

# Camp Floyd / Stagecoach Inn State Park & Museum



Utah State Parks

# Camp Floyd

Used as a strategy by both the Northern and Southern States, Camp Floyd and the Utah War were an attempt to divert the nation's attention from the issue of states rights and slavery, to the Mormon problem and polygamy. Believing Mormons were rebelling against the laws of the United States, in 1858 President James Buchanan dispatched nearly one-third of the U.S. Army to suppress the rumored rebellion in the Utah Territory.

No rebellion or war ever took place in Utah. The army remained at Camp Floyd for three



years to monitor

the Mormons, explore the western frontier, and provide safety for immigrants moving west to California, Oregon, and Washington.

Camp Floyd, named in honor of Secretary of War John B. Floyd, was built by the army with the help of local citizens. Camp followers soon increased the population of Camp Floyd and Fairfield to 7,000, making it the third largest city in the Utah Territory. At its height, Camp Floyd was the largest

military installation in the United States. In 1861, the army left for the Civil War with soldiers joining both sides of the conflict. Some \$4,000,000 of Army surplus was sold for a few cents on the dollar. The names of those once stationed at Camp Floyd, read like a “who’s who” in Civil War Generals. Rosters include names like Johnston, Buford, Reynolds, Bee, Heth, Lander, and others. Nearly all the buildings erected by the army were dismantled or demolished before their departure. Today, all that remains is the Commissary Building, which serves as a Camp Floyd museum, and the cemetery.



## **Stagecoach Inn**

In 1858, John Carson built what is today known as the Stagecoach Inn, a two-story adobe building where Carson and his family lived and operated a hotel for travelers. As the first Overland Stage Station west of Salt Lake City, the



Stagecoach Inn served travelers and others associated with Camp Floyd. Carson and his family remained at the Inn after the army closed Camp Floyd. After his death, the Carson family continued operating the Inn as a hotel until 1947. In 1959 the Carsons gave the property to Utah State Parks. The Inn was restored and opened as a museum in 1964. Today it contains furnishings of the period, indicating the hospitality of the inn - not elegant, but comfortable.



# Camp Floyd Commissary/Museum

Constructed in 1858 by the soldiers of Johnston's Army, the Commissary Building served as a store of military equipment and provisions.



It was sold to the Beardshall family at the Army's auction in 1861. The



building was relocated to its current site where it was used as the family's home.

## Fairfield District Schoolhouse

Upon entering statehood in 1896, Utah became eligible for federal funds to construct public school buildings. The Fairfield District Schoolhouse was built with these funds in 1898. The building closed in 1937, when students were bused to Cedar Fort and Lehi. Today, the Fairfield Schoolhouse is used for programs at Camp Floyd and open for viewing at special events. Groups

may rent the historic building for meetings and other



gatherings. Call the park at (801) 768-8932 to reserve the Fairfield Schoolhouse.

## **Camp Floyd Cemetery**

The cemetery was established in 1858 and abandoned three years later as the troops stationed at Camp Floyd returned to fight in the Civil War. A monument was dedicated by the War Department in 1913. In 2009, ground penetrating radar determined the actual locations of the burials. New headstones were placed in 2011 to reflect the locations of the burials. Though the names of those interned at the cemetery are known, these headstones read "Unknown" in order to reflect the unidentified location of each person.

## **Relive History**

Camp Floyd/Stagecoach Inn State Park and Museum provides a glimpse back in history through many annual programs, events, and activities. Plan a trip during these times for an adventure in history. For a list of all events and programs at the park, please visit [campfloyd.utah.gov](http://campfloyd.utah.gov).

## **April**

Artisan's Day: Join us for Camp Floyd State Park's Artisan Day and learn from the artisans as they demonstrate their skills. Learn about the history of the sheep industry in Fairfield and the importance of the wool industry to Utah's economy.

## **July**

Day of the Cowboy: Bring a chair or picnic blanket and come and join Camp Floyd State Park for a day celebrating the cowboy way of life on the National Day of the Cowboy. There will be activities for the kids, food and of course great cowboy poetry and cowboy music.

School Field Trips: Experience the life of a soldier enlisted in Johnston's Army. View musket fire, make candles, adobe bricks and more. Attend classes in a 19th century one-room schoolhouse, and tour the museum and Stagecoach Inn. Minimum group size of 75 and reservations are required.

Johnston's Army Adventure Camp: Attendees travel back in time to 1861 and become soldiers at Camp Floyd, Utah Territory. As a newly enlisted

## **Relive History Continued**

private, attendees don a uniform and shoulder muskets. This authentic and unique overnight experience meets the requirements for the American Heritage Merit badge and the National Historic Trails Award. Reservations and a fee are required.

**Cub Scout Camp Floyd Adventure:** Come experience the life of a soldier at Camp Floyd in this two-hour program. Tour the museum, march and drill like a soldier at Camp Floyd, and play period games.

**Memorial and Labor Day Weekend**

**Johnston's Encampment and Camp Floyd Days:** Explore a Civil War encampment, visit with re-enactors, play 19th century games, ride a stagecoach, try on a soldier's uniform.

Food Concessions are available.

## **June through August**

**Camp Floyd History Camp For Kids:**

Children experience life as a soldier at 1861 Camp Floyd and learn how the Utah War served pre-Civil War objectives. Campers play 19th century games, drill, march, set up camp, and conduct a full-

# Relive History Continued

scale military exercise. History Camp is for children 8 to 11. Reservations and a fee are required.

## October

Ghosts of Camp Floyd: Is Camp Floyd Haunted? The public is invited to participate in a paranormal investigation of Camp Floyd. Reservations and a fee are required.



**Your park fees provide for the care, protection and enhancement of this park.**

**Park Location:**

The park is located in Fairfield, Utah, 22 miles southwest of Lehi on State Route 73.

**Operating Hours:**

The park is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The park is open Monday through Saturday, Labor Day - Memorial Day and open Monday-Sunday, Memorial Day - Labor Day. Closed Thanksgiving. Christmas and New Year's Day.

**Address Inquiries To:**

Camp Floyd/Stagecoach Inn State Park  
and Museum

69 West Main St.

Fairfield, UT 84013

(801) 768-8932

[campfloyd.utah.gov](http://campfloyd.utah.gov)

or

Utah State Parks and Recreation

P.O. Box 146001

Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6001

(801) 538-7220

[stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov)

**For Pavilion Reservations Call:**

(801) 768-8932

## **Utah State Parks Mission:**

To enhance the quality of life by preserving and providing natural, cultural and recreational resources for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.

Information contained in this brochure was accurate at the time of printing. Policies, facilities, fees, hours and regulations, etc., change as mandated. For updated information please contact the park.