

Muuputs Canyon

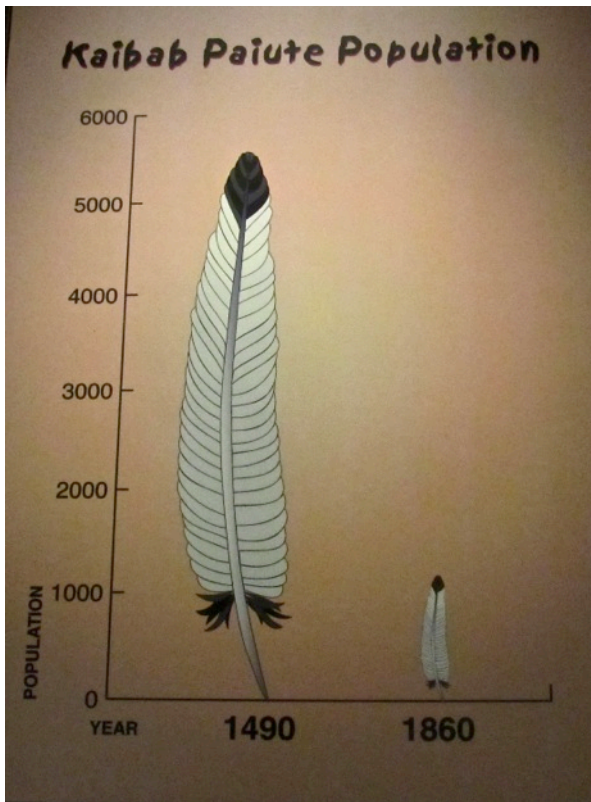
Muuputs Canyon is located on the Kaibab Paiute Reservation and can be accessed only with a Paiute guide through the Pipe Springs National Monument.

The trip began with a visit to the museum at the Pipe Springs visitors Center. The museum showed many exhibits depicting the Paiute life at Pipe Spring. The photos show a couple of exhibits that summarized the visit.

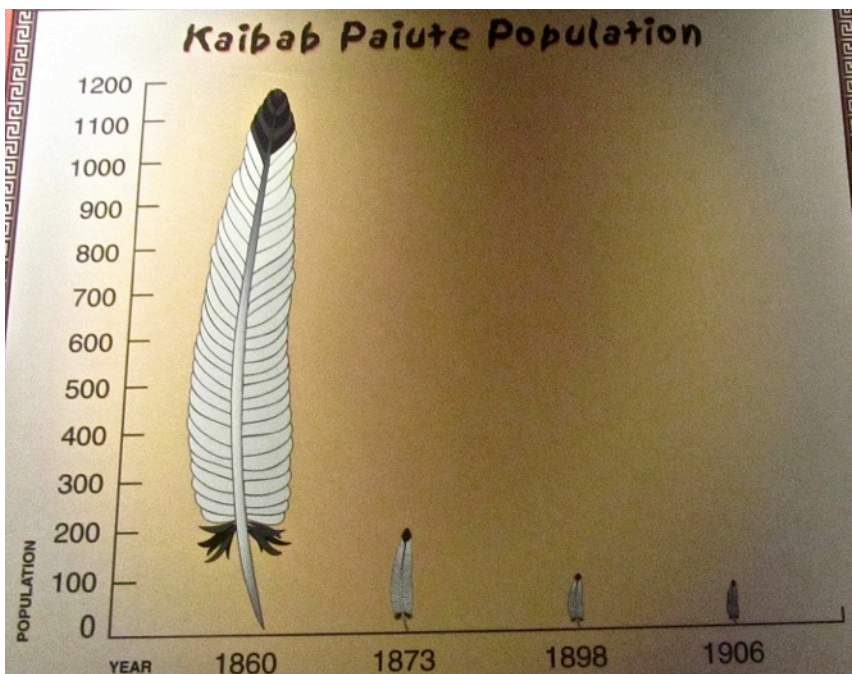
Known as the *E'nengweng* to the Paiutes, *Hisatsinom* to the Hopi, and *Anasazi* to the Navajo, ancestral peoples lived throughout the southwest 500 to 1100 years ago. They typically built pithouses (below ground structures) and/or pueblos (above ground structures) from rock and wood. A group of them built a pueblo near *Matungwa'va*. They used the water from the spring to grow corn, beans and squash, and hunted animals that were attracted to the spring. These people made and used pottery for cooking and storing food.

The Kaibab Paiute believe the *E'nengweng* were their ancestors. They believe *Tumpee'po'-ohp'* – petroglyphs (pictures pecked into stone) and pictographs (pictures painted on stone) – made by the *E'nengweng* are the link that connects them together. The places where these pictures are found are revered. The early Paiutes continued the tradition of rock writing.

The museum and the subsequent tour of Winsor Castle at Pipe Springs showed the plight of the Paiutes. The population estimates prior to European contact show a population of about 6000. That decreased to about 1200 in 1860 due to disease and conflict with the Spanish and the neighboring tribes (Utes and Navajo).



The population further decreased to less than 100 after settlement of the area by the Mormon pioneers (taking the water source (Pipe Spring) and destruction of the food source – the grass land - by grazing) and continuing Indian trouble.



Rock Art – Site 1

Much of the rock art in Muuputs Canyon is difficult to see and photograph because of the condition of the rock, the petroglyphs are on exposed surfaces that are subject to erosion and weathering and the pecking was not very deep.



Figure 1 - Three petroglyph panels are shown in this Figure – lower left, middle and top right.



Figure 2 – This Figure shows the orientation of the lower right and the middle panels.



Figure 3 – The anthro has his arms and legs pointed down and has an unpecked face (appears dark). He also has a type of headdress. There is another figure on the panel. This reminds me of the bear shaman glyph on Anasazi Ridge near St. George.



Figure 4 – The middle panel has 2 anthros with headdresses. The anthro on the right appears to have a bird on his shoulder (looks like a parrot or maybe a duck). The legs on both anthros appear to be connected to another glyph (wavy line / serpent / ?). There are small anthro below the wavy line and one on the left facet of the rock. The glyphs on this panel could have been painted because they are darker than the parent rock. This panel and the one in Figure 3 are protected by a rock outcropping – therefore they are not subject to weathering like other glyphs in the canyon.



Figure 5 - This Figure shows the top right glyph from Figure 1. Here the figures are very abstract – on the left appears to be an anthro with a headdress. In the middle is a stick figure with very large eyes, then another stick figure and then a cat image and perhaps an anthro.

Continuing to the right of these panels are at least two more panels whose glyphs are very difficult to see and photograph.



Figure 6 – There are a number of glyphs on this rock face including at least 2 anthros. These are very difficult to see.



Figure 7 – On the left is a sun image, a stick figure anthro, then a “flower” image, perhaps another anthro and finally a sheep or a coyote image.



Figure 8 – This shows perhaps a curved element with 9 rungs and another curved element with 4 rungs. He style looks similar to those in Figure 7.



Figure 9 – An anthro (?) with something hanging from his right hand. That part of the glyph appears to have been “chalked”.



Figure 10 – This a very lightly pecked anthro with 3 large fingers and toes.

A general comment is that all of the glyphs in this site have a different style from each other and are different from the glyphs at site 2.

Rock Art – Site 2

Site 2 is located at the end of the canyon. And compromises a portion of the end wall., Figure 11. Here the petroglyphs are fully exposed to the weather and are very difficult to see. Our trip(s) have been in morning light on sunny days– perhaps afternoon light on cloudy days would be better.



Figure 11 – Rock Art Site 2



Figure 12 – The main panel at Site 2. An Anthro is on the lower left and a water bird on the upper right and a lot of glyphs in the middle. Including a set of 3 anthros.



Figure 13 – Anthro from lower left (Figure12). He has a duck on his head – the Zuni Kiakklo and the duck story – see <http://dixierockart.webs.com/Technical%20Presentations/The%20Duck%20Story%20in%20Rock%20Art%20Edited2.pdf> for the story. This same motif may be present in the glyphs shown in Figure 4.



Figure 14 – A water bird. I’m sure there is a story connecting the water bird with the shadow that looks like a face. It looks like the bird emerges from the mouth.



Figure 15 - An anthro with an elaborate, double tiered head dress.



Figure 16 – An anthro with a triangular shaped body.



Figure 17 – A stick figure anthro.

Some general comment about how these glyph are different from those in the St. George region. It concerned with what is NOT present – no sheep / deer / elk, no spirals, no curvilinear patterns, no circles.

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