

PRESS RELEASE

New Book Showcases Washington County's History One Interesting Place at a Time

HURRICANE, UT - A companion guide to many of Washington County's most interesting historical sites is now available in the form of Red Rock Recollections, Volume 1: Fascinating Stories of Utah's Dixie.

A compilation of feature stories originally written for the online newspaper St. George News, local historian Reuben Wadsworth presents brief histories about 25 different places located in the Beehive State's southwestern corner, from the Brigham Young Winter Home to the Hurricane Canal to the Zion Tunnel. The stories take the reader on a rewarding journey that will help them visualize what took place at each site in yesteryear.

"Reuben's stories allow us to see the 'whys' and 'how's' of how our beautiful Southern Utah was settled, and how the dramatic landscapes shape our past and present," said Julie Saemisch, a Zion National Park Forever Project board member. "I love sitting down to read Reuben's stories. In bite-sized pieces, he creates a past that comes alive with details of those who came before, and how the dramatic landscapes of Southern Utah shaped them."

Visitors might not even find some of the information contained in the book while visiting the sites as Wadsworth includes insights about each place readers who have previously visited the sites might not have known about previously.

For instance, Wadsworth looks at the Mountain Meadows Massacre (the most controversial story included in the book) historiographically, showing how interpretations of the event have changed over time as attitudes change and new information becomes available. In the chapter about the history of the Hurricane Canal, Wadsworth's major focus is on the ditch riders, the men who rode horses the length of the canal in the canyon to check for leaks and other problems to ensure the canal was flowing properly.

At a time when Zion National Park (which is the focus of five of the book's chapters) is experiencing crushing visitation, Red Rock Recollections encourages visitors to go and experience other historic and scenic locales in the area, complete with directions on how to get to them from St. George and QR codes to websites that provide more information about each place.

A middle school English teacher and Dixie State University adjunct history instructor, Wadsworth is a native of Hurricane with strong southern Utah roots. His maternal grandmother was the first baby born in LaVerkin. His paternal grandfather owned the only movie theater in Hurricane and also served as mayor. His father is one of the three surviving canal ditch riders.

Wadsworth holds a Master's degree in history from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he wrote his thesis on the history of Zion National Park's shuttle system. One of the chapters in the book is a summary of that thesis.

Printed and ebook editions of the book are available on amazon.com: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0578559714> .

Those who enjoy the history of the area and would like to receive regular historical tidbits, links to Wadsworth's regular stories and other historical information should "like" his author Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/rangerreub/>



RED ROCK RECOLLECTIONS

VOLUME I

Fascinating Stories of Utah's Dixie

By Reuben Wadsworth

