



Snyderville Basin

Driving Guide



Snyderville Basin

In the midst of the significant events of the founding of Utah and western expansion, a small, peaceful settlement grew up in Snyderville, centered around the intersection of Old Ranch Road and Highway 224. The meadow was discovered in 1848 by Parley P. Pratt who established squatter's rights and began the road through Parley's Canyon, at that time called Big Canyon.

Surrounding the meadow and extending up into the canyons around Park City were large evergreen trees 3-5 feet in diameter. According to a veteran trapper, David Lewis:

"I was out in the mountains with Parley Pratt and we were working up through what was then called Big Canyon, and we were well past the summit. It was along in the afternoon and just before the discovery Parley and I parted. We had run across fresh deer tracks heading toward what is now East Canyon, and I decided to follow them while Parley said he would climb to a summit on our right, and there would wait for me.

I bagged my deer after half an hour's trailing, and throwing the most appetizing portions over my shoulder, went back to the mountain top where Parley had said he would wait. I did not find him but found a rock on which he had rested, and saw his footprint through a fresh snowfall, leading down the mountain. Later I encountered him. He told me of a beautiful mountain park he had discovered off to our right. I told him that none of the old mountain trappers had ever known of such a park, and that I was confident it was a new discovery. I therefore said we should call it Parley's Park. And Parley's Park it has become."

The date was during the winter of 1848. The East Canyon Creek, where the deer was killed, lost a trapper's name when its present title replaced Bauchmin's Creek. The Indian name for Parley's Canyon was Obit-Ko-Kee-Chee. (From narrative of David Lewis, veteran trapper.)

Not only did he lend his name to posterity for the geographical names, but Parley Pratt was able to bring timber down the road to Salt Lake in the fall of 1849. He sold his rights to the broad, wet meadows of the Snyderville Basin to Mormon pioneers, Heber Kimball, Samuel Snyder and J.M. Grant. The partners continued

to improve the road and reaped the benefits from a toll road that ran from Big Canyon to the Kamas Prairie.

Samuel Snyder, a well-to-do pioneer who came from New York in 1848, bought Parley Pratt's claim for a yoke of oxen and dammed up the waters from White Pine Canyon, Red Pine Canyon and Willow Creek

"...in a reservoir which Mr. Snyder built at the point of the hill on the south side of the valley. They dug a mill race from the reservoir to the hill behind Felton's house where the water fell to turn the wheel and to operate the first grist and saw mill in Summit County, and among the first in Utah."

A few years later, William H. Kimball, son of President Heber C. Kimball moved to Parley's Park and built the Kimball Hotel, a station on the Overland Mail Route and later a railroad station. The old hotel still stands on the north side of I-80.

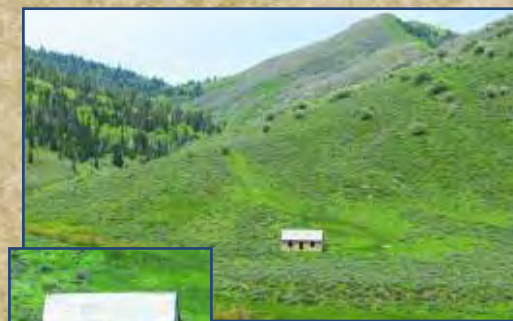
The settlers who followed built a fort with houses inside to protect them from frequent Indian attacks. Even though they put the wagons and cattle inside at night, the Indians harassed them by burning their huge piles of accumulated timber. Despite the hardships, this settlement thrived as the railroads needed ties and the mines required voracious amounts of timber for shoring up the underground workings, for fuel and for building homes and mine buildings.

This farming settlement also provided life's necessities as described by Rector Steen, one of the early prospectors who discovered the Ontario Mine:

"Flour was \$4 and \$5 per 100 pounds; bacon 30 and 40 cents, beef 25 cents, green coffee 30 to 40 cents per pound; sugar 10 pounds to the dollar; Irish potatoes were 50 cents per bushel; butter only 30 cents per pound. A pick \$5, shovel \$2.50."

In addition to the farms, there was a school that doubled as a meeting house and a store, but all that remains of this settlement now is a tiny cemetery high on the hill on the north above the entrance to the road to the Winter Sports Park.

Copy researched by Sally Elliott



Jeremy Ranch Stone Cabin
East Canyon Road 1

In the 1860s, Thomas Jeremy homesteaded the western end of Parley's Park. To receive the patent on 160 acres, the Homestead Act required settlers to live on the land 6 months of every year. This small stone cabin was the original residence and used each summer while grazing sheep.



Gorgoza Park 2

In 1888 John W. Young, a son of Brigham Young started the Eastern Railway. A New York business man named Gorgorza helped him financially. John Young named the refueling stop after him.



Union Lime and Stone Company Quarry Hwy 224 3

The commercial quality of sandstone outcroppings in the Quarry Mountain, Thaynes Canyon and Pinebrook areas, coupled with the availability of railroad transportation, stimulated the development quarries. These quarries provided sandstone for buildings and flagstone lintels and gutters in Salt Lake City. Early settlers, like the builder of the Kimball Hotel and Wallin house, took advantage of the abundant local stone.



Ecker Hill Ski Jump
Pinebrook Road 4

Chris Rasmussen purchased a large acreage in this area from the Jeremy family and built a home for his family. The son of Scandinavian immigrants, he was determined to teach his three

sons and other local boys how to jump. In the late 1920's he erected a modest jumping scaffold in the field behind the house. It was a good training ground for junior jumpers. A rope tow and later a chairlift took people to the top. World distance jumping records were set on this professional jump in the 1930s.



Hi Ute Ranch 2379 Kilby Road 5

The barn retains its original configuration, construction materials and use. The English-style barn with doors on the length of the building, houses hay upstairs with chutes cut in the floor accessing animal stalls below. This simple system enabled workers to feed livestock without hauling hay between the two floors. The style indicates the barn was built in late 1920s or early 1930s.

Spring Creek Ranch 1318
Bitner Road 6

The Empire style stone house was built in 1875 and served as the main residence which is now private. The two story sandstone house has a wood-framed gambrel roof. This ranch ranked very high among Utah dairy ranches. Now you can find a trailhead for public access.





Kimball Ranch 7
The Overland Stage Station from 1862 to 1868, stands east of Kimball's Junction. William H. Kimball built this eleven-room stone house as an inn and stage station. Eventually this route became part of the Lincoln Highway and undoubtedly housed many traveling visitors. Three famous travelers stayed there. Horace Greeley, Walt Whitman and Mark Twain. That wonderful old stone house still stands and can be seen from I-80 traveling to Salt Lake City.



8 Alf Engen Ski Museum and 2002 Games exhibit.
3419 Olympic Parkway.
Utah Olympic Park served as the 2002 Olympic venue for ski jumping, nordic combined, bobsled,

skeleton and luge. Now, visitors are treated to self-guided and expert tours of the competition sites, including the world's highest altitude ski jumps and the fastest sliding track. Take the ride of your life on a bobsled at 70 miles per hour with 4 Gs of force. Try an introductory camp in ski jumping, luge, skeleton or slope style skiing and snowboarding. And be sure to visit the Alf Engen Ski Museum and 2002 Games exhibit.



Wallin Farm 5638 Hwy 224
The house is a two story brick classical style built in 1900. Though additions and alterations were made over the years, enclosing the original house, a recent rehabilitation has restored the original form of the house. The two story barn is of intermountain style probably built in 1930 with wood "drop" siding.



Hixon Ranch and Residence 10

5373 Hwy 224
The Empire style stone house was built in 1875 and served as the main residence. The two story sandstone house has a wood-framed gambrel roof. This ranch ranks very high among Utah dairy ranches.



Snyderville Pioneer Cemetery • 1912 Roffe Road 11

Graves in the cemetery date from 1878 to 1916. Many of the graves belong to infants. Samuel Snyder, one of three Snyder brothers, purchased the meadow from Parley Pratt for a yoke of oxen.



George Q. Cannon Residence and Archibald store 12

4459 Hwy 224
George Q. Cannon purchased the property in 1900 for \$10,400 from the Snyder family. Cannon was a major figure in the LDS church, serving on the Quorum of the Twelve under Brigham Young. Following Young's death in 1877, Cannon became one of three executors of the late prophet's will and continued to serve in the Quorum with the responsibility for Church finances and the construction of temples and public works.



Powers Ranch 13

4137 Hwy 224
This property was part of the lands granted by the United States Government to the Union Pacific Railroad for development of the transcontinental rail system in the late 1860s. In 1887, the property was purchased by William Archibald who operated extensive sheep and cattle ranching in the Snyderville area. This one story wood frame bungalow style house was built in 1927.



The Colby School building was built in 1986 by the Pack/Zimonja family of Park City.

The building was built as a replica of the family's historical home in Iowa. It served as the Snowed Inn Bed and Breakfast and the Juniper Inn restaurant until 2000. In 2000, The Colby School moved in to the building and is the current resident. The Colby School now owns the building and has developed the property into a beautiful preschool through eighth grade campus.



Frances Redmund Ranch 15

1352 White Pine Canyon Road
The style of this barn built in 1921 suggests that it was part of a modest dairy operation. Dairying was generally recognized as the most suitable agriculture use for lands in Parley's Park, due to the high quality of pasture and the readily available market in Park City.



Daniel Sorensen Ranch
East corner of Old Ranch Road and Hwy 224
The property, originally part of the Union Pacific land grant, was owned by many of the Snyder family until purchased in 1922 by David and Vera Sorensen. The barn was built in 1937 and the cabin in 1928.



Stahle Family Farm 995 Old Ranch Road 17

This farmstead was owned and operated by George Stahle. George was the son of Swiss immigrants and met his wife, Bertha, during his church mission in 1909 and moved to Parley's Park to work for the Stoven family (they owned the Spring Creek Ranch). The storage shed was built in 1930, cattle shelter in 1940, hay barn in 1951 and the milk barn in 1954. Seven structures remain today and represent the area's agricultural past with intimate details of all aspects of raising animals to support the more industrial economy of Park City.



Peterson Barn Old Ranch Road 18

Victor Peterson built this barn in 1918. Along with operating his farm, Victor taught school locally at the Snyderville School house. When the Park City School District was consolidated and the Snyderville school closed, Victor was transferred to the new Park City school where he taught math. The barn is an excellent example of the Improvement Era barns built between 1910 and 1950.



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