

The search for historical data is slow and generally tedious. It calls for the patient sifting of rusty old records, laborious deciphering of strange and ancient handwritings, the brushing and dusting of dirt and cobwebs from dark basements or attic corners, where old records have been stored, the painstaking checkup of rumors and stories and traditions in order that the distorted truths they might contain be brought to light. History is an exacting science for whatever rightfully bears its label must be verified, certified, authenticated.

For these reasons the search for historical data can best be made by individual researchers, and he who would essay to the calling of an historian must consecrate himself to the pursuit of truth. A true historical point of view admits of no pre-conceived notions as to what class of facts one is going to accept. The historian accepts what he finds and verifies, then he seeks only to place each new found fragment of fact in its proper setting that it may be seen in its proper light. That generally is more difficult than finding the gem of truth was in the first place.

A man is shot to death over here, another man is shot to death over there. The facts are the same, but placed in their proper settings they are vastly different. The first has been executed by process of law, the other was murdered in cold blood. Always it is more important to know why things happened than it is to know just what did happen.

While the individual researcher is the best means of bringing historical material to light, societies and associations are the best mediums for preserving and circulating that history. Men and women associate themselves in such societies for that very purpose, they are interested in the subject of history and they surround themselves with the means and the facilities for assembling and disseminating it. They sponsor libraries, lectures, publications, and they make

available to students of history the data that has been collected.

Such societies are highly to be commended and encouraged for the splendid work they do.

This program today is being sponsored by such a society--The Daughters of the Utah Pioneers--a society that has done much to gather the personal stories of those wonderful men and women who settled this state. The society was organized in Salt Lake City April 11, 1901 with Anna TAYLOR Hyde as its first president. It has spread from that small beginning to all the states of the west and now enrolls over ten thousand women in the sixty four camps.

A camp of The Daughters of the Pioneers was first organized in Cedar City Sept. 13, 1921 with Mrs. Sarah Ann Bulloch as president.

It is not a church nor a religious organization, and it is likewise non-political. Its avowed purpose is "to gather the personal history of the Pioneers". Devoting themselves principally to individual and family histories, they have collected a wealth of the warm human interest stories that are such valuable side lights on the colder facts of history. As fast as funds are available, Cedar City is indebted to them for the splendid steel flag pole that stands in our city park.

History is never complete. It is a continuing and never ending story. Incidents are not like brick built into a wall that one day will be a finished temple. They are more like threads of fiber that are being twisted into strands we call social trends or movements, which are in turn wound together into a great cable of the never-ending history of our race.

Little threads of social lint are caught up here and there by the spinning wheel of life. And saying side by side, or end to end, one series overlapping another they are twisted together into a strong line of mutual interest.

Eighty six years ago this very day a little colony of eleven wagons arrived on Coal Creek and founded Cedar City, or Cedar Fort as they

then choose to call it. That little tuft of human lint was quickly twisted into a cord of Mormon settlements that reached all the way back to Vermont.

When was Cedar City founded? The books fix the date as Nov. 11, 1851 at four o'clock P. M. and if we must have a birthday Nov. 11 might serve the purpose as well as any other date. But if we examine this thread of lint a little closer we will find that a concealed end reaches farther back and is much entangled with the story of Parowan. Cedar City was not like Topsy for it had a definite pre-natal existence. It was conceived in some man's mind many months before Nov. 11, 1851, for as early as February 1851 the Deseret News published three letters that were dated Cedar City, Iron County, State of Deseret. That was nine months before a settler came here to break a furrow or to build a house. Maternal preparations were made for the coming birth of a settlement on Coal Creek when George A. Smith, Wm. H. Dame and others came here from Parowan on Nov. 4th and surveyed a five hundred acre field and a fort and dedicated them to the Lord for the habitation of men. This done they returned to Parowan and a few days later sent out the company of people under the leadership of Henry Lunt who had been selected to settle here. That company arrived Nov. 11, as started, but Cedar City had been in the plans and actually in the making from January 1850 when Parley P. Pratt was here and dedicated the valley for Mormon colonization.

This day is twice venerable to the people of Cedar City. It is our city's natal day, and on this day also we celebrate with all the nations that fought in the Great World War the signing of the armistice that brought an end to that sanguinary and apparently fruitless conflict.

My time has expired and I bid you all good night.