

Pipe Spring



NATIONAL MONUMENT • ARIZONA

Pipe Spring

NATIONAL MONUMENT



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Douglas McKay, Secretary

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • *Conrad L. Wirth, Director*

A historic Mormon fort which commemorates a significant phase of the great westward movement by the American pioneer.

THE PICTURESQUE, well-preserved Mormon fort at Pipe Spring evidences the need felt by the pioneers to protect themselves from the native Indian tribes.

Much credit is due the Mormons, who settled at Pipe Spring and many other places in the region, for the exploration, colonization, and development of this part of the Southwest. Under the leadership of Brigham Young, they established their culture in this formidable land. As an expression of the courage, foresight, and faith of our pioneers in general, and the Mormons in particular, Pipe Spring is an especially appropriate monument.

The Natural Setting

Pipe Spring is situated on the Arizona Strip of northwestern Arizona, which lies between the Utah State line on the north and the Grand Canyon of the Colorado on the south, at an elevation of approximately 5,000 feet above sea level. The climate is fairly temperate, but the summers are hot and the winters rather severe. The region is sparsely forested with pinyon, juniper (cedar), cottonwood, and willow. The Lombardy poplar, not native to the Southwest, was introduced by the Mormons. Typical semidesert plants of the region grow in association with the pinyon and juniper: greasewood, rabbitbrush, sagebrush, cacti, grasses, and

quite a variety of wild flowers. Jack-rabbits and cottontails are common; and coyotes, badgers, porcupines, chipmunks, squirrels, rats, mice, and many birds and reptiles occur in the vicinity. The ring-tail has also been recorded.

Pipe Spring Is Named

Members of the Jacob Hamblin party, the first white men to visit Pipe Spring, camped at this spring in 1856. They had been sent out by Brigham Young to explore and report on the Colorado River country and to negotiate, if possible, a treaty of peace with the Navahos living on the south side of the river.

William Hamblin (Gunlock Bill), a member of the party, was considered one of the best rifle shots in the Southwest. While camping at the spring, some of the men tricked him into trying to shoot through a silk handkerchief at 50 paces. He failed in the attempt, because the handkerchief, hung by the upper edge only, yielded before the force of the bullet. Somewhat vexed, he dared one of the men to put his pipe on a rock near the spring, which was at some distance, so that the mouth of the bowl faced directly toward them. He then wagered that he could shoot the bottom out of the bowl without touching the rim. The wager accepted, "Gunlock Bill" promptly and neatly per-

formed the feat and won the wager—hence the name Pipe Spring.

Settlement by Pioneers

Dr. James M. Whitmore and Robert McIntyre first settled Pipe Spring in 1863 as a cattle ranch. They built a dugout of juniper logs and earth to use as their headquarters. Both men were massacred by a band of marauding Navahos and Paiutes during the winter of 1865-66.

The Mormons, under the direction of Brigham Young, acquired the Whitmore-McIntyre estate; and, in 1869, Bishop Anson P. Winsor arrived at Pipe Spring to build a fort, improve the spring, and take care of the cattle tithed for the church. By 1870, he had finished the fort which was called by some "Winsor Castle." Nestled near the base of the colorful Vermilion Cliffs, it consisted of two 2-story red sandstone buildings. They faced each other across a courtyard which was closed at the ends with high sandstone walls and heavy gates. There was a firing platform a few feet below the top of one wall, and several loopholes may now be observed, which could have been used in case of Indian attack. The north building was erected directly over the spring, and the water flowed through the south building, assuring a plentiful supply of good water at all times.

Bishop Winsor left Pipe Spring about 1875, and the place was sold to private interests for a cattle ranch. For years, it was an important cattle-buying and shipping point. Cattle drives were started from this oasis to the railroad at Lund, Utah, which is over 100 miles away.

The Monument

Finally, the old fort and auxiliary buildings were acquired by the Federal

Government; and, in May 1923, Pipe Spring National Monument was established by Presidential proclamation. It contains 40 acres of land. In addition to the historic fort and two other buildings, many original tools and furnishings used by the pioneers, two mirrorlike pools of water, and large shade trees add to the attractiveness of the area.

How To Reach the Monument

Pipe Spring National Monument is 15 miles southwest of Fredonia, Ariz., and may be reached from U. S. 89 via a fair gravel road leading west from Fredonia. The nearest rail point is Cedar City, Utah, on the Union Pacific Railroad.

Service to the Public

A member of the National Park Service is available daily from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. to guide visitors through the buildings. Picnicking facilities are also provided. Food, supplies, and gasoline can be obtained at nearby towns.

Administration

Pipe Spring National Monument is administered by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. The superintendent of Zion National Park, whose address is Springdale, Utah, is in immediate charge of the monument. Communications should be addressed either to him or to the Acting Superintendent, Pipe Spring National Monument, Moccasin, Ariz.

Help Us Protect This Monument

Visitors are requested to picnic only within the designated area. Please leave the wild flowers, as well as all phases of the pioneer scene, as you find them, for others to enjoy.

The National Park System, of which Pipe Spring National Monument is a unit, is dedicated to the conservation of America's scenic, scientific, and historic heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.

