Proposal for Archaeological Park

Confluence of the Virgin and Santa Clara Rivers

South of the Dixie Center

Adjacent to the Crosby Family Confluence Park

Archaeologists working the site:

Greg Woodall, Archaeological Consultant for 30 years

Gardiner F. Dalley, BLM Cedar City District Archaeologist for 25 years

Barbara Frank, SUU Archaeology Field School Director and Principal Investigator for InterSearch (Cedar City archaeological consulting firm)

Proposal Endorsed by Dixie Archaeology Society

Virgin River & Santa Clara Confluence

The property is bound by the Santa Clara and Virgin rivers and Interstate 15.

The existing Confluence Park has a parking area, restrooms, drinking fountains, and picnic shelters. The St. George urban trail system follows the parcel edge and includes foot bridges that cross the Santa Clara and Virgin rivers.

Virgin River & Santa Clara Confluence

The foot bridge on the established city trail provides easy access to the site.

Virgin River & Santa Clara Confluence

Archaeologist Greg Woodall describes the archaeological excavation to members of Dixie Archaeology Society on February 8, 2014.

Virgin River & Santa Clara Confluence

Greg Woodall points out various layers indicating habitation and storage rooms.

Virgin River & Santa Clara Confluence

A corrugated clay vessel was recovered from the site.

Virgin River & Santa Clara Confluence

These photos are from the Lost City in Overton, Nevada. The replica habitation and pit houses were built by the CCC in 1935. Similar replicas could be constructed as part of an archaeological park for St. George.

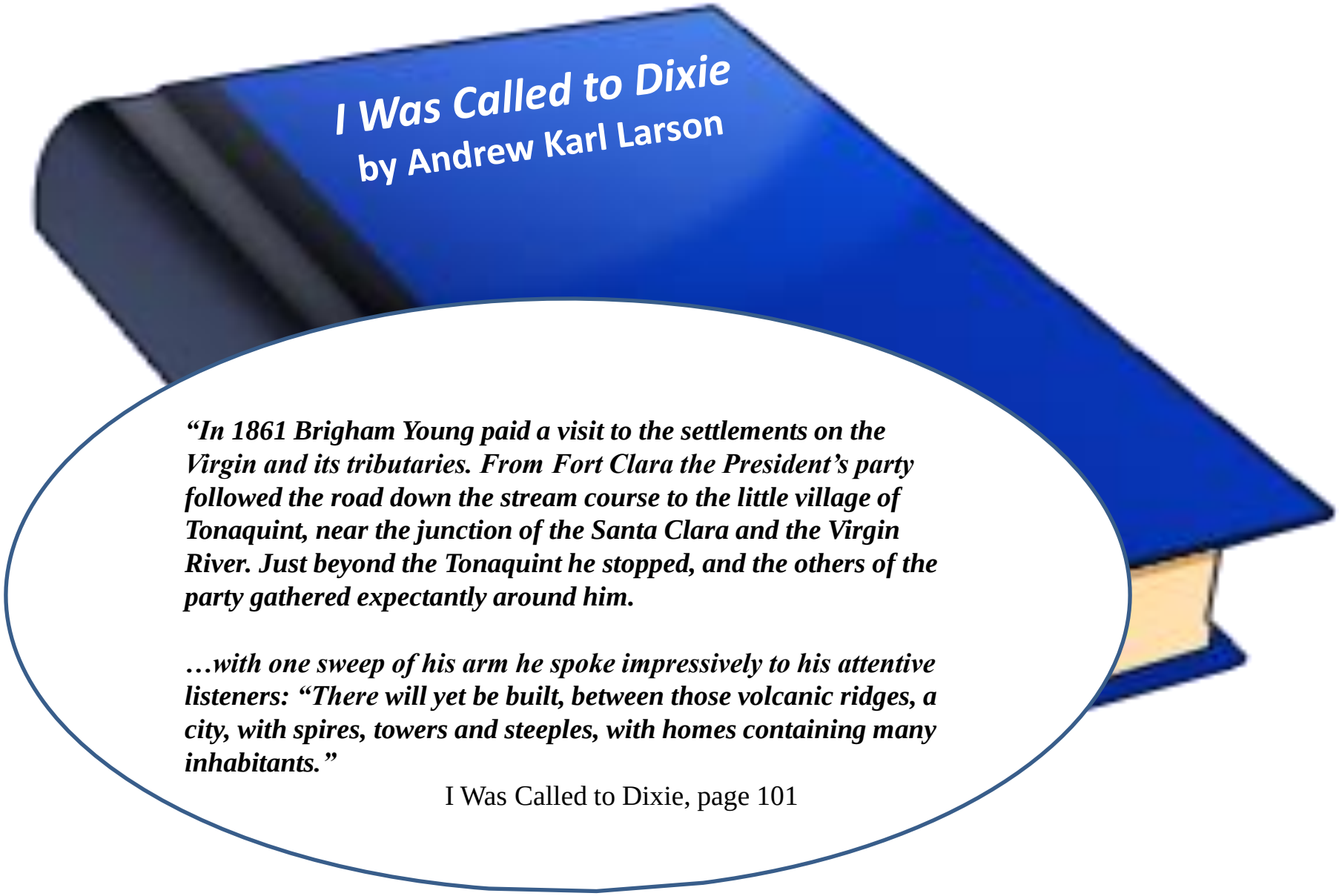
Virgin River & Santa Clara Confluence

Petroglyphs exist on a nearby rock outcropping overlooking the Virgin River.

Winter solstice sun rise scatters light across petroglyphs.

Virgin River & Santa Clara Confluence

The proposed park site is aligned with Main Street and has a clear view of the LDS temple. Brigham Young may have stood on this spot in 1861 and proposed the settlement of the area “between those volcanic ridges.”



"In 1861 Brigham Young paid a visit to the settlements on the Virgin and its tributaries. From Fort Clara the President's party followed the road down the stream course to the little village of Tonaquint, near the junction of the Santa Clara and the Virgin River. Just beyond the Tonaquint he stopped, and the others of the party gathered expectantly around him.

…with one sweep of his arm he spoke impressively to his attentive listeners: "There will yet be built, between those volcanic ridges, a city, with spires, towers and steeples, with homes containing many inhabitants."

I Was Called to Dixie, page 101

Today, the St. George City Council has an opportunity to preserve the place where the vision for St. George was born. By establishing an archaeological park on this spot, future researchers, educators, students, families, and tourists will have an opportunity to experience the breathtaking views of St. George and reflect on our human heritage that includes and predates Mormon settlement.