Father used to put a little lime in the water, in the cistern, to kind of keep it purified.  

This system was replaced in 1930, by a pipe line being installed from Cove Spring directly to the cistern. Over the years the periodic freezing of the pipe and problems with tree roots causing breaks to occur, caused Otto Kesler, in 1961, to drill a well just east of the structure and pipe that water into the Fort.  

A telephone was acquired shortly after William and his family arrived at the Fort in 1904. Thomas Callister, of Fillmore, bought out the old line of telegraph poles and strung them for telephone use. It was called the "T. & T., Telephone and Telegraph Company."  

Coal oil lamps were used until the mid 30's when a gasoline generator was purchased to provide light. Electricity from a power line was not introduced to the Fort until October 19th or 20th, 1941, just prior to World War II. The Telluride Power Company brought electricity to Cove Fort. This company was later taken over by Utah Power and Light.  

The Kesler family planted the locust tree nearest the road, just east of the main gate of the Fort, in about 1908-10. All of the shade trees and certain of the fruit trees around the existing store were also planted by them. The locust trees in the Fort's courtyard and around the

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2Ibid.

3Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, pp. 16-17.

4Ibid. p. 17.
outside, save for the one specified, were planted by the Ira N. Hinckley family. The cottonwood trees placed by the Charles W. Willden family at the site of Fort Willden have all died but one.¹

William H. Kesler started dry farming in 1912. As the farming enterprise grew at the Fort so did William's family, 11 children being born to his wife, Sarah Adeline Losee Kesler. Today only one son of the original family remains to operate the farm, Otto Kesler. Otto purchased the property from his brothers and sisters and with his sons, Joe and Calvin, and modern methods, he now farms on a much larger scale than imagined by the Willdens, Hinckleys, and Blacks that proceeded the Kesler family:

They farm some 900 acres of dry land in the vicinity, plus 130 acres of irrigated alfalfa on Cove Creek. Since the area is high and frosts occasionally are destructive, Kesler and his family have learned how to meet this hazard. Strange as it may seem, a large herd of beef cattle is the answer, for if a late spring frost hits the dry farm grain just as it is coming into the boot, the hard-bitten grain fields are immediately turned into beef pastures and the grain utilized for cattle feed. Operating on this system, the family has become prosperous... As another side line the Keslers presently have 100 meat hogs, and a goodly sized herd of sheep salvaged from bummer lambs...²

Thousands of tourists have visited the Fort over the past years. Today, Mary Kesler Davies, Otto's daughter from Fillmore, maintains a schedule at the Fort for the benefit of the seasonal tourist trade:

I open the first of April and close the first of November. In April and May, except on weekends, you have mostly retired couples or couples without children. Then you have many many school groups. Seminaries, Sunday

¹Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, pp. 16-17.

Schools, from first grade on up. June, July and August, that's your terrifically busy season, with the children and all. In September and October you have the couples again.1

As an indication of the multiplicity of travelers who have called at the Fort, it is interesting to note a survey conducted by a Mark Paxton in June 1959, to show the amount of interest in the Fort. "Mr. Paxton said that he conducted a traffic count Sunday from 9:35 a.m. to 11:35 a.m. and that in that two-hour period 515 cars passed the fort; 91 of them stopped and 335 persons visited the fort from these cars."2

In a pamphlet, directed to the tourist, a description of what facilities the visitor can expect to find at the Fort is given:

The rooms are beautifully furnished with their pioneer antiques, and Indian relics, which give one a feeling of living in the Old West again. Tourists are taken on guided tours if they desire, and attention is called to such things as the structure itself, the 20 Mule Team Borax Wagon, Keystone Arch, Tools used to construct the fort, Gun Collection, Doll Collection, methods of transportation, dinner bell used by Johnston's Army, hundreds of Pioneer antiques and Indian relics.

Picnic and play areas are provided and a souvenir shop is located in one of the rooms. Across the street is a service station and grocery store operated by the Keslers.3

In addition to these services, Calvin Kesler operates a string of pack horses during the annual deer season for the benefit of hunters.

Each year he takes groups into the nearby mountains, sets up their base camp, and then brings them out at a designated time.4

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1A. LeGrande and Mary Kesler Davies, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1965, pp. 4-5.


3Brigham Young's Old Cove Fort, n.d., n.p. This pamphlet is distributed at the Fort.

Preservation of the Structure.--Otto Kesler's attitude toward the preservation of this historic landmark was engendered in him long ago by his father, William H. Kesler. Speaking of his father's influence on his thinking, Otto stated:

My father said there was a time coming when that Fort would be worth more than the whole ranch because he wanted to restore it and maintain it so that it would stand for generations to come for people to see. He knew that there had been nearly a hundred forts built in the territory of Utah and they were about all diminished and destroyed at that time. By saving this it would be something for people to see in times to come. So that was one reason for him to build the north side up just like it was before the fire.¹

This sentiment of William and his families' regard for the structure has undoubtedly made the difference between having that site intact today and witnessing its total destruction as happened to so many of the contemporary pioneer forts.

Despite this attitude of caring for the edifice, in the process of time, certain portions of the building began to deteriorate badly. Noting this, Mable Young Sanborn, daughter of Brigham Young, reported:

The property is now being used as an auto camp--and the owners are not keeping it in proper repair. One of the large entrance gates is hanging on one hinge--some of the windows and doors are missing and the upper walls are breaking down. In a few years the place will be beyond repair, and a most valuable landmark of Utah and the West will be lost to posterity.²

Other individuals and groups became similarly vocal in their anxiety that the Fort be properly preserved. In January of 1935, the

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¹Otto Kesler, Transcript of recorded interview, February 1, 1964, pp. 1-2.

²Mable Young Sanborn, "Cove Fort," n.d., n.p. The original statement, signed by Mable Young Sanborn, is in the files of Kate B. Carter.
Pioneer Trails and Landmarks Association announced that as an important facet of their program for the year 1935, they would endeavour to have Cove Fort "set aside as a state museum, as a means of preserving it for future generations and making of it a place of interest and attraction to visitors."\(^1\)

On August 2, 1935, the Daughters of Utah Pioneers conducted a special commemorative program at the Fort and placed one of their plaques, "Marker Number Six," on the outer wall of the structure, just to the right of the main gate as you enter. The inscription on the marker reads:

Completed April 12, 1867, by direction of Brigham Young, with L.D.S. Church funds, as a travelers' waystation and refuge from Indians. Ira N. Hinckley built and maintained it as a hostelry and residence until 1877. A well within the fort provided culinary water. Cove Creek supplied irrigation. One of its 12 original rooms was used as a telegraph station. Early in 1861 Charles Willden built 3 rooms and a dugout, known as Willden's Fort. This was a convenient campsite for President Young and other travelers.\(^2\)

About this same time, representatives of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers drafted a statement relative to their desires for the restoration of this monument:

**WHY RESTORE AND PRESERVE THIS FORT**

1. There is no other structure in the world just like this fort. Many forts have been erected in these mountains—this is the only one that stands today. It will be seen and visited by thousands of tourists and its history repeated. It should be preserved because of its individual distinctiveness. It is unique.

2. It speaks of the past. Those who built it are gone, their days are gone. They were strong, courageous men of few words and brave deeds. The fort they built interests and fascinates all who enter.

\(^1\)Deseret News, January 1, 1935.

3. This fort should be preserved for the story which it tells, for the inspiration which it gives.

4. It tells the history, in part, of the building and making of a great state.

5. It should be preserved by and for the gratitude which the Sons and Daughters of the Utah Pioneers owe their parents.¹

In July, 1935, Mrs. Mary A. Dame, East Millard County President of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, called on Ira N. Hinckley, Collector of Internal Revenue in Salt Lake City, and asked that he draft a letter to George H. Dern, Secretary of War and former Governor of Utah, requesting that he use his offices to secure Cove Fort as a "State Memorial Building in honor of the Utah Pioneers." The letter was prepared and sent with this additional comment, "If anything can be done by the Government, no doubt, our Congressional Delegation would join with you in any plan feasible to save this Fort for our state."² This communication was accompanied by a letter to Mr. Dern from Mrs. Dame:

After all other plans have failed, it seems that the only thing that can be done now is to appeal to you and our federal government. We think that the United States Government should own, maintain and appoint the Daughters of Southern Utah as custodians of this outstanding landmark of southern Utah. This Fort could be cleaned and put into its original condition at a very nominal cost and undoubtedly would be a wonderful attraction for tourists, and something the government would be very proud to own.³

Secretary Dern contacted Arno B. Cammerer, Director of the National Park Service, requesting that he examine the possibilities of de-

¹"Cove Fort" MSS File, Utah State Historical Society Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

²Ira N. Hinckley, Letter to George H. Dern, July 9, 1935. A copy of this letter is in the files of Kate B. Carter.

³Mary A. Dame, Letter to George H. Dern, July 19, 1935. A copy of this correspondence is in the files of Kate B. Carter.
claring Cove Fort a national monument. A reply was made to this inquiry by Director Cammerer in which he stated:

...you excite my interest very much. I am asking Superintendent Patraw of Zion National Park to make an inspection and report on the Cove Fort area. I am also planning to be in the southwest shortly and will try to get down for a personal inspection of the area.

If the area could be established as a state park, there would be, I am sure, little trouble in getting a CCC camp established there provided it is large enough to make it into a real state park, and then if desired and if it measured up to our standards, historically speaking, there would be little trouble later on in my opinion in getting it taken over as a national monument.

Subsequent examination apparently didn't produce the desired results as the matter was laid aside.

In 1937-38, the State Central Company of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, under the auspices of President Ida M. Kirkham, First Vice-President Rosella Ferrin Larkin and Second Vice-President Kate B. Carter, circulated a petition stipulating that:

We, the undersigned citizens, wish to endorse the movement of the

DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS

in the establishment of Cove Fort as a National Historical monument. Some of the reasons for this request include:

First- It is the only Pioneer Fort remaining in Utah in practically perfect condition that was used as a protection from the Indians by freighters and all travelers to the West Coast.

Second- It was one of the original telegraph stations in Utah.

Third- It is one of the few original forts in the United States that has not been made a State or National Monument.

1George H. Dern, Letter to Mary A. Dame, August 9, 1935.

2Arna B. Cammerer, Letter to George H. Kern, August 1, 1935. A copy of this letter is in the files of Kate B. Carter.
Fourth—It is on the original Pioneer Trail, which is now U.S. Highway 91, one of the main arteries of travel in the United States.¹

The writer saw many of the signed petitions which came in from areas in the Intermountain West.² The desired declaration of Cove Fort as a national monument was not forthcoming, possibly because of a recommendation by Congressman Abe Murdock. Samuel O. White talked to Congressman Murdock and then reported his findings to President Ida M. Kirkham:

Since our little visit with you in Salt Lake City at your October meeting we have been going over the "Cove Fort Situation" with a number of persons, and one in particular which we would like to give you his views is Congressman, Abe Murdock, whom we discussed that matter with to some length. He is not in favor of a National Monument, for this reason, that as soon as the United States government takes it over, they would require an exclusive holding of all the properties there and the Kesslers [sic] would have to move right out, and there would be a large tract set apart for a reserve and park and it would be under government supervision, without any regards to the wants of local organizations, and only under the strict supervision of the government official could anything be done whatever.

Mr. Murdock recommends that we make it a state monument and get a small tract of land as you point out to what would be your desires and let the state organizations take care of it as we desire to and make it the kind of an attraction which we desire.³

Periodic attempts to stir the citizenry or organizations to action in the preservation of the Fort have marked the years to date. Evidence of this can be found in J. F. Tolton's letter to the Utah Historical Society.⁴ Ted Cannon also editorialized in comments wherein he

1From a petition in the file of Kate B. Carter.

2Kate B. Carter, Interview, June 16, 1965.

3Samuel O. White, Letter to Ida M. Kirkham, President of Daughters of Utah Pioneers, November 17, 1937.

4J. F. Tolton, Letter to J. Cecil Alter, November 28, 1938. The original letter is in the Utah Historical Society MS file on Cove Fort.
stated,"...it's too bad someone doesn't do something about the old Cove Fort."¹

The State of Utah Attempts to Acquire Cove Fort as a Park Site.-- Those desirous of securing Cove Fort as a State Park came very close to a fruition of their wishes in 1958-59, when the Utah State Park and Recreation introduced condemnation proceedings against the owner of Cove Fort, Otto Kesler. The heightened interest of the Commission came as an outgrowth of the announcement by the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads that Cove Fort had been designated as the western terminal of the new east-west Inter-state Highway 70. Inter-state 70 would terminate as it linked up with Inter-state 15 approximately one-half mile south of the Fort:

Thus the area has taken on a new economic significance and the Utah State Park and Recreation Commission is giving the area new historic significance by seeking to acquire the privately-owned fort and adjoining land for development as a state park.²

On Thursday, July 17, 1958, Gary L. Thuerer, Assistant Utah Attorney General, mailed the condemnation complaints to the Fifth District Court at Fillmore, Utah, Millard County.³ Hearings in the matter did not commence until June 10, 1959, at Fillmore. Prior to the hearings it was indicated that if the courts were to decide in favor of the state, Nicholas G. Morgan, a Salt Lake City businessman, would purchase the Fort and then donate it back to the state.

²*Salt Lake Tribune*, July 18, 1958.
³*Ibid*.
On June 10, 1951, almost 18 months after the condemnation proceedings were first introduced, the trial case opened before Judge Will L. Hoyt in the Fifth District Court. A jury of eight had previously been selected. At the conclusion of the condemnation proceedings, the state offered Kesler $40,000 for the property but as the court action proceeded Otto said that he believed the land to be worth $200,000. As the trial continued there was an attempt to establish the true worth of the property. Mark Paxton, Stanley Nielson, Grant Broadhead, and Taylor Fransworth were employed by Otto Kesler as appraisers. They valued the 10.1 acres involved at between $110,000 and $190,000. Appraisers for the State of Utah held that $21,000--$25,000 was an appropriate amount.

The decision of the jury, however, differed with both sides in the controversy. They felt that $70,000 would be adequate:

Judge Will H. Hoyt's court indicated through a jury that $60,000 would be a fair market price for 10.1 acres of land which is the site of the old fort, and that $10,000 would be adequate to reimburse the owner for damages when the property is renovated and made a public park facility.

Sam Kline, attorney for Otto, said that no appeal was planned.

The State Park and Recreation Commission thought the amount to be excessive and sought a re-trial. The re-trial was granted by Judge Hoyt:

In Fifth District Court Judge Will L. Hoyt has ruled in his order granting a new trial that the $70,000 price valuation placed on the fort and about 10 adjoining acres

1Deseret News and Telegram, June 10, 1959.
2Provo Herald, June 14, 1959.
5Ibid.
"is excessive." He ruled also that the price was based upon "speculation" and not on proved "competent evidence."

The court proceedings stirred the ire of one editorialist who reported in an article entitled, "The Vulture Waits:

We feel that the State Parks Commission, after bringing condemnation proceedings against the owner of Cove Fort and bringing him into court which probably cost him quite an amount to protect his own property, should purchase Cove Fort at the valuation price set by the court. Had the court set a lower valuation, the Parks Commission would undoubtedly have forced the owner to abide by the decision and sell at the lower price.

Some are advising the Parks Commission to sit back and wait for more favorable circumstances, or, in other words, to wear the owner down with suits and court costs defending his own property, until he is ready to give up. Then the vulture will swoop down and gobble up the thing he wants.

This case, we believe, is like many others where the law of eminent domain is exercised too far giving the individual few, if any, rights to his own property.2

In the midst of preparations for a new trial the Utah State Park and Recreation Commission suddenly determined that the purchase of the Fort was no longer feasible:

Plans to acquire Cove Fort in Millard were abandoned Friday when the Utah State Park and Recreation Commission decided a price of $70,000 was "too high."

Harold F. Fabian, commission chairman, said the Legislature appropriated no funds to acquire Cove Fort, and the commission is entirely dependent on donations... A donor had offered $50,000 for the site, but later withdrew the offer.

A suit had been filed in Seventh District Court to acquire the fort by right of eminent domain. Attorneys for the state agency said they will file motion immediately to dismiss the suit.3

1Salt Lake Tribune, August 10, 1959.

2"A Vulture Waits," Utah Publisher and Printer, Vol. 8, No. 10, October, 1959, p. 6. "A Vulture Waits" was chosen editorial of the month [September] by students of journalism at the University of Utah.

With the close of the action against him, Otto Kesler and his family continued their efforts to maintain the structure, but with a renewed emphasis. In 1959, the George Brothers Construction company was hired by Otto to renovate the south side of the Fort. John Riley, of Beaver, similarly repaired the north side in 1961. At an expense amounting to several thousand dollars the Fort was put into an excellent state of repair.¹ No longer can one find windows which lack panes, doors minus hinges, walls damaged and woodwork in need of paint, nor floor boards loose for want of nails. The Kesler family has done an outstanding job of restoring those aspects of the Fort structure which formerly were deteriorating.

CHAPTER XI

CONCLUSIONS

From the time of Jefferson Hunt's passage through the Cove Creek region, the Mormon pioneers were made aware of the potentials possessed by the area. Cove Creek became a favorite camp site for the initial exploration parties and later for the vast numbers of people moving to the locations which had been identified for settlement. Travelers on their way to the southern reaches of the Territory, Arizona, Nevada and to California, stopped on the banks of the creek both by design and out of necessity. There the required water for themselves and their animals and a night's rest could be obtained before continuing their journey. As the principle communities of Fillmore and Beaver came into existence, Cove Creek marked the half-way point between these townsites. Cove Creek was situated at just the right distance for a normal day's journey by horse and wagon.

In a period which was sometimes marked by sporadic hostilities against the settlers by certain of the Indian tribes, a great debt of gratitude is owed the Charles William Willden family. During the era, 1860-65, the Willdens courageously maintained a ranch-fort, known as Willden's Fort, on Cove Creek in Millard County. The fort was simple in its construction of up-and-down cedar posts, but effective in protecting its inhabitants as well as the myriad of travelers who found a temporary safety at that juncture. A hard winter, diseased livestock and the extreme
threat of the loss of life and limb from hostile Indians forced the Will-
dens to remove to Beaver in 1865.

The advent of the Black Hawk Indian War prompted the pioneer lead-
ership in Salt Lake City and elsewhere in the Territory to lend new empha-
sis to their admonition to build strong and suitable forts for the pro-
tection of life and the removal of temptation from the way of the redman. The lengthy gap, without a point of refuge, between Fillmore and Beaver was an obvious breech in the desired security. Indians could attack travelers within that 60 mile gammet and would-be rescuers be none the wiser or too far removed to be of assistance. Protection for the Deseret State Telegraph operator and a place of safety for the U.S. Mail carriers were also critical issues with the threat of Indian depredations so imminent.

The solution to this very real danger was advanced by Brigham Young as he commissioned Ira Nathaniel Hinckley to superintend the con-
struction of a substantial rock fort on Cove Creek commencing in April, 1867. An assemblage of artisans was called by President Young to assist I. N. Hinckley in this commission. Tradesmen gathered from surrounding communities, and within a few months an imposing rock fort of exceptional quality was built bearing an inscription above the main gate, "Cove Creek Ranch Fort, Erected 1867."

Evidence of the craftsmanship employed in the Fort's construction is born out by witnessing the state of the structure itself after the passage of a virtual century. The fortification was built to stand the rigors of time as well as rampaging savages. Rock and mortar placed by such master craftsmen as Nicholas Paul prepared a building which has long outlived its adobe and log contemporaries (Cove Fort is one of only two
old stone forts left in the Mountain West. The other is at Pipe Springs, Arizona).¹

A number of buildings were constructed adjacent to the Fort to facilitate its proper operation. A very creditable barn was erected immediately north of the parent structure, complete with a durable stockade corral. A blacksmith shop, pig pen, and fencing were also installed.

The ground was prepared for planting and crops were sown. Shade and fruit trees were ordered from Salt Lake and placed in convenient locations about the Fort property. On the west, a garden was grown for household consumption. Cove Fort was prepared to perform its primary functions.

Within its walls a multiplicity of travelers sought and found a needed refuge safe from unwanted visitors or the ravages of adverse weather. The telegraph station and its operator were protected from possible marauder. The all important wires of the Deseret State Telegraph, which strategically linked the Territory on its north-south line, were properly maintained. Carriers for the U. S. Mail, Stagecoach employees, their passengers, travelers on the road and the many freighters hauling ore from the mines found food and lodging for themselves and forage for their animals through the auspices of this important outpost.

Cove Fort became a terminal into which the livestock comprising the Church tithing herds were funneled before being driven to the market areas for distribution. Not only were tithing herds maintained but also stock belonging to the Fort's occupants and to other ranches in the region. Cove Fort became a favorite rendezvous for certain of the cattlemen of that

¹Deseret News, June 18, 1959.
era. Commenting on this aspect, Edwin S. Hinckley stated:

Many a time I have associated here in the saddle with John R. Murdock and Philo Farnsworth, Abe Fotheringham and Ed Gillis, with Joseph A. Young from Richfield and with Brother Seegmiller from that section also, Lon Kimball's father who was bishop over here in Kanosh and some others. All these men used to assemble here, looking after their livestock interests.¹

A number of families have resided at Cove Fort over its near century of operation. The primary families being those of Ira Nathaniel Hinckley, Arza Erastus Hinckley, John Black Sr., and William Henry Kesler. The writer has felt the importance of portraying the domestic scene as it has pertained to the households of these families during their tenure at the Fort. Wherever possible the facilities which they utilized in performing their work have been examined. The family activities in the realm of religion, education and entertainment have also been taken under close scrutiny.

A structure, nor its inhabitants, can persist in a residence over so many scores of years without encountering certain of the difficulties which arise due to the peculiarities of the particular location and climate. Cove Fort and its occupants are no exception to the rule. In the course of successive years Cove Creek has experienced the severities of winter, the parched earth of drouth conditions, the plague of insect infestation and the tumult produced by earthquakes.

No facet of the Fort's history is more interesting than an examination of the association which the inmates had with the Indians who

frequented the area or periodically came through Cove Creek on their various excursions. Cove Fort was never attacked nor besieged by the Indians. That there was no loss of life was attested to by President Heber J. Grant when he commented:

While there were no whites killed here, there were whites killed north of here and also south of here. While I was in St. George, the body of the father of George Whitmore, the President of the Nephi bank, was brought there, also the body of a brother of the late William McIntyre, who built the McIntyre Block, the Pantages theatre and other fine structures in Salt Lake City. And when they unpacked these bodies from the ice and snow in which they were packed, as a child I discovered that they were full of wounds made from the arrows with which they were shot by the Indians.

There is wonderful credit due to Brigham Young for having this fort erected and for establishing forts at Pipe Springs and other places, where men had a chance to be saved from the attacks of the Indians. But for this fort there might have been many a tragedy here.1

The reason for such an outstanding relationship with the redman can be attributed to the foresight of the inhabitants of the Fort practicing the principle of fair treatment toward the Indian. Edwin Smith Hinkley identified the institution of this policy at the outset by his father, Ira N. Hinkley:

My father came here in the interest of the protection and care of men and women of all classes, creeds and color, and I think he admirably fulfilled the mission to which he was called. I remember very distinctly that one of the very close friends that he had was Kanosh, the chief of the Pahvant tribe of Indians, and I believe that the courtesy and the fine Christian treatment that my father and his friends gave that splendid Indian were great features in overcoming the hostility of the tribes of Indians at that particular time. True, there were no massacres in this particular district. True, there were no battles fought here, but I have often thought, when somebody has asked me where I was born, that I could say as truthfully as the poet said:

"I remember, I remember the room where I was born,

where the gaunt and skulking Indian
Came looking in at morn."¹

Substantial quantities of sulphur were discovered in the Cove Creek vicinity shortly after the first Utah deposits were located at some hot springs just outside of Salt Lake City. With the advent of the Fort came also the growth and expansion of the sulphur mining industry in the Cove Creek area. The economy of both enterprises was closely connected, each rendering assistance to the other. Sulphur miners frequented the Fort as diners and purchasers of other services while the occupants found employment in the mines proper or through hauling ore with their wagons.

The William H. Kesler family has enjoyed almost exclusive rights to the Cove Creek Ranch in the Twentieth Century. William secured a lease on the property from the L.D.S. Church in December, 1903. The following year, April 25, 1904, he moved his family to the Fort. The Keslers have been witnesses to the introduction of many facets not known to the former occupants. Electricity, the telephone and water piped from a well, the depth of which would have been difficult to drill in an earlier time, all mark the period of their occupancy. The coming of the automobile brought a significant change in the services provided for the traveler. A gas pump and one room store were established, eventually growing into the facilities that are in evidence today.

William H. Kesler had a strong sense of preservation which caused him to keep the primary structure of the Fort intact when vandals would have destroyed or badly damaged it. This same inclination was instilled

¹Ibid. p. 4.
in his son, Otto Kesler, who inherited the operation of the facility from his father. However, the passage of years brought noticeable deterioration to certain aspects of the building which created considerable concern on the part of particular individuals and organized groups. The citizens involved called for the Fort to be secured as a state park or national monument in order to salvage the old fortification before it was too late.

Sporadic attempts were made throughout the latter 1920's, the 30's, 40's and into the 50's to obtain assurances that the structure would be properly restored. Positive action was finally taken through the courts by the State Park and Recreation Commission to make Cove Fort a state park in 1958-59. A jury awarded the property to the State of Utah with the stipulation that they reimburse Otto Kesler the "fair market price" of $70,000. The Commission felt the amount to be excessive and petitioned for a re-trial which was granted. However, before the preliminaries for a second trial could begin the State Park and Recreation Commission indicated through their attorney that they were no longer interested in pursuing a renewal of the case under existing circumstances.

During the period, 1959-66, the Kesler family has undertaken a significant program of restoration. Those places that were falling apart have been mended with careful attention. The current condition of the structure is a credit to that family and their ability to perceive a critical need at a time when immediate action has been required.

Today, the visitor to the Fort is invited to pay a minimal fee for his admission into the interior. Children over 6 years of age, and adults, are charged 50¢ for the experience. The Keslers have reinvested a substantial portion of their earnings back into the renovation of the
structure and in acquiring new articles of interest for placement in the respective rooms. The numerous items which they have collected are arranged in museum-like fashion. The visitor is obliged to witness each room's contents from behind a glass partition or from a specified vantage point.

The desire to preserve both the physical aspects of the Fort and the history which it inspires persists today. There is a genuine desire on the part of many to cherish those facets comprising this last remaining Utah fort of permanent structure. Cove Fort is a visible reminder of the lives of people whose exodus to the Great Basin and their continuing struggles, made this inland empire possible. All of the people of Utah share in a common concern for its future welfare.
APPENDICES
APPENDIX A

CHILDREN BORN AT FORT WILLDEN

CHARLES WILLIAM WILLDEN FAMILY

1860-65

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<tr>
<th>Parents</th>
<th>Child</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
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<tr>
<td>Niala Christian Johnson</td>
<td>Hannah Jane Johnson</td>
<td>Apr. 24, 1861</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hannah Jane Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elliott Willden</td>
<td>George Willden</td>
<td>July 27, 1864</td>
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<td>Emma Jane Clews</td>
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<td>John Willden</td>
<td>John Hyrum Willden</td>
<td>Feb. 1, 1863</td>
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<td>Margaret McEwen</td>
<td>Mary Mahala Willden</td>
<td>Oct. 21, 1864</td>
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CHILDREN BORN AT COVE FORT

IRA NATHANIEL HINCKLEY FAMILY

1867-77; 1882-90

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<td>Edwin Smith Hinckley</td>
<td>July 21, 1868</td>
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<td>Adelaide Cameron Noble</td>
<td>Nellie E. Hinckley</td>
<td>Oct. 31, 1870</td>
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<td>Samuel Ernest Hinckley</td>
<td>May 26, 1874</td>
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<td>Ira Nathaniel Hinckley</td>
<td>Arza Alonzo Hinckley</td>
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<td>Angeline Wilcox Noble</td>
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ARZA ERASTUS HINCKLEY FAMILY

1877-82

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<td>Nathan Roy Hinckley</td>
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<td>Temperance Ricks</td>
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<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ira Nathaniel Hinckley (Lon)</td>
<td>Ira Nathaniel Hinckley</td>
<td>June 25, 1879</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Rock</td>
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**WILLIAM HENRY KESLER FAMILY**

1903–47

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<th>William H. Kesler</th>
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<td>Sarah Adeline Losee</td>
<td>Murray Kimball Kesler</td>
<td>Jan. 24, 1909</td>
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<td>Emmaline Loree Kesler</td>
<td>Dec. 2, 1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lincoln Abraham Kesler</td>
<td>Mar. 30, 1914</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OTTO KESLER FAMILY**

1947–

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Otto Kesler</th>
<th>Mary Loree Kesler</th>
<th>Mar. 8, 1921</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alice Thomas Kesler</td>
<td>David Otto Kesler</td>
<td>Mar. 19, 1923</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX B

TRANSFER OF COVE FORT TITLE TO WILLIAM H. KESLER

BY

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

DEED

Heber J. Grant, as 
Trustee-in-Trust for 
the Church of Jesus 
Christ of Latter-day 
Saints,

-TO-

William H. Kesler,

Millard, State of Utah, to-wit:

The North 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4, the West 1/2 of the 
Northeast 1/4, and the Southeast 1/4 of Section 25, Township 
25 South of Range 7 West, Salt Lake Meridian.

The Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 28, 
the South 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4, the Northeast 1/4 of the 
Southeast 1/4, and the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of 
Section 29, Lot 4 of Section 30, Lot 1, the Northeast 1/4 
of the Northwest 1/4, and the North 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 
of Section 31, the North 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 
32, Township 25 South of Range 6 West, Salt Lake Meridian, 
containing in all 800 acres, more or less.

Together with all tenements, hereditaments, and 
appurtenances thereunto belonging.

$7.50 revenue stamps attached and cancelled.
APPENDIX C

BEAVER TITHING OFFICE DISBURSEMENTS TO COVE FORT

JUNE 2, 1868

Beaver Tithing Office June 2nd 1868

To Bro Mather: The following is the amount disbursed to Cove Fort to December 31st 1867.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>$1227.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock</td>
<td>$569.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter</td>
<td>$242.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>$72.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>$198.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>$441.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>$35.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumber</td>
<td>$7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay</td>
<td>$93.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>$37.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mdsse</td>
<td>$1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mollases</td>
<td>$33.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nails</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracy &amp; Harts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumber</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amount</td>
<td>$640.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paid wheat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>included</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the above</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The only correct way you can get at it is the amount of labor you have charged up to Cove for bear hands to the end of 1867. Should be deducted from $2970.62 Then you will get the amount in dollars which the work has cost up to the date Bishop Murdock's a/c for Lumber against Cove up to date is 10794 feet at 5 cts per foot is</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For hauling a portion of the above to Cove is</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursed from this Office to Cove from Jan. 1st to date in provisions a horse &amp;c is</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Bro Mather. I hope this memorandum will aid you in making out your report in haste.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wm Fotheringham
### APPENDIX D

MEMBERS OF FAMILIES WHO HAVE LIVED AT COVE FORT

**IRA NATHANIEL HINCKLEY FAMILY**

1867-77; 1882-90

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parents</th>
<th>Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ira Nathaniel Hinckley</td>
<td>Martha Adelaide Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide Cameron Noble</td>
<td>Minerva Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lois Electa Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Luna Adell Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lucian Noble Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frank Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edwin Smith Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nellie E. Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Samuel Ernest Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ira Nathaniel Hinckley</td>
<td>Emily Angeline Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angeline Wilcox Noble</td>
<td>Laverna Noble Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ira Noble Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bryant Stringham Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arza Alonzo Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elmer Eugene Hinckley</td>
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**ARZA ERASTUS HINCKLEY FAMILY**

1877-82

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parents</th>
<th>Children</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arza Erastus Hinckley</td>
<td>Amelia Ellen Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelia Woodhouse</td>
<td>Arza Erastus Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ira Nathaniel Hinckley (Lon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lois Ann Hinckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daniel Hamner Hinckley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Parents

**Arza Erastus Hinckley**  
Temperance Ricks

**Children**

- Lois Eleanor Hinckley
- Joel Ricks Hinckley
- Ann Elizabeth Hinckley
- Edwin Lewis R. Hinckley
- Ella Clarinda Hinckley
- Rhoda Adelaide Hinckley
- Silas Ricks Hinckley
- Arthur Seymore Hinckley
- Minnie Mary Hinckley
- Nathan Roy Hinckley

**Arza Erastus Hinckley**  
Mary Christina Heiner

**Children**

- Heber Hinckley
- Mary Louisa Hinckley
- Martha Adelgunda Hinckley
- Luna Ardell Hinckley
- John Heiner Hinckley
- Frances Amelia Hinckley
- Franklin Arza Hinckley (twin)
- Harvey Hinckley

### JOHN BLACK SR. FAMILY

**1890–1900**

**John Black**  
Jane Paxton

**Children**

- Mary Jane Black
- Isabell Black
- John Black
- Alfred Black
- Elizabeth Hannah Black
- Henrietta Black
- William Henry Black
- Anthony Clark Black
- Annie Black
- George Black
- Thressa Black
- Mitchell Black

### WILLIAM HENRY KESLER FAMILY

**1903–47**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parents</th>
<th>Children</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Henry Kesler</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Adeline Losee Kesler</td>
<td>Otto Kesler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William Farrall Kesler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Delbert Kesler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah Verle Kesler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Raymond Kesler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arlo Stanford Kesler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Murray Kimball Kesler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emmaline Loree Kesler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lincoln Abraham Kesler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grant Henry Kesler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marya Harrett (Nell) Kesler</td>
</tr>
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**OTTO KESLER FAMILY**

1947–

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Otto Kesler</th>
<th>William James Kesler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary Yardley</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Thomas Kesler</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mary Loree Kesler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David Otto Kesler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joseph Frederick Kesler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marion Leon Kesler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calvin Thomas Kesler</td>
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</table>
## APPENDIX E

**U.S. CENSUS REPORT 1870, IRA N. HINCKLEY HOUSEHOLD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Names of Persons</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Col.</th>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Birthplace</th>
<th>Married in Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Hinckley</td>
<td>Ira N.</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Farmer &amp;</td>
<td>b Canada</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>rancher</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wife</td>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>house keeper</td>
<td>b Ohio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Angeline</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td>b Ohio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Eliza</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>school tea</td>
<td>Utah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Minerva</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>at school</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jane</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>at school</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lois</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>at &quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Laverna</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>at school</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Della</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
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<td>&quot;</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ira</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>at &quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lucian</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>at &quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Frank</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>at home</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Edwin</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bryant</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>at &quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brigham</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>at &quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>King</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>farmer &amp;</td>
<td>N.Y.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wife</td>
<td>Ellen</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>W</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lydia</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Frank</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>M</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Names of Persons</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Col.</td>
<td>Profession</td>
<td>Birth place</td>
<td>Married in Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(cont)</td>
<td>Howard</td>
<td>Lehi</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W n</td>
<td>laborer</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tyler</td>
<td>Jesse</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>laborer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mather</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>telegraph operator</td>
<td>$150 b Eng.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North</td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b Den</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gims</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>laborer</td>
<td></td>
<td>b Den</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

no. of dwellings 2  no. of W. females 12  no. of families 2
APPENDIX E

U.S. CENSUS REPORT 1880 ARZA E. HINCKLEY HOUSEHOLD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Names of Persons</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Col.</th>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Birth place</th>
<th>Married wr</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>Hinckley</td>
<td>Arza E.</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Stockraiser</td>
<td>Canada</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>W</td>
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<td>Carolina</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joel</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>telegraph</td>
<td>Utah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dau</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mary L</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>W</td>
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<td>&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rhoda</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
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<td>&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Silas</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Francis</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Seymour</td>
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<td>&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Harvey</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>W</td>
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<td>&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Minnie</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>W</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Arthur</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>W</td>
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<td>Eng</td>
<td>Single</td>
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<td>William</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>keeping</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Utah</td>
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<td></td>
<td>143</td>
<td>Ira N</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


APPENDIX E

U.S. CENSUS REPORT 1880, ARZA E. HINCKLEY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Names of Persons</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Col.</th>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Birth Place</th>
<th>Married in year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(cont)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>G 144-144</td>
<td>Semler</td>
<td>C. A.</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Silver miner</td>
<td>Saxony</td>
<td>single</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>born in Saxony</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>and his moth b. France</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here ends Cove Creek.
APPENDIX F

MAMMOTH SULPHUR MINE

Dead Record A Millard County p. 367

Notice

Is hereby given, that we, the undersigned have this day located and do claim 1500 feet of mining ground on this ledge, lead, lode or deposit of minerals and other valuables, with all its dips, spurs offshoots and variations, and all the precious metals and all other valuable minerals therein contained, and three hundred* feet of ground, on each side for working purposes, including wood and water thereon, commensing at this monument and notice and running 750 feet each way therefrom whichever way the ledge lead or loade may aim.

This location is situated in one of the hills adjoining the southern end of Dog Valley and about half a mile east of the state road and about 5 or 6 miles north of Cove Creek in Millard County Utah Territory. This location shall be known as the Mammoth Sulphur Mine.

We avail ourselves of all the privileges granted by the mining Laws of the U.S. of North America and of this Territory and District.

Dog Valley Millard County Utah. May 23rd 1872.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. A. Semler</td>
<td>200 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>location 200 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hans Clausen</td>
<td>200 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George D. Keaton</td>
<td>200 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Brooksbank</td>
<td>200&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Woods</td>
<td>250 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesse Knight</td>
<td>250 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1500 ft.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The fourth (4) word in the seventh (7) line of the above notice should read three hundred instead of fifty feet.

T. C. Callister Recorder
APPENDIX G

ADRESSES OF EDWIN SMITH HINCKLEY AND ARZA ALONZO HINCKLEY

AT SERVICES HELD AT COVE FORT, APRIL 25, 1927

ON THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORT’S ESTABLISHMENT

EDWIN SMITH HINCKLEY ADDRESS

Mr. Toastmaster, ladies and gentlemen, I feel a distinct honor in
having the opportunity to standing before you a few minutes this after-
noon.

I remarked to a friend of mine a short time ago that I thought I
remembered very distinctly when there were on different occasions as many
saddle ponies in and about this barn and these corrals, on cattle round-
ups, as there are automobiles here today. It was at that particular time
that it was a full day’s journey from here to Fillmore and almost a day’s
journey from here to Beaver, and more than a day’s journey from here to
Richfield. As I came down the road today, making the trip in the fore-
noon, which used to take the average individual five to seven days, in
order to be here, I appreciated thoroughly the wonderful changes that have
come and the great opportunities with which we are surrounded. I remember
very distinctly that Jack Gilmore and Mr. Salisbury ran the United States
stage coach past here when this old barn housed their horses and within
those walls my mother and my sisters cooked the meals for the passengers
that came from and went to the Pioche mines district and further to the
west. Many and many a time have I seen the bullion that had been extracted
from the ores of those mines stacked up in front of these fort walls like
we stack up bricks at the present time; and often times when a storm
would come up and the flats were made muddy, the bullion would be thrown
out on the ground by the side of the road. Not long before Mr. Gilmore’s
death he told me that never in the experience of the stage coach had there
been a solitary bar of that bullion stolen. (applause) I was thinking as
I came over the road today that if in these days any road in the United
States was lined with bullion there would be somebody after it. So I
speak in behalf of the integrity and the splendid courage and manhood of
the men who established this great west.

My father came here in the interest of the protection and care of
men and women of all classes, creeds and colors, and I think he admirably
fulfilled the mission to which he was called. I remember very distinctly
that one of the very close friends that he had was Kanosh, the Chief of
the Pahvant tribe of Indians, and I believe that the courtesy and the
fine Christian treatment that my father and his friends gave that splendid

193
Indian were great features in overcoming the hostility of the trives of Indians at that particular time. True, there were no massacres in this particular district. True, there were no battles fought here, but I have often thought, when somebody has asked me where I was born, that I could say as truthfully as the poet said:

"I remember, I remember the room where I was born,  
Where the gaunt and skulking Indian  
Came looking in at morn."

In my early childhood every night the great gates that hung in the east were swung closed by father, and every morning they were opened. I remember that in my early days my father planted within those walls a beautiful garden, and I have often thought of a little incident that occurred within those gates. When Brigham Young and his party first used to come down, after the fort was built, they would drive their teams inside the fort, unhook the horses from the vehicles, leave the vehicles inside and stow the horses away in the barn. After a time this was thought unnecessary. One time after father had made a garden inside, a fine young chap, driving a team for Brigham Young, drove his team inside the fort, and father called the young man by name and said: "Drive that team right out of here, my boy."

The boy replied, "That is Brigham Young's team."
Father said, "It doesn't make any difference whose team it is, I tell you to drive it out."
He said, "I am driving for Brigham Young."
Father said, "Drive the team out, no matter who you are driving for."

The boy said, "That is Brigham Young's team, and I am driving for Brigham Young."

My father patted him on the back, and said, "Sonny, your vest would make an overcoat for Brigham Young. Drive the team outside." And he drove it out.

The good old cowboy days probably saw their last here. Many a time I have associated here in the saddle with John Murdock and Philo Farnsworth, Abe Fotheringham and Ed. Gillis, with Joseph A. Young from Richfield and with Brother Seegmiller from that section also, Lon Kimball's father who was bishop over here in Kanosh and some others. All these men used to assemble here, looking after their livestock interests. With the passing of that great industry and the passing of the great range industry has come this other industry—the automobile—that makes every man a neighbor in everybody's dooryard.

Professor Merrill of the Brigham Young University introduced me a little while ago as the first white child born in the fort, and I told him he did not need to draw the color line.

I appreciate the good work that these men from Richfield have done here. I congratulate them and say to them that the monument which has been enacted here will rebound to the glory and the splendor of the Richfield and Salina clubs that have been united in its erection.
PRESIDENT ARZA ALONZO HINCKLEY ADDRESS

Ladies and gentlemen, brethren and sisters and friends: In the interest of accuracy I shall undertake to read some of the exact historic events connected with Cove Fort and the establishment thereof.

My father was called here by direct call from President Brigham Young, in 1867. However, prior to that time, as far back as 1860, Cove Creek was a favorite camping ground. In 1860 Charles Wildon and his son Elliott located on this creek, built a stockade and lived here until 1866, at the time Utah was redivided into counties. At this time the Church, under the direction of President Brigham Young, bought this property from the original holders. The postscript in the letter calling my father to build the Fort sets forth the specific reasons for building it as follows:

"The object of building a fort at Cove Creek is to afford protection from Indians to the telegraph and mail stations and to travelers who are almost constantly on the road. Also to furnish feed and protection from bad weather to this latter class. There is farming and hay land plentifully, also herding facilities, good fire wood in abundance close by.

Brigham Young."

Then follows the letter making the call:

"We wish to get a good and suitable person to settle on and take charge of the Church Ranch at Cove Creek Millard County. Your name has been suggested for this position. As it is some distance from any other settlement, a man of sound practical judgment and experience is needed to build the place. Cove Creek is on the main road to our Dixie, Pahranagat and Lower California, some forty two miles South of Fillmore and some twenty-two miles north of Beaver.

"If you think you can take this mission you should endeavor to go south with us. We expect to start a week from next Monday. It is not wisdom for you to take your family there until after a Fort is built, etc. There is a mail and telegraph station there. Should you conclude to go let me know by the bearer of this letter, and when you start come prepared with conveyance to accompany us."

My father was at the time living in Coalville. He had two wives and eleven children. He had moved there from Salt Lake City and was prospering. He had superintended the erection of a meeting house in Coalville. He was well known by President Young, and the President well knew that he would accept the call. My sister, Adella Mace, now living in Salt Lake City, says she well remembers the messenger as he came to Coalville: how he reined up his horse, drove into the yard, met my father
and handed him the letter. Father did not call his family together in a long conference, he did not hesitate, but answered the messenger: "Say to President Young that I will be with his party on the appointed day." (applause) Remember, the letter said "Report and be prepared to go one week from Monday." He was there, got his instructions, received the plans and commenced actual construction on April 27th, 1867.

In November of the same year, 1867, the Fort was so far completed that my father returned to Coalville to move his family down to Cove Fort. They loaded up and started. Father drove the first wagon, Aunt Adelaide the second one, and the third one was filled with household goods. Following the wagons was a small herd of cattle driven by Jimmy Knight and helpers.

After seven long days of travel, they drove up the dugway out of Dog Valley on to the divide just north of Cove Fort, where the family caught the first glimpse of this wondrous structure. Father stopped the wagons while all of them admired the Fort from the distance, as he pointed to it with commendable pride as the evidence of a mission thus far well accomplished. The balance of the mission that called for the protection and care of the stranger, was a mission that his family had to help him fill. My father received all the joy that comes to one that fills a mission. He had accepted the call as a mission given by the authority of God, through Brigham Young, the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. (Applause)

It was not just a commercial place, in fact, not at all. It was built for the very purpose outlined in the postscript of the letter, calling my father to that mission. The place to my father was sacred. No man was ever permitted to camp there and build a fire near those walls where it would mar them. No one was ever permitted to place an advertisement on those walls. To his family it was filled with every recollection and every sentiment that surrounds a Christian home. For to us it was a Christian home. (applause) Every tree planted inside its walls was planted by my father's hand. Back of it originally was a well-set lot and a splendid garden. On the east there was a fruit orchard. In the barn were groomed some of the best horses ever bred in Millard County.

No matter how many came in on the stage, or how many passed by from Bullionville, Pocahontas or elsewhere; no matter what crowds were in the Fort, morning and evening my father just spoke one sentence: "Let's go over side." What did that mean? It meant that in a well appointed room on the north side of the Fort, we were assembled in family prayer. There we learned the lessons of loyalty as we heard our father plead for the President of the United States, and for the members of his cabinet, for the President of the Church and the leaders of this dispensation. For these lessons taught us in our childhood, we now bless and revere his name.

The Fort stands as a monument to the Church, representing its care for the traveler and preparation for the safety and welfare of all.
It bears mute evidence of the accomplishment of cooperation, when leadership accepted as Divine, is backed by followers with loyalty and faith.

I appreciate the opportunity more than I can express of being here with President Grant and his party, with my brothers, my sisters, our children, in this great gathering and concourse of people, to honor God, express reverence for Brigham Young, and give credit to my father and rejoice with you all. (applause)
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A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF COVE FORT, UTAH

An Abstract of a Thesis
Submitted to the Faculty of the
Department of Graduate Studies in
Religious Instruction, Brigham Young University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts

by
Larry C. Porter
May 1966
ABSTRACT

One of the last remaining vestiges of pioneer forts to be found in western America is that of Cove Fort in Millard County, Utah. While the vicissitudes of time have witnessed the virtual dismantling or willful destruction of contemporary forts, this structure has been preserved in a near-perfect state for the benefit of the thousands who visit the fortification annually and are solicitous of its welfare.

Although adequate steps have been taken in recent years to restore some elements of the physical structure that were deteriorating, there has been little concerted effort to guarantee the preservation of the historical aspects of the Fort's long and interesting past. The latter is as important to the overall understanding of what has occurred at the site as the conservation of the Fort proper. No comprehensive treatise on the history of Cove Fort has been assembled heretofore. It is therefore the design of the writer to compile under one cover as many of the sources and accounts as are currently available relative to the events which have shaped the history of this most noteworthy structure during a century of operation.

An L.D.S. Church exploration expedition investigated the Cove Creek area as early as 1847. However, no permanent settlers inhabited the region until the establishment of a ranch-fort at that site by the Charles William Willden family, 1860-65. Indian hostilities and the sever-
ities of weather prompted Brigham Young to arrange for the construction of Cove Fort as a protection to travelers, the Deseret State Telegraph operators and the U.S. Mail carriers.

In 1867, Ira N. Hinckley superintended the construction of the fortification assisted by artisans from nearby communities. Their careful craftsmanship produced a structure unique for its time and exceptionally functionable in fulfilling the needs for which it was created. Cove Fort was never attacked by Indians but its presence was a very real deterrent to open hostilities and a decided protection to those who sought safety within its walls.

An examination of the family life existent at the Fort gives an exacting insight into the domestic functioning of the establishment. A number of families have resided there over a virtual century of operation. Their activities relative to religion, education, entertainment, sulphur mining and withstanding the stresses created by the severities of winter, drouth, insect infestation and earthquakes are necessary to an understanding of the Fort's existence.

Over a period of years, concern for the preservation of the structure for the enjoyment of the citizenry has prompted certain individuals, service organizations and, more recently, the Utah State Park Commission to work for the establishment of Cove Fort as a state park or national monument. However, title to the property has remained for some 62 years in the name of a private owner, the Kesler family. The writer wishes to commend the Kesler family for the great amount of time, effort and money which they have put into the structure, particularly in
recent years, in order to place the building in a high state of readiness after a period of comparative deterioration.

Abstract Approved By:

[Signature]

[Signature]