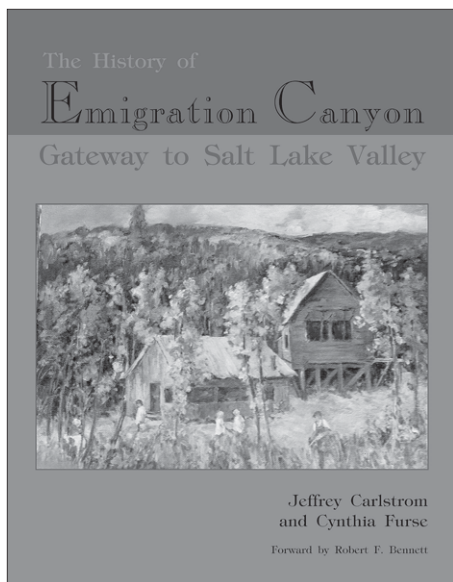


The History of Emigration Canyon

Gateway to Salt Lake Valley

by Jeffrey Carlstrom and Cynthia Furse



This comprehensive and well-illustrated history of one of the more significant historical areas in Utah offers a case study of the development of a scenic, rural area near a major western metropolis. Emigration Canyon was the original route, opened by the Donner party, through the Wasatch Mountains into Salt Lake Valley. It subsequently was the route for pioneer settlers, overland wagon trains, freight and mail lines, and the pony express, and it remained an important transportation corridor even after the development of alternative roads. Subsequently, the canyon provided stone, timber, and grazing resources for the developing city below it; began to be homesteaded; provided a route for one of the Wasatch Range's more interesting narrow gauge railroads; and became a resort community. Its history since the Great Depression has been one of gradual development as a Salt Lake City suburb. Because of its location in the mountains, it has attracted local city dwellers as visitors or residents, and because of its strategic position above the city, it has continued to capture the attention of government and politicians, as repeated contests over water, development, annexation, and zoning of the canyon have shown.

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"Impressive in many ways . . . well written and very readable. The descriptions of real and colorful individuals make for interesting reading and give a sense that this is a serious history rather than just a chronicle of events that impacted the canyon. The book is very strong in dealing with contemporary issues. The History of Emigration Canyon illustrates the complexities of trying to balance quality of life issues with economics and development."

—Allan Kent Powell, editor of the *Utah Historical Quarterly*



This book and the Emigration Canyon Historical Society that supported its completion grew out of the efforts of Stanley Fishler (*right*) to document and preserve the canyon's history. He recruited other canyon residents for the project. Authors Jeffrey Carlstrom (*left*), a technical writer, and Cynthia Furse (*front*), an electrical engineer, had written about and otherwise previously shown their interest in Emigration Canyon's story, and they volunteered to write the history. Marilyn Smolka (*second from right*) edited their work.



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