

Pipe Spring

National Monument
Arizona

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



During the spring roundup new calves were given the brand of their mothers. This gave each animal a permanent record of its ownership. New brands could be added if the animal was sold.

Western cattle ranching was based upon the Texas longhorn, a wild and dangerous animal.

A rope was the cowboy's all-purpose tool. With it he could make a temporary fence or pull firewood to camp. Most often it was used in working cattle, such as taking a calf to be branded.

A good "cow horse" had to be intelligent and strong, quick and sure-footed. A horse began working when it was 3 years old. By the time it was 10 a horse could be perfectly trained to work cattle.

A cowboy on a ranch needed 7 to 10 horses, some for special tasks, but most so the cowboy would not wear them out when he spent hours in the saddle. These extra horses were called the remuda.

The wrangler, an apprentice cowboy, was given many unpleasant jobs. He helped the cook and cleaned the camp. His most important task was caring for the remuda.

Beans, beef, biscuits, and coffee were the staples of a cowboy's diet. With the addition of a few seasonings, a good cook could make a variety of dishes.

Whether making biscuits and stew in the cookhouse or beans and bacon on the trail, the cook was important. A good cook kept the men content. A poor one could send them looking for a new job.

During roundups and on the trail the chuckwagon was the cowboy's home, kitchen, hospital, and moving van. The chuckwagon carried all the supplies needed during a roundup or cattle drive.

The cowboy's bedroll consisted of a 7-by-16 foot canvas tarp to keep out dampness and quilts to keep in warmth when he was sleeping. It also stored his personal items and belongings.

Cows and Cowboys

By the end of the Civil War Americans had settled the tier of States west of the Mississippi River. Further to the west was a vast, trackless grassland that stretched to the Rocky Mountains. Even to the hardy pioneers this prairie seemed fit only for buffalo and Indians. There was little water for raising crops and ten thousand seasons of grasses had built up a sod that was almost impenetrable to the plow. In the phrase of the day, this was "The Great American Desert." In this desert arose the legendary American cowboy.

The prairie could not be farmed, but its rich grasses provided ample feed for buffalo and the peculiar kind of cattle known as the Texas longhorn. The ancestors of the longhorns came from Spain. Some had escaped from the Texas ranches and had grown wild and wily on the range. As they learned to survive the harsh winters and defend themselves from predators, the longhorns became dangerous, especially to a man on foot. Nevertheless, some people saw that fortunes could be made from these "cows." Land was cheap, grass was free, and there was a

growing demand for beef in the East. The problem was how to get them to a market. The railroads that crossed the west after the Civil War were part of the answer. The other part was the cowboy, a man on a horse who could manage the unruly longhorns.

Cowboys and horses are almost inseparable, but the cowboy had no particular love for the animal. A horse was only a tool used in tending cattle and working the range. The rest of the cowboy's equipment was adopted for the same practical reason. His wide-brimmed hat kept the sun off his face, a neckerchief kept dust out of his nose and lungs, and a many-pocketed vest held his valuables. The cowboy's boots were not made for walking, but for staying in a saddle for long hours and getting out of it quickly.

The cowboy's daily routine revolved around cattle and the ranch, but the spring and fall roundups were the main events of his year. In the spring cattle were gathered. They had spent the winter on the range,

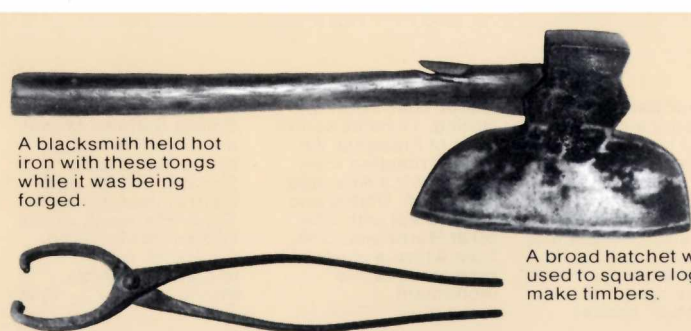
mingling with other herds, living off the grass, and giving birth to calves. Cowboys from neighboring ranches cooperated to drive all the cattle to a central location where each new calf was given the brand of its mother. The ranch owner kept count of the herd, for each addition meant an increase in his future profits.

In the fall another roundup picked the cattle that were ready for market. This roundup led to the famous cattle drives. The weeks or months spent on the trail were a period of hardship and trial for the cowboy. He had to prove himself in a contest against the weather, Indians, and several hundred stubborn cattle.

A day on the trail began early. When breakfast was over, the chuckwagon, a mobile kitchen, moved ahead to the noon resting place and the cook prepared lunch. The cattle were formed into a long line and driven on, the cowboys fighting dust or rain or swollen rivers to get the cattle a few miles closer to the railhead. After lunch the chuckwagon moved on

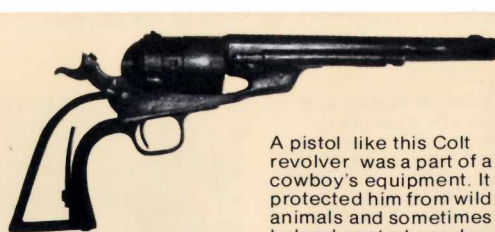
again to the site selected for the night campground. Work did not end at sundown, for the cowboys had to set watch over the skittish cattle and keep them calm. Day after day the routine was repeated until the herd reached the railhead and was sold.

Pipe Spring National Monument is a memorial to those early cattle ranches and cowboys. Visitors here may see homes and bunk houses, work sheds, and corrals typical of 19th-century ranches. While the cattle raised here were used by the Mormon Church and did not have to be driven hundreds of miles to a railroad, other activities, skills, and equipment are similar to those of open-range cattle ranches throughout the West. At certain seasons, visitors today can see cattle being rounded up, herded into corrals, and calves branded.



A blacksmith held hot iron with these tongs while it was being forged.

A broad hatchet was used to square logs to make timbers.



An oil lantern was a necessity before electricity came to Pipe Spring.

A pistol like this Colt revolver was a part of a cowboy's equipment. It protected him from wild animals and sometimes helped control unruly cattle. In the saddle it was easier to use than a rifle.



A horse or mule with a pack saddle (left) could carry supplies in a rugged country like the Arizona Strip. Here, where there were no roads, wagons were often not practical.



This milk pitcher gave a touch of elegance to the frontier setting.

The jointer plane was used in the final smoothing of boards.

The pioneers who settled the West used whatever materials were at hand to construct their homes, outbuildings, and fences. The historic structures at Pipe Spring were built of native sandstone.

ponderosa pine, cedar logs, and earth. These materials were well suited for an arid land, and, for the 1870s, made the fort a comfortable place in which to live.

Winsor Castle, barracks, and juniper-post corrals (right) were an oasis in the Arizona Strip. Historic tools that belonged to Joe Hopkins, one of the builders of Pipe Spring ranch, are displayed in the blacksmith shop.

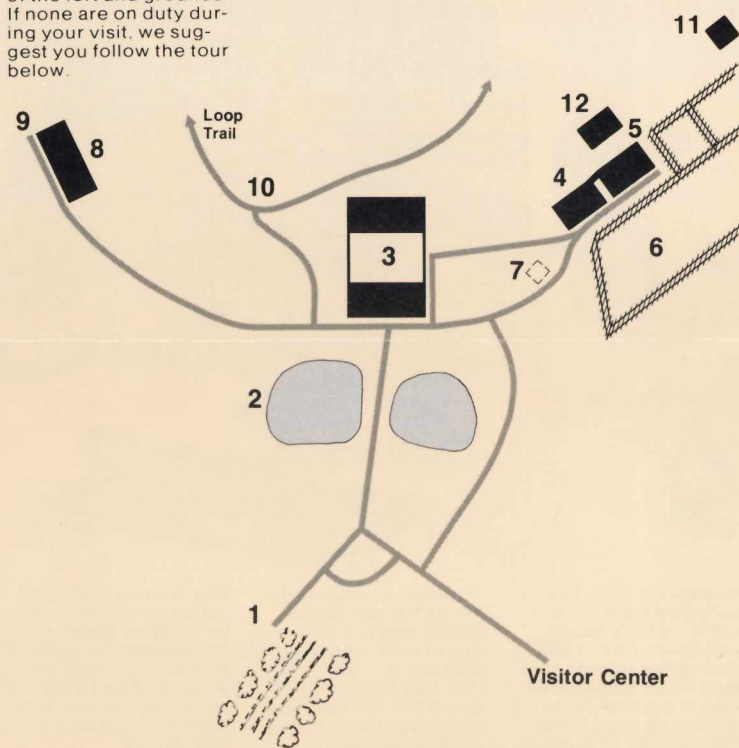


Pioneer life is reflected in the furnishings of Winsor Castle. The bed shown here has springs made of rawhide.

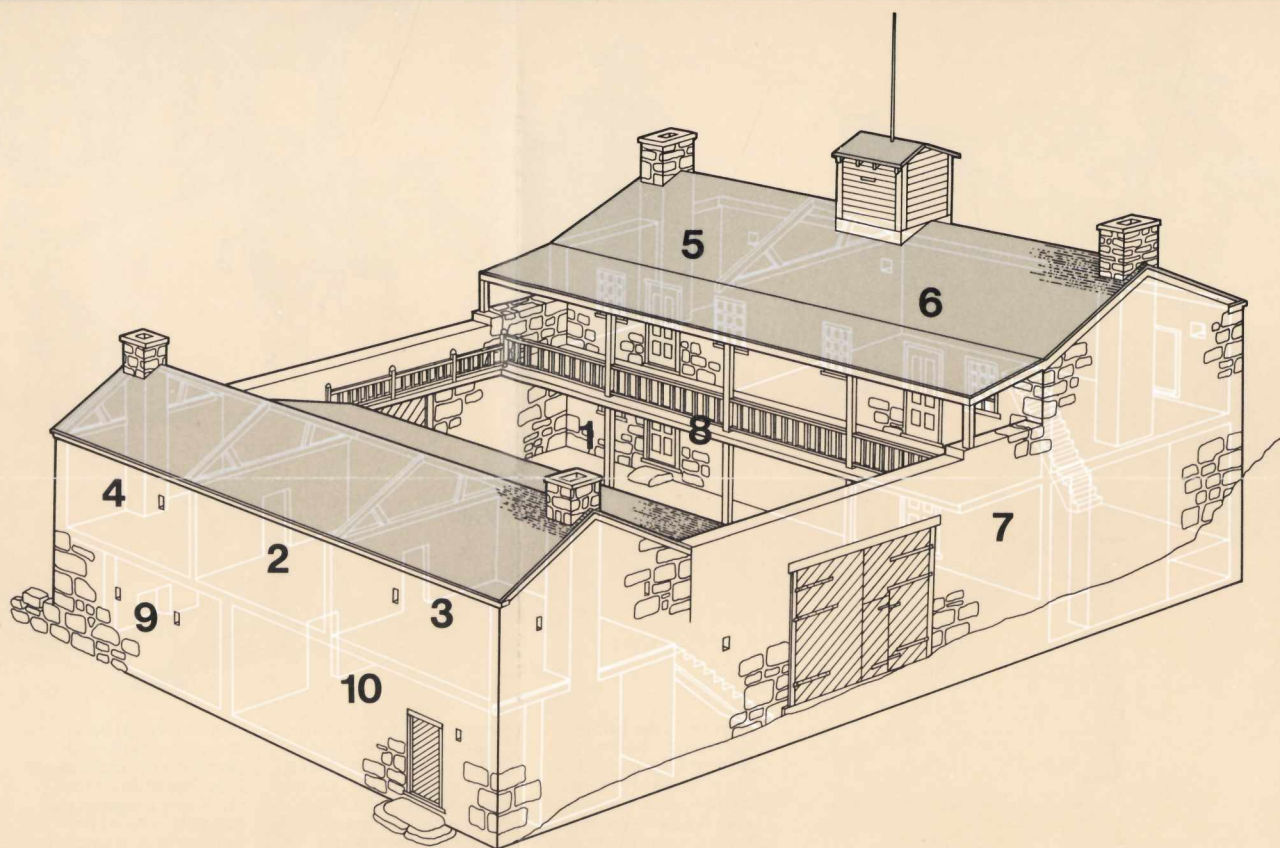


A Tour of Pipe Spring

Guides conduct tours of the fort and grounds. If none are on duty during your visit, we suggest you follow the tour below.



- 1. Gardens and Trees** The orchard and garden were planted in 1868.
- 2. Ponds** The two ponds have irrigated the gardens since the 1880s.
- 3. Winsor Castle**
- 4. Blacksmith Shop** Used as quarters in 1870, the building now houses pioneer tools.
- 5. Harness Room** A collection of harnesses and farm equipment is displayed in the former barracks built in 1868.
- 6. Corral** In this juniper-log corral, a type used by early ranchers, cattle are still branded during spring roundup.
- 7. Dugout Site** Built in 1863 this was the first dwelling at Pipe Spring.
- 8. West Cabin** This bunkhouse was used by explorer John Wesley Powell's survey crew in 1871.
- 9. Dominguez-Escalante** A marker recognizes the achievement of the two padres.
- 10. Trail** There are many historic and natural interpretive markers along this 1/2-mile loop trail.
- 11. Pig Pen**
- 12. Chicken Pen**



- 1. Courtyard** The large doors at each end of the courtyard allowed wagons to enter the fort.
- 2. Middle Room** This room was probably used as a sitting room or bedroom. Today pictures of early pioneers are displayed on the walls.
- 3. Southeast Bedroom** Furniture in this room is largely of native ponderosa pine. The clothing and trunk are typical of the late 19th century.
- 4. Telegraph Room** The telegraph operator lived and worked in this room. A picture of the first operator, Miss Luella Stewart, hangs over the original telegraph stand.
- 5. Northwest Bedroom** The bed and the chairs in this room use rawhide strips, a common item on the ranch.
- 6. Meeting and Guest Room** This room was used for meetings and Sunday services and as a lodging for overnight

guests. The small trap door in the ceiling leads to a lookout tower. Rugs were made on the loom outside the door.

7. Kitchen This is the fort's main kitchen. Hearty meals were served on the large table set in Mormon fashion: the plates turned over and the chairs turned backwards for kneeling to pray before morning and evening meals. The stove was brought to the fort in 1895.

8. Parlor The settlers at Pipe Spring often relaxed in this room. Books, musical instruments, and singing provided the entertainment. Families gathered here to read the Book of Mormon and the Bible. Beyond the back wall is the source of water for Pipe Spring. It comes from the hillside and the fort was placed over the spring to protect it. The water was once piped across the courtyard to the spring room. It now runs underground.

9. Spring Room Some of the spring water flows into this room, but most has been diverted outside the fort. The spring yields about 30 gallons of water a minute at a constant 56° F. The cold water made the cream rise in the milk and helped cure the cheese.

10. Cheese Room Making cheese was one of the major activities at the fort in the 1870s. Milk was placed in a cheese vat and heated to about 89° F. Rennet, from the stomach of a calf, was added to make the milk curdle, and the curd heated to 102° F. It was then cut, salted, and kneaded to remove some of the whey. The curd was packed in cheesecloth, placed in a round, and pressed to remove more whey for a solid cheese. After pressing, the cheese was weighed on the stillies. Workers at Pipe Spring turned out 60 to 80 pounds of cheese a day.

Castle on the Frontier

The Arizona Strip is a vast, thirsty land. But at Pipe Spring, where this free-flowing spring has attracted wayfarers and settlers for many centuries, water is abundant.

Prehistoric Basketmaker and Pueblo Indians lived near the spring over a thousand years ago. Later the Paiutes, nomadic Indians of the Great Basin, camped at the spring during their yearly migrations. Here they hunted rabbit and deer and gathered pinon nuts, grass seeds, and prickly pear for food. The first known white men to enter the area were Fathers Francisco Dominguez and Silvestre Veliz de Escalante who passed within eight miles of Pipe Spring in 1776. In October 1858 the spring was "discovered" by Mormon missionaries enroute to the Hopi Pueblo to the southeast.

Pipe Spring, and the lush native grasses in nearby Pipe Valley, were soon put to use by the Mormons. In 1863 Dr. James M. Whitmore, a Mormon convert and cattleman from Texas, began ranching at Pipe Spring. Whitmore and his herder, Robert McIntyre, built a temporary shelter, and added ponds, grape vines, and fences. On January 11, 1866, both men were killed by Navajo raiders who crossed the Colorado River to

drive off stock. The Navajos, with their lightning attacks, drove settlers from St. George and other communities east of the Virgin River. In 1868 the Utah Militia settled at Pipe Spring to keep the marauders south of the Colorado.

Peace between the Navajos and Mormons returned in 1870 when Jacob Hamblin, and the western explorer Maj. John Wesley Powell signed a treaty with the Indians at Fort Defiance, Arizona. Brigham Young, president of the Mormon Church, became interested in Pipe Spring as a location for the church's Southern Utah tithing herd, the cattle contributed by Mormon families as a tenth of their income. By chance, Young, Hamblin, and Powell met at Pipe Spring on September 12, 1870. Young made plans to build a fort to protect the valuable water supply, the grazing grounds, and those "called" by the church to serve there.

Building began in late 1870. Joseph W. Young, President of the Stake of Zion at St. George, was initially in charge of construction, but Anson Perry Winsor was soon appointed superintendent of the ranch and diligently attended to the construction of the fort that was to bear his name. Winsor Castle consisted of two rectangular, 2-story houses with walls connecting

their ends to form a courtyard. Building stone was quarried from the red sandstone cliffs west of the fort, and lumber was hauled from a nearby sawmill.

Church members from the territory helped pay their tithing by working on the fort. Before the big building was completed in early 1872, two smaller ones were added. The rock cabin built by the militia in 1868 was extended by adding another small rock house and connecting their roofs. The Winsor family lived here while waiting to move into the fort. The other building, west of the fort, quartered the workers.

A. P. Winsor collected tithing cattle and purchased more to build up a sizable herd. Under his sure hand Pipe Spring produced cheese, butter, and beef. Some was delivered to the Southern Utah Tithing Office for workers building the St. George Temple. The remainder was sold wherever a market developed. In 1879, when the manager was Charles Pulsipher, the ranch had 2,269 head of cattle and 162 horses worth over \$54,000.

Pipe Spring declined in importance in the 1880s, but continued to be an active church ranch for most of the decade. It was a popular stop-over

along the trail between the Virgin River towns and the Colorado River. The trail by the fort became known as the Honeymoon Trail because so many young couples traveled it returning home after being married in the St. George Temple. During the period of turmoil over polygamous marriage and the resulting threat of Federal confiscation of church property, the Mormons decided to sell the ranch. In 1888, D. F. Saunders, a non-Mormon cattleman, became the owner. The ranch changed hands several times, then in 1906 Jonathan Heaton and Sons from nearby Moccasin, bought 40 acres, the buildings, and water rights. The Heaton family owned the ranch until Charles Heaton interested Stephen Mather, first director of the National Park Service, in the significance of Pipe Spring "as a memorial of western pioneer life." Pipe Spring was proclaimed a national monument by President Warren G. Harding on May 31, 1923.



Dr. James M. Whitmore (far left) began the ranching operation at Pipe Spring. Brigham Young, President of the Mormon Church, foresaw the value of Pipe Spring as a cattle ranch for the church.



Anson P. Winsor and his wife Emeline B. Winsor, for whom the fort was named, were appointed by Young to continue the ranching operation begun by Whitmore. Cowboys and cattle on the range were a common sight at Pipe Spring ranch.



For Your Safety Do not allow your visit to be spoiled by an accident. Exercise common sense and caution. Please watch your children around the pools, and be especially careful of steep stairways and low doorways in buildings. Limited wheelchair access.

About Your Visit Pipe Spring, 14 miles southwest of Fredonia, Ariz., can be reached from U.S. 89A via Ariz. 389. From I-15, Utah 9 and 17 connect with Utah 59 at Hurricane, Utah, from which a paved road leads to the monument.

Administration Pipe Spring National Monument is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A Superintendent, whose address is Moccasin, AZ 86022, is in immediate charge. Phone (602) 643-5505.