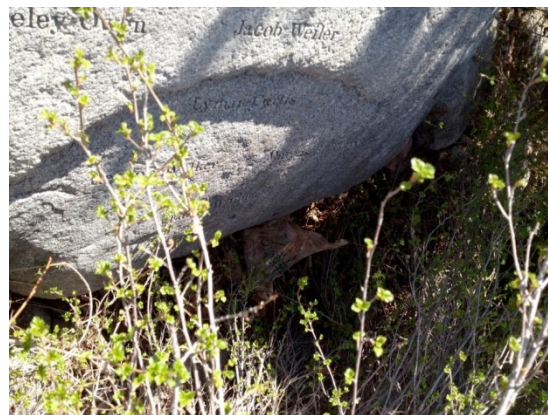


To Descendants of Edson Whipple,

Living near First Encampment Park, I always thought that Edson Whipple was one of the pioneers who camped there. The park has all the pioneers' names on the rocks. So my family has gone to the park several times looking for Edson's name. We was about to give up because we could not find it. So then we began to wonder if he came with the group of pioneers that came into the valley with Brigham Young instead. Then we tried one last time and my granddaughter (she would be the 7th generation descendant of Edson) was climbing on the highest rock in the park and her foot slipped into a hole at the back of the rock. There behind a large shrub that had grown a lot – she found four names on the back of that huge bolder. Guess whose name was on the bottom – EDSON WHIPPLE – Our search was successful. We are happy her foot slipped into that hole and helped to uncover his name.

So if you are ever in Salt Lake City on 5th East and 17th South – that is where Edson Whipple camped the first day he came into Salt Lake Valley with the first group of Pioneers. I just thought I would share this bit of history with you – These first three pictures are ones we took at the park and the rest of the following is from different sources – mostly from the internet and family genealogy that I have. Hope you enjoy this little bit of history –

Love Cousin Susan Freeze



First Encampment Park, Salt Lake City, Utah



The First Encampment Park is a historic park marking the first site where the Mormon Pioneers camped for the first night they were in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847. It was dedicated July 22, 1997.

The settlers camped near the confluence of Emigration and Parleys Creeks, at what is now 1700 South and 500 East in Salt Lake City. This park was announced in 1997; the site was previously the location of a gas station.

On July 22, 1847, the main body of the Mormon Pioneer Company, along with a few of the Mormon Battalion sick detachment and some of the Mississippi Saints, camped near this location. After leaving Emigration Creek, the group traveled in a southwesterly direction along the south side of Emigration Creek. Near where Emigration Creek and Parley's Creeks come close together, they camped.

On that night Thomas Bullock, the company clerk, recorded in his journal, ". . . we descended a gentle sloping table land to a lower level where the Soil and grass improved in appearance . . . the Wheat Grass grows 6 or 7 feet high, many different kinds of grass appear, some being 10 or 12 feet high---after wading through thick grass for some distance. we found a place bare enough for a Camping ground, the grass being only knee deep, but very thick; we camped on the banks of a beautiful little stream [Parley's Creek] which was surrounded by very tall grass . . ."

Orson Pratt and his exploring expedition, who entered the valley earlier that morning, joined the camp in the evening. A council was held and the decision made to move the next day to a site they had chosen to plant crops, on City Creek two miles to the north. Brigham Young, whose small party was delayed because of illness, did not enter the valley until July 24, going directly to the camp on City Creek.

When surveyed, the area of the first encampment became part of the "Big Field" farming plat. Among those with farms here was Wilford Woodruff, whose two houses still stand a half-block north of this site. Beginning in the 1890s, this area was platted and subdivided for residential development. Parley's Creek still flows through the neighborhood in an underground conduit.

(First Encampment Park)



Thomas Bullock (1816-85) served many years in the Church as a clerk in one capacity or another. He was a clerk to Joseph Smith and then to Brigham Young. He was also the clerk of the pioneer camp that entered the Salt Lake Valley on 24 July 1847.



On a little corner of 1700 South 500 East in Salt Lake City, passersby might get a glance of a large rock garden. Upon further examination you will learn that this spot has significant history to the Salt Lake Valley and the first group of pioneers that arrived here.

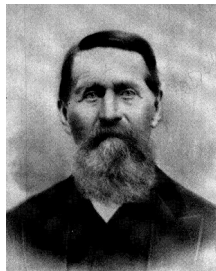
The First Encampment Park is the main group of the Pioneer Company camped on July 22, 1847. Other groups camped at other various locations. Scattered around the park on rocks are the names of the 109 men, three women, and eight children thought to have slept here the first night in the valley.

Parley's Creek still flows underground through the neighborhood that stands there now. The next morning the company moved to the place where it was decided they would plant crops, two miles to the north at City Creek.

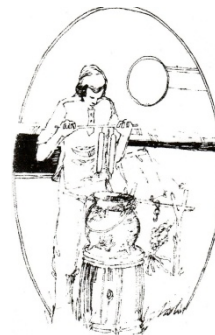
Even the layout of the park is symbolic of the pioneers and their journey. The granite boulders on the east side of the park represent the Wasatch Mountains. The path through the mountain rocks represent Emigration Canyon, which is the canyon the pioneers passed through to get to the valley. The dry streambeds represent Emigration and Parley's creeks.



The park was dedicated on July 22, 1997 by Elder M. Russell Ballard exactly 150 years after the group of pioneers camped here. It was presented as a city park to the people of Salt Lake City and to all who honor the pioneer heritage.



EDSON



WHIPPLE

Edson Whipple, one of the original Utah pioneers of 1847, was born February 5, 1805, in the town of Dummerston, Windham County, Vermont, the son of Timothy Whipple and Elizabeth Safford. He married Lavinia Goss February 16, 1832, and he was baptized by Benjamin Winchester in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 15, 1840, and confirmed by Lorenzo D. Barnes. He was ordained a priest by Orson Hyde, October 17, 1840; and a high priest and set apart as first counselor to Benjamin Winchester in Philadelphia by Hyrum Smith, April 6, 1841. He

removed to Nauvoo, Illinois in September 1842. Brother Whipple writes: "I was called at the general conference held in Nauvoo in April, 1844, to go on a mission to Pennsylvania, in company with David Yearsley, to canvas that state and present to the people Joseph Smith's views on government, and also to advocate his candidacy for presidency of the United States. I left Nauvoo, May 4, 1844, and returned the following November. During my absence the Prophet had been murdered in Carthage. I assisted in building the city of Nauvoo and the Temple and was among the defenders of our homes against the mob. I was present at the laying of the capstone of the Temple and received my endowments in that sacred edifice.

"During the winter of 1845-1846 I worked under Captain Charles C. Rich making wagons and was organized for traveling in his ten. I crossed the Mississippi river May 15, 1846, on my way to the Rocky Mountains with a family of four, consisting of myself, wife and child and my mother. We stopped at Garden Grove, Iowa, two weeks and then continued the journey to Council Bluffs, overtaking Bishop Hale's company on the way. We arrived at the Bluffs about the middle of July, but before arriving there we met President Brigham Young returning from the Bluffs to raise volunteers for the Mormon Battalion. On our arrival on the Missouri river we were counseled to locate for the winter on Ponycreek, down the river about 30 miles, but on our arrival there we found the place very unhealthy and thus unfit for habitation.

"My mother (Basmath Hutchens Whipple) died September 9, 1846. She was born September 7, 1769, in Massachusetts. A few days later (September 13, 1846) my wife died. She was born July 7, 1811, in Dummerston, Vermont. Of the whole camp consisting of 14 families all but two persons were sick, and while there we buried some whole families. We finally moved to another place about four miles distant. My little girl (Maria Blanch), when twenty-two months old, died at our new location, December 8, 1846, and her remains were taken to the place where her mother was buried. She was born February 15, 1845; her remains were placed in a coffin made of split plank (bugswood tree). Driven from our comfortable homes in Nauvoo to be exposed as we were to the heat and storms, and deprived of all comforts of life was more than our people could endure. Thus my whole family died as martyrs for the cause of Christ.

"In the spring of 1847, I was called in company with 142 others to lead the way to the wilderness in search of a new home for the Saints. I left Winter Quarters April 9, 1847, and traveled in the first ten of the second division under Captain Appleton M. Harmon, in which company President Heber C. Kimball also traveled. I took my turn to guard the camp every third night, half the night. *[Story inserted in Edson's diary - story from 111 Days to Zion by Hal Knight and Dr. Stanley B. Kimball - On Sunday - May 16, 1847 Edson Whipple gave William Clayton a significant gift which highly pleased him. It was a sleek candle made from buffalo fat. Whipple had managed to make two candles and gave one to the scribe. Writing by the flickering light of the candle that night, Clayton reported it burned "very clear and pleasant" and the tallow smelled "sweet and rich" and was more pleasant than the tallow of domestic cattle.]* When the pioneers began to settle in the Salt Lake Valley I was called to take charge of some of the pioneer's property and also the family of Heber C. Kimball and other families which followed the pioneers. Having buried my whole family on the journey, I farmed for Heber C. Kimball the first season and raised some four hundred bushels of grain for him. I was a member of the first High Council organized in Salt Lake City, October 13, 1848."

He crossed the plains again to bring another pioneer company to the Salt Lake Valley. Later he helped settle Iron County, laid out the city plan for Parowan, served on the city council and

built the first threshing machine run by water power. There he also married. Because he lived the principle of Polygamy he died in the Mormon colony in Mexico at age of 89, in 1894. In Edson Whipple's life he had six wives and 33 children.

(For more interesting information about Edson Whipple go to www.whipple.org - you will find several more diary inserts, letters, picture of gravestone, and genealogy.)