

City was established at this Carson Inn at Fairfield. It operated until the Union Pacific-Central Pacific rails were joined at Promontory in May, 1869. The Pony Express operated from April 3, 1860, to October 26, 1861, when the telegraph came.

Camp Floyd was commanded by an able officer. It was an orderly and well disciplined Post. Notwithstanding its isolation, cold winters and the heat and dust of the summer, life there was pleasant in many ways and as Sam Henry Goodwin has written, "The troops at Camp Floyd were not long without some of the recreations and amusements of civilized life."

A theatre was built and a military Dramatic Association was organized. Plays were given weekly and later daily, except when the payroll was delayed. A German singing club was organized, setting up its own building, known as Social Hall. The soldiers Circus Company gave acrobatic, equestrian and circus performances. The first Masonic Lodge in Utah was organized here. The Officers had a billiard hall. Dances and balls were frequent. And, of course, Frogtown, or "Dobievillie," as Fairfield was called, just over the creek, furnished other outlets for those who could obtain off-bounds passes.

By 1860, the storm clouds of the Civil War were gathering. Many of the troops were ordered away from Camp Floyd in that year, and by fall only 10 companies of troops remained. General Johnson was ordered elsewhere. and Col. Phillip St. George Cooke was sent to take command of the Post. He later changed its name to Fort Crittenden.

On May 17, 1861, he was ordered back to Fort Leavenworth with the 10 companies under his command, and on July 27, 1861, what remained of the Army of Utah departed. Some \$4,000,000 of Army surplus was sold at auction for \$100,000. The buildings were burned or otherwise razed. As the Army of Utah left Fort Crittenden, fuses touched off

trails of powder that led to piles of arms and ammunition that had not been disposed of otherwise.

The hell-roaring Fairfield blew out as suddenly as it had blown in. By September 2nd of that year only 18 families called Fairfield their home, and all that was left of Camp Floyd was a 40-acre tract on which was the stone-walled Army cemetery where slept some 84 officers, enlisted men and civilian employees.

John Carson stayed on at Fairfield and raised his family at the Inn. After his death, his widow and children continued to carry it on until, with the coming of better highways and the automobile, its doors were finally closed and its windows boarded up in 1947.

That is the story of Camp Floyd, and of Fairfield and of the Stagecoach Inn.

Realizing its value in interpreting the story of Utah to our future generations, the Carson family generously made a gift of the Inn and its property to the State Park and Recreation Commission. When they delivered the deed to us for the State of Utah, Governor Clyde said this: "I think what the Carsons are giving us is more than a 100-year-old building and a patch of ground. They are giving Utahns a message: 'This is your heritage. Cherish it, preserve it, protect it, foster it. Transmit knowledge of it to your children and all who come after us.' "

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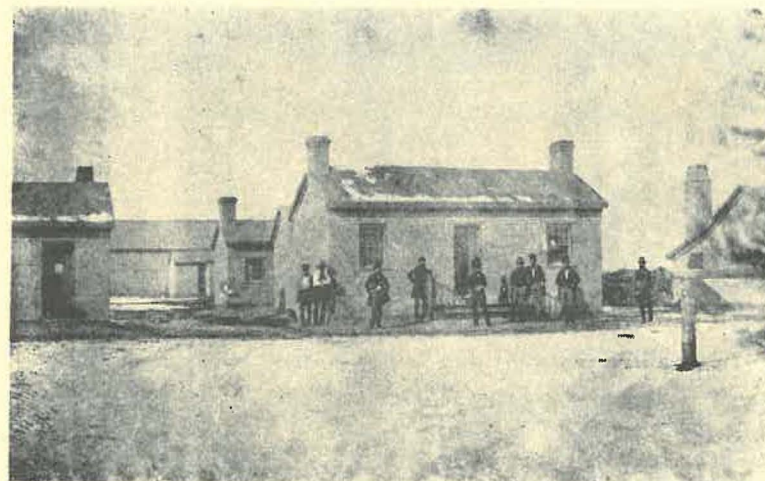
(Since June, 1959, the Stagecoach Inn and the old Army commissary across the street have been restored. The Camp Floyd cemetery has been rehabilitated and markers for 84 graves of soldiers and officers of the Army of Utah have been placed under there, for which much credit is due Mr. Robert Inscore of the Utah Historical Society and to the members of District No. 8 of the American Legion under its Commander, Mr. Glendon W. Peysar.)

Camp Floyd

at

FAIRFIELD, UTAH

July 8, 1858 - July 27, 1861



The Commanding General's Quarters,
from the East looking West,
Camp Floyd, Jan. 1859

Restored and Operated by the

State Park & Recreation Comm.

19 West South Temple

Salt Lake City, Utah

(From Official Records of the Army of Utah, National Archives, Washington, D.C.)

(The following is taken from an address made by Harold P. Fabian on June 21, 1959, at Fairfield, Utah, on the occasion of the dedication of a monument and plaque in remembrance of Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 205, the first Masonic Lodge in Utah.)

You will be interested in knowing something of the story of Camp Floyd and this little hamlet of Fairfield. It is a quiet, peaceful little village where some 19 families now make their home.

On this same 21st day of June, 1847, this place and all of Utah, was a wilderness. The scene outside the village was much as it is today, except there was waving grass where now is sage, grease wood and rabbit brush. To this wilderness, eight years later, in 1855, came a man named John Carson, a Pennsylvanian by birth, together with his four brothers and two other men. Having found good water and grassland, they settled here and made this their home. To protect themselves and their families from Indian depredations, they built a stone fort, four rods by four rods square, within which were log and adobe houses for their living quarters. The north wall of the fort was about where the south wall of the old Inn now stands. Notwithstanding the difficulties which usually beset the pioneers of our western wilderness, (two of the Carson brothers were killed by Chief Tintic's Indians), the Carsons succeeded in establishing their little settlement here, cultivated some land and planted these trees.

And then in 1858, three years later, occurred one of the most dramatic, and now all but forgotten, events in the entire history of Utah. On the night of June 25th of that year, there was camped in the dell at the base of Little Mountain, near the head of Emigration Canyon, east of Salt Lake City, the United States Army of the Department of Utah, under the command of General (then Colonel) Albert Sydney Johnson. This army consisted of some 3,500 or more officers, enlisted men and civilian employees, — cavalry, artillery, infantry, supply trains, engineers, bands, and ambulance corps. There were 586 horses for

the mounted units, 500 wagons and 3,000 mules. Reveille was sounded the next morning at 3 A.M. and by the light of the moon the Army of Utah crossed Little Mountain, went down Emigration Canyon, and out in the valley of the Great Salt Lake, headed for the city of the Saints.

As they came off the benchland into the city, the infantry columns marched in step to the tune of **One-eyed Riley**, struck up by their bands. The orders of the Commanding Officer were that under no circumstances were ranks to be broken. The Army of Utah marched into Salt Lake City and, without a halt, marched straight west through the city to the flats beyond the Jordan River. There they made camp at what is now 21st South and Redwood Road.

No throngs of people lined the streets to see the Army of Utah march by. The city was deserted. All the inhabitants had left excepting a few men who were stationed at strategic posts with torches ready to set fire to the town if the Army of Utah should halt there. Work on the Mormon Temple was suspended before the arrival of Johnson's Army. Workmen refilled the foundations and the grounds resembled a plowed field when the troops passed by.

Why this Army came out of the mountains on that morning of the 26th of June, 1858, is a matter that does not concern us here today. Suffice it to say that because of reports given President Buchanan the year before concerning the conduct of the Mormons, he had ordered the Army to move into Utah. They left Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in 1857 and spent the winter at Fort Bridger, Wyoming. In the meantime, investigation into the reports had caused the President to order the Army not to molest the city or its people, but to pass through and take up quarters far enough away to cause no disturbance.

From the Camp west of the city the Army, after a few days, moved south along the west bank of the Jordan, passed the present-day Camp Williams, and on July 8th arrived here in Cedar Valley. The place for a permanent post was selected at this little settlement of Fairfield where there was pasture for the animals and an ample supply of good water and wood.

The quantities of supplies and provisions for a post of that kind (it was the largest troop concentration then in the United States — 1,100 miles from its base, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and 1,300 miles from St. Joseph, Missouri) was enormous. The Army orders contemplated an officer and enlisted personnel of 5,606 men to be put in the field. The firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell (of Stagecoach and Pony Express fame) were ordered to transport 16,000,000 pounds of freight for them. To do this required an increase in their equipment to 3,500 wagons and teams, more than 40,000 oxen, 1,000 mules and over 4,000 men.

Large warehouses had to be built and barracks, mess halls, stables, officers quarters, headquarters buildings, blacksmith shops and corrals, and all the other structures that are required for a regular Army post. That summer of 1858, between 300 and 400 buildings were erected, immediately south of this little stream which was the dividing line between the Post and the village. Some of the buildings were of stone, some of lumber and many were of adobes. They had packed clay floors (except the headquarters and officers quarters) board roofs, battened and covered with about four inches of clay.

On November 9th the camp was completed. A full dress military review was ordered by General Johnson. The bands played the **Star Spangled Banner** as the flag was hoisted to the top of the post flagpole. Camp Floyd, named after the then Secretary of War, was a duly commissioned post of the United States Army. That evening the Military Dra-

matic Association celebrated the event in the theatre they had built.

And what of this little settlement of the Carson family living in the log and adobe houses inside their four-rod square rock fort, when this Army of men, cannon, horses and mules descended upon them?

Overnight, Fairfield became one of those typical hell-roaring, wild places of the West, and with Camp Floyd, soon had a population of some 7,000 or more people. The population of Salt Lake City was then only 15,000. There was no longer any need for the stone fort. It was taken down and in its place John Carson built a two-story adobe-and-frame hotel and inn. Along with tradespeople, artisans and mechanics, came a civilian riff-raff of saloon-keepers (there were 17 saloons in the town), gamblers, women, slickers, thieves and robbers — all attracted there by the Army payroll, which was about the only actual money in the Rocky Mountain West.

John Carson was an elder in the Mormon Church and his Inn was an oasis of decency in that wild setting. In accordance with the tenets of his religion, he permitted no liquor to be served in his place and would not even permit round dances in the large dining room, as square dancing was all that his Church countenanced. General Johnson apparently thought highly of John Carson and the Inn served as a decent hostelry for prominent visitors to the place, including many of the well known actors and actresses of the day who stopped there enroute to performances in San Francisco.

Remember, Camp Floyd was established before the day of the Overland Stage to San Francisco, and before the Pony Express. Captain Simpson, Senior Engineer Officer at Camp Floyd, laid out the Overland Stage Route from Salt Lake to San Francisco, by the shorter Southern route. It was thereafter known as the Simpson Route. The first Overland Stage station out of Salt Lake