

## *Iron Mission 1851-1859*



### The Iron Mission Story

Lack of iron was a major concern for pioneers who began settling in Utah in 1847. When iron deposits were discovered in Southern Utah, Mormon leader Brigham Young called for volunteers to colonize the iron rich area. A site near Coal Creek, (present day Cedar City) was selected in November 1851 for the iron works. Ten months later, the colony completed construction of a small blast furnace and began to operate the Iron Mission foundry.

Despite its initial success, the Iron Mission faced many difficulties. Indian troubles, floods, heavy freezes, and furnace failure took their toll. In addition, a crop shortage threatened starvation. The people persevered in the face of these obstacles, but the foundry eventually closed in 1858. The need for steel during World War 2 put the rich iron mines on the map. High grade iron ore is still mined today on a limited basis.

## **Rainbow Canyon Amateur Radio Club**

**Special Event Station: WR7AAA**

Commemorating the 173rd Anniversary  
of the first Iron Works in the Rocky  
Mountains.

**November 8th-9th 2024**

*Held at Frontier Homestead  
State Park, Cedar City, Utah*

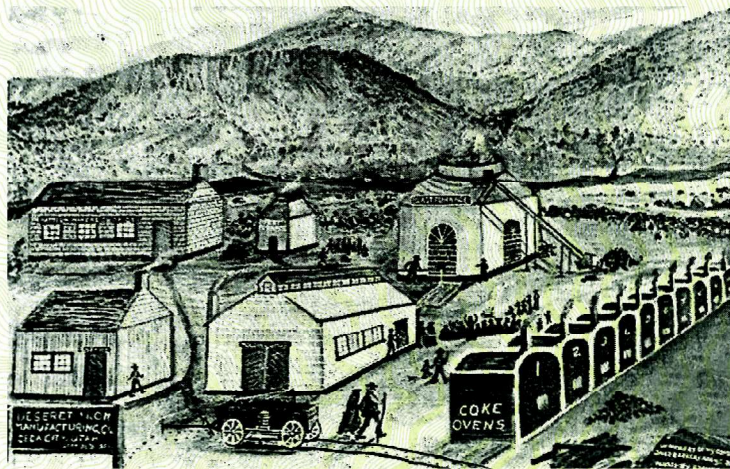
POTA UT-3072

**CQ#** 123

WR7AAA 11/08/2024

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