

SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR
OF
TOQUERVILLE, UTAH

Historic Buildings Along Toquer Boulevard (Toquerville, Utah)

Introduction

Toquerville was settled in 1858 by eight Mormon pioneer families sent from New Harmony, Utah. For the most part, the men in the families had participated in the Mountain Meadows Massacre of September 1857 where 120 adults from a Missouri-Arkansas wagon train were slain by white men and Indians. Perhaps the pioneer families were looking for sanctuary. Prior to white settlement, the Toquerville area had been occupied by Paiute Indians who grew corn, squash, and beans along the flats of Ash Creek, the stream which flows through the village.

The first pioneer homes were either dugouts located along the stream bank or wagonboxes. Such primitive abodes were replaced early by log houses and then gradually better homes from vernacular materials were constructed. The most commonly used substances for building were adobe bricks, limestone, and lava rocks. These latter homes are the ones observed today along the main street (Toquer Boulevard) and all those listed in this brochure are over 100 years old. Fortunately, few of the older homes have been demolished although some have been remodeled and added upon. None are lavish; they represent the modest homes of a poor community in the settlement period.

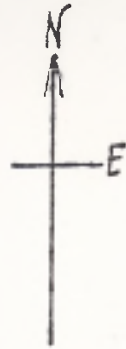
Many of the leading men involved in the development of Iron, Kane, and Washington Counties located here. Included were John Steele, Augustus Dodge, William Bringham, Sr., Joshua T. Willis, John Nebeker, George Spilsbury, Appleton Harmon, Isaac Duffin, Charles Stapley, Jr., John Conrad Naegle, and John Menzies Macfarlane.

Inasmuch as the adjacent land does not lend itself to agriculture, the town has grown very little and has retained the simple, quiet, and tranquil atmosphere of the early pioneer community. The population in 1864 was 41 families, (259 souls) and it remains about the same today. The pace is slow and no one is in a hurry. Each morning, people gather at the post office to exchange gossip and news of the day. Civic announcements are tacked on the bulletin board in the post office yard.

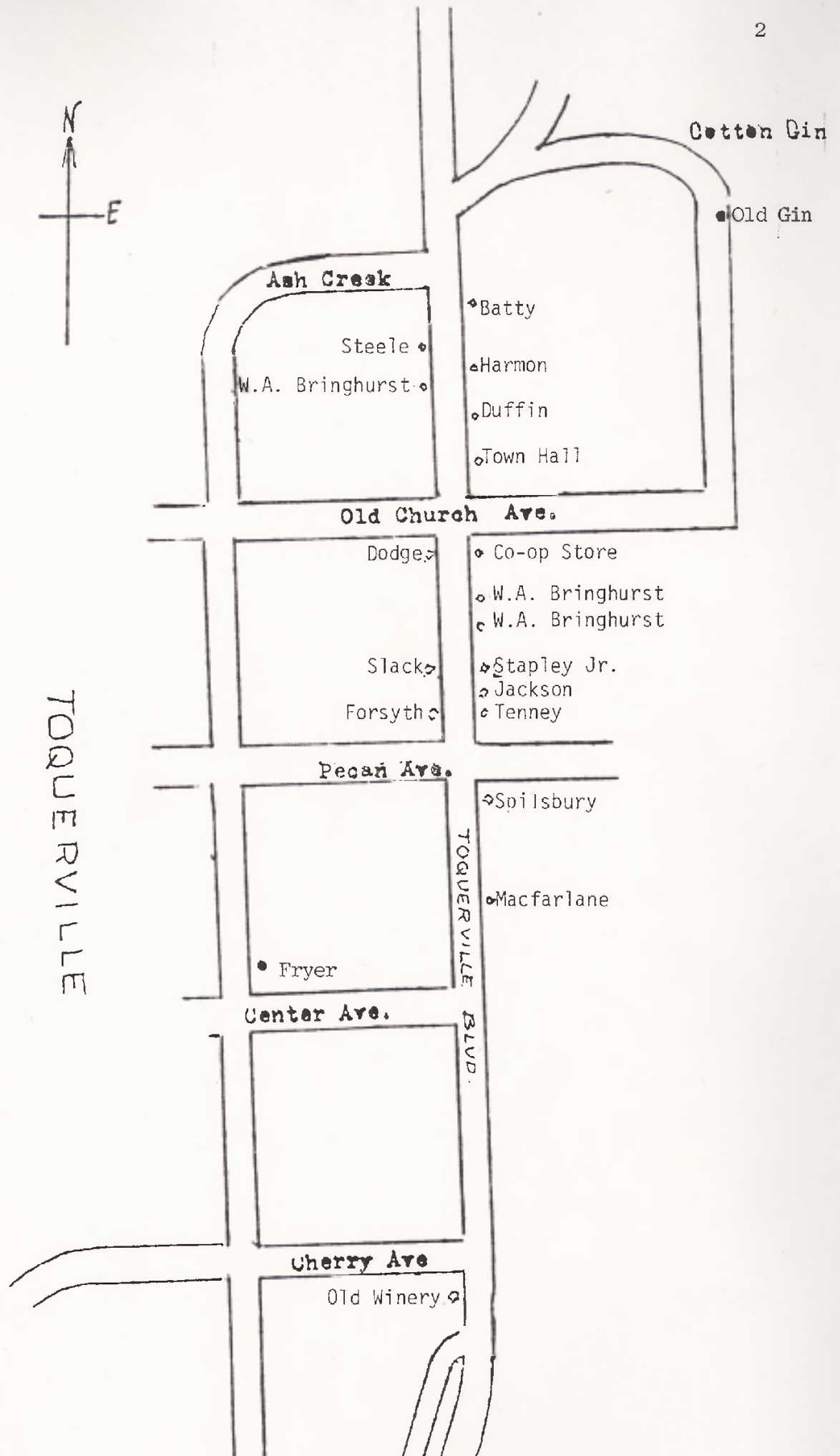
Cold, clear water runs down the ditches on each side of the street and nourishes the grapes, figs, peaches, apricots, pomegranates, and nut trees that flourish in the mild climate. As a beautification project, flowering pear trees were planted on the west side of the street to give shade and to hide the utility pole and wires. Many of the yards still grow the bulbs, roses, and bushes planted by their pioneer antecedents.

The town is proud of its heritage. It was settled as, and has remained, a Mormon community. Traditions and customs are typically L.D.S. and life patterns revolve around church activities. Enjoy us.

Wes Larsen



TOQUERVILLE





The Nebeker Cotton Gin
67 East Cotton Gin Drive

In the fall of 1861, John Nebeker moved with a portion of his family to Toquerville where he raised cotton and built and operated this cotton gin, the first in Utah. Prior to this time, the people had to pick the seeds out of the cotton balls by hand. As Toquerville farmers raised about 100 acres of cotton each year, the gin turned out to be a substantial labor saving device.

Nebeker was associated with Apostle Erastus Snow in the settlement of Southern Utah, including what is now a part of Nevada. From 1870 to 1872 he acted as Probate Judge of Kane County, Utah with Toquerville as the County Seat. It was at this time that all of the properties in Toquerville were deeded to John Nebeker by the President of the United States and, in turn, deeded to the respective occupants. This insured local title and explains why the name, "John Nebeker" is on all the abstract deeds.

Locally, the Nebeker Cotton Gin is referred to as "The Old Gin House."



The John Batty House
268 North Toquer Blvd.

This home, built by John Batty (Beatty) and Mary Ann Duffin Batty, is now owned by Lewis Wynn and Rhea Osborne. Constructed about 1880, the house has been modernized and renovated.

John Batty was a Toquerville postmaster, farmer, and storekeeper, serving as superintendent and later owner of the Toquerville Co-op Store. He served as choir leader and ward clerk for 32 years and superintendent of the ward Sunday School for 31 years.



Appleton Milo Harmon, Mill Builder
248 North Toquer Blvd.

Appleton and his wife Elmeda were members of the first company to enter Salt Lake Valley. He was Captain of the Tenth Ten.

Among his accomplishments as a mill builder were: a sawmill up Emigration Canyon in Salt Lake City; a sawmill in the east Pine Valley Mountains; a gristmill, cotton gin, furniture shop, and blacksmith shop in Toquerville; the cotton mill in Washington, Utah; a sawmill in Holden.

Harmon was builder of the world's first odometer (1847). He was president and manager of Toquerville's first co-op Store.

This house, built in 1864, is now owned by Lois Meyers. It has been extensively renovated with added bedrooms and an upstairs studio.



Isaac Duffin, Road Builder
234 North Toquer Blvd.

Duffin engineered the construction of the first road up City Creek Canyon in Salt Lake City.

Then he was hand-picked by President Brigham Young to engineer road building in Dixie. The first of his road projects was the one along the east side of Ash Creek Gorge opposite the then existing road on the west side of the creek. This was a difficult piece of road construction considering the implements on hand to do the job. After long weeks of tedious, patient labor, the road was completed and used as the main highway of travel from southern Utah to the north. Isaac also built the road known as the "New Twist," leading from Toquerville to the settlements on the upper Virgin River--Virgin City, Grafton, Rockville, and Springdale.

In addition to his work of roadbuilding, Isaac engaged in merchandising, mining, stock raising, farming, and buying and selling agricultural products to Pioche, a mining camp in Nevada. At times he would have as many as three wagons loaded with produce for the market. He operated the "Duffin Mine", a silver mine located five miles southwest from Toquerville near the Virgin River.

The Duffin house in Toquerville is reported to have contained two stills, one in the basement and one on the ground level, and produced a beverage for local consumption called "White Lightning."

Isaac and Mary Fielding Duffin were the parents of ten children.

The house was later owned by Carlus and Rosa Savage Lea Master. Rosa's grandfather, Alexander Neibaur, was the first Jew to join the L.D.S. Church. He spoke seven languages fluently and taught Hebrew and German to the Prophet Joseph Smith. He composed the hymn "O Thou Glorious Day of Promise." Rosa was the first Deseret Industry head seamstress and was famous for her Sunday missionary dinners.

The property is now owned by Jay and Stella Waite.



The Old Co-op Store
198 North Toquer Blvd.

This store building was the John Beatty Co-op Store. Prior to that time it was a one-room schoolhouse. Its history has been varied and it was also known as the Parry Pool Hall, the Harry and Rowena Slack Store, and the LeRoy and Geneva Stapley Store.

When the people of Toquerville concluded to build a co-operative store, Appleton Harmon furnished the lumber for it and was overseer of the building of it. Harmon was made President of the venture and it flourished and finally passed out of existence as all co-operatives did.

In a letter to her sister in Eddyville, Iowa, March 8, 1871, Elmeda Harmon wrote, "Appleton has gone to the city for goods for the store. You spoke about Appleton having a store. He buys and freights from the city. The store belongs to the people, so you see we get enough store pay to make us all comfortable. There are only about 50 families here and they are all poor. They have to put in shares and get a store that way....Everybody has sorrow and trouble but we must make the best of it."

The structure is owned by Ronald and Patricia Watson.



William A. and Suzanne Steele Bringhurst
188 North Toquer Blvd.

William A. Bringhurst was a pioneer of 1847 and among the first settlers of Parowan, Utah. Brigham Young soon called him to be President of the Las Vegas Mission and he was assigned to build a fort there and trade with the Indians. He came to Toquerville as a cabinet maker and wheelwright. William was superintendent of the Co-op Store and served as Bishop of Toquerville Ward for 36 years.

This home was built for his second wife, Suzanne Steele Bringhurst.

The property was later sold to Arch P. and Maude McArthur Spilsbury. A.P. Spilsbury was Toquerville's 3rd Bishop, 1912-14.

Wilford and Afton Hokanson are the present owners.



William A. and Mary Stapley Bringhurst
178 North Toquer Blvd.

The home portion of this building was built by Brigham Young Lamb for Bishop William and Mary Stapley Bringhurst. Mary was Bishop Bringhurst's third and youngest wife. Hardware on the doors is stamped with the year '1865' and the wood graining in the living room is the same as in the St. George Temple. It has a beam ceiling. Also, the house served as the telegraph office. Jane Spilsbury, the first telegraph operator at Pipe Springs, was trained in the Toquerville office. It is reported that Zane Grey rented one of the back rooms and here wrote "Riders of the Purple Sage." The so-called "purple sage" is a prominent plant in this vicinity. William Bringhurst was the youngest member of the troops in the Blackhawk War. He was so small that messages were tied to his saddle horn to be delivered by him.

In 1907, Martin Slack and his four sons built the store portion of the house. Adobe bricks for the structure were made on Tom Willis' place up Toquerville Canyon. Total cost of the addition was \$250 and this cost was taken out in script (trade).

The first pecan tree planted in Utah grows in the front yard of this house.

Reuben Clinger is the owner of the house and adjacent property.



Charles Stapley, Jr.
152 North Toquer Blvd.

Charles Stapley, Jr. was born November 28, 1824 at Kent, England. He married Sarah Parkinson in 1854 and the couple came to Utah in 1858 with the Sterling Driggs Company. He brought the first alfalfa to Utah as seed from Australia in the spring of 1858.

He served as a missionary in Australia, 1853-54; Bishop's counselor, 1860-1901; assistant Sunday School superintendent; choir leader; Justice of the Peace; constable.

Built in 1865, this home served as a hotel and a store. It is a well preserved, 1 1/2 story plastered hall and parlor house.

Present owners are Dr. and Mrs. Dixon Woodbury.



James and Martha McFate Jackson
132 North Toquer Blvd.

James Jackson, Jr. was born in Kent, England, February 6, 1826. He migrated to America and crossed the plains in 1857 in the hand-cart company of Israel Evans. In 1861 Brigham Young called him on a mission to help settle the Dixie country and Toquerville became the family's permanent home.

He became well established in the sheep business which was his largest source of income. Like many other Dixie Pioneers, he hauled, with team and wagon, fresh fruits and vegetables to nearby towns, principally the mining towns of Silver Reef in southern Utah and Pioche in eastern Nevada. He received 5 cents per peach which at that time was a large price.

Through the years, James Jackson spent considerable time traveling between Dixie and Salt Lake City by team and wagon, hauling dried fruits, sorghum, wine, etc. Then he would bring home clothes and other household items for this large family. Among the things he brought home was a large box of shoes, called "ankle-jacks," of assorted sizes from which each boy could select his own size.

The name of James Jackson is forever recorded in the real estate records of Washington County. When Toquerville was settled, different methods of acquiring land on which water was to be applied to make farms were used. The largest amount of ground in the southwest part of Toquerville was homesteaded by James Jackson, Jr., and the grant signed by President U.S. Grant, and all lots of land in this section today are known on all deeds and records as the James Jackson Survey.

This home is an example of a double cell house, one of the more uncommon early house types in Utah.

Hall and Joy Blackburn own and live in this residence.



The Tenney/Wallace Home
108 North Toquer Blvd.

The Nathan C. Tenney family came to Utah in 1848 from Lee County, Iowa. They settled and farmed at Cottonwood. Then, in 1850, Nathan Tenney was called to the San Bernardino Mission, where he served as Bishop. They returned to Utah in 1857 and settled at Old Fort Harmony.

In December of 1859, Nathan C. Tenny, with some four families from Virgin City, commenced a settlement, six miles above Virgin. It was named Grafton. A few months later (March, 1860), Grafton was organized as Precinct No. 8, with James McFate as Justice of the Peace and Nathan C. Tenney, Road Supervisor.

When the Tenney family moved to Toquerville and built on Main Street, the home became the town's social center. The Ladies Retrenchment Society and Silver Reef socials were held in the large upper room of this house. Tenney was a successful rancher and businessman. He owned a big distillery and lumber and shingle mill in the east Pine Valley Mountains.

Tenney was killed in Arizona by Mexicans while acting as a peacemaker.

Hamilton Wallace was born in Spanish Fork. When he was seven years old, his family moved to Pinto, and Hamilton remained there until he was twenty-four years of age. At that time, he married Jane Stapley and moved to Toquerville.

He farmed successfully in Toquerville, on Smith's Mesa, in Hurricane, and in LaVerkin. He was the first man from Toquerville to buy land in LaVerkin. Mr. Judd offered land for sale at \$100 an acre but no one bought, so it was offered at \$50 an acre. Still no one bought it. The company was in debt and had to raise money, so when they offered land at \$30 an acre, Wallace bought three acres. After developing it, he got \$300 an acre for it. He was the first man to plow land on Smith's Mesa.

On April 16, 1879, a company of mostly young men were called to explore the San Juan River Country, to see if it was suitable for settlement. Ham Wallace was the one chosen to represent Toquerville. They left Parowan in April, took the southern route through Jacob's Pool and Moencopi, stayed about four months at Bluff, and returned home the latter part of September.

Mildred Parry Dean is the owner of this home.



David and Annie Richards Spilsbury
94 North Toquer Blvd.

George Spilsbury, a mason, built this house for his son David in 1880. Both George and David were involved in activities of the Mormon Church and in the settlement of southern Utah. It was built of native rock, plastered, and then painted with longlasting Chemtex. The dormers on the front are not original. The front porch has been added and the side porches enclosed to make a kitchen and a bedroom. A unique feature of the house is the scalloped edge of the fascia which is mitered to make it continuous around the entire perimeter of the roof, including the sides of the dormers.

Following in the footsteps of his father, David devoted his life chiefly to stock raising, farming and mercantile business. He became an expert horseman and used to ride races in the boom days of Silver Reef and at St. George and in other towns where race meets were a regular event. One days' races netted him \$20, which was good money in those times.

Fruit peddling was also a remunerative pioneer industry and for many years David sold fruit and vegetables in Iron and Beaver Counties, usually loading back with merchandise for stores of Silver Reef and the Spilsbury store in Toquerville. This made his trips really profitable and gave him year-round employment — along with stock raising. As he went from town to town, he often found a chance to buy one or two 'buttermilk calves.' In this way he built up for himself a fairly nice herd, and he didn't quit the cattle business until just before he moved to Salt Lake City in 1920.

He originated Old Folks Day in Toquerville. It began with him taking the old folks for rides in his wagon. He would remove the bows from a wagon box, put straw or hay in the bottom, cover it with quilts and blankets, gather up the old folks and away they would go trotting around town, laughing, talking and seemingly enjoying themselves. Gradually others in town became interested in this project, which resulted in a day being set apart for their entertainment.

(This house is on the Utah State Historical Register.)



John Menzies and Ann Chatterley Macfarlane
38 North Toquer Blvd.

John M. Macfarlane was born in Sterling, Stirlingshire, Scotland on October 11, 1833. His father died when John was 13 years old and the family moved to Glasgow where the family members were very active in the LDS Church. Traveling under the auspices of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund, they sailed for America on February 11, 1852 aboard the ship "Ellen Marie." They made the journey across the plains with the Smoot Company and arrived in Salt Lake City on September 3, 1852. John taught school that winter in the Sessions Settlement (Bountiful). In October of 1853 his mother was married to Isaac Chauncey Haight and the new family moved to Cedar City, arriving at the "Old Fort" in Cedar City on November 5, 1853. During the winter of 1853-54 John taught school and also joined the choir of John Weston, a scholarly musician who had studied music and harmony in London. In the midst of all his activities, he found time to show an interest in Ann Chatterley, a girl of seventeen, proposed to her and they were married December 30, 1854.

The spring of 1858 found John M. Macfarlane in the new settlement of Washington, plowing and planting his crops. John had been persuaded by Isaac Haight to move to the Cotton Mission which Isaac said would be more profitable than the enterprises in Cedar City. As the weeks of summer passed plants wilted, the water of the creek dried up, and soon the crops were gone. John decided to give Toquerville a try.

Ann, John and their two children, Isaac and Charlotte Ann, were in Toquerville by the fall of 1858. On April 13, 1859, John became the first postmaster of Toquerville. Up to that time, U.S. Mail service had stopped at Cedar City.

In the new community of Toquerville, log cabins chinked with mud had served the families. Few had floors. John M. Macfarlane is credited with building the first 'house.' It probably had only one room and was built of rock and adobe. Although the house has had substantial additions, the rock foundation is still evident.

In addition to his duties as postmaster, John taught school and was the town surveyor. He taught school in the old adobe meetinghouse and was the first teacher in Toquerville, and the only one who taught there before 1861. With his surveying instruments, a pan of water and a stick, John mapped out a course for a canal, and in due time this was laboriously constructed and furnished a plentiful supply of water for the limited Toquerville land.

The heat, the confinement, and the back-breaking labor of just keeping alive seemed too much for John. He and Ann talked it over and thought with his teaching, surveying, and law practice, they could make a go of it in Cedar City. Besides that, the position of leader of the choir was vacant and John was the most eligible musician-director to fill the post.

Early in 1860, he was 'called' to return to Cedar City and assume directorship of the choir. It should be noted that John was the author and composer of "Far, Far Away on Judea's Plain" and the composer of "Dearest Children, God is Near You."

At a later date, John was called to organize and lead a choir in St. George. Washington County was fortunate in having John, the Musician, but also John, the Lawyer, Teacher, County Probate Judge, County Surveyor, and Chairman of the Washington County Central Committee of the People's Party (the Mormon Party).

In the summer of 1876, John surveyed the new city of Silver Reef and two years later built the jail for that town.

He died in St. George, Utah on June 4, 1892.

This home later belonged to Thomas Stapley, violinist. He also played for town dances. Thomas was the grandfather of Apostle Delbert Stapley. He (Thomas) sold the home to Heber and Mary Bryner Naegle. Heber and his four brothers...Joseph, Enoch, Casper, George and his wife Sabra...filled missions in Germany and Switzerland, at the same time!

During Heber Naegle's term as Mayor, water was piped into Toquerville homes.

The home is an example of a one-story plaster square cabin with a crosswing addition, the latter a common method for the expansion of an early house.

Mary Naegle, the owner, has kept the yard very much as it was in pioneer times.



Old Naegle Winery
110 South Toquerville Blvd.

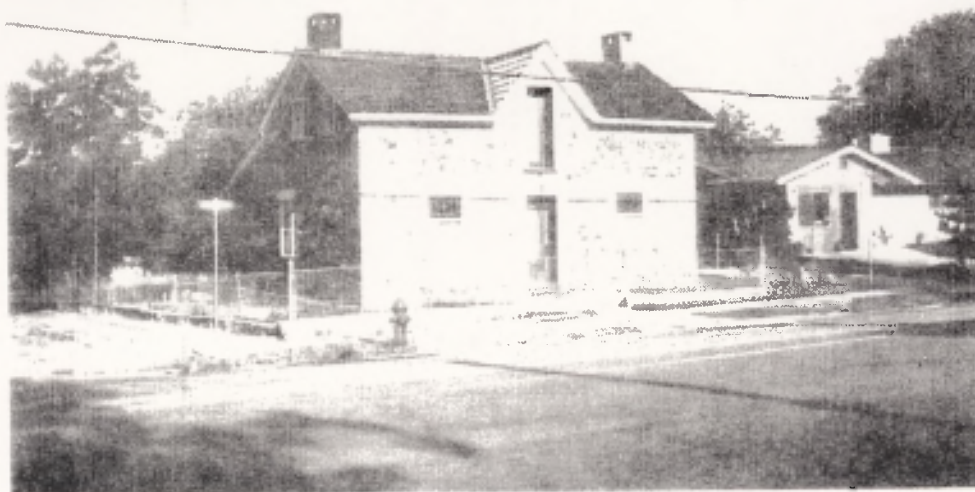
This home was built by John Conrad Naegle in 1868 as a base for his ranching operations and for several of his 7 wives. Mr. Naegle had been sent by Brigham Young to help colonize Dixie and establish the vineyards and winery. Thus, the house was used to turn Dixie grapes into sacramental wine for Mormon pioneer church services. The 50-gallon wine kegs were stored in the basement...a room large enough to accommodate a whole team and wagon and turn them around. He sold the wine to ZCMI and to the LDS church. The Church used wine for sacramental purposes until the late 1800's when water was substituted because of the difficulty in obtaining unfermented wine.

In 1889 John Naegle moved his family to Sonora, Mexico to escape federal prosecutions for polygamy. The exodus to Mexico was coincident with the end of the wine industry in Toquerville and the Naegle Winery remained vacant until the early 1900's. It was then used as a cannery for locally grown figs and peaches. Later, it was used for Halloween parties and for many years as a storage area for hay, grain, and farm machinery.

Steve and Rosa LeBaron Williams bought the house in 1980 and restored the red sandstone walls, woodwork, and fireplaces. They completely rebuilt and interior with large spacious downstairs rooms and four very large upstairs bedrooms.

Annalee Naegle Redd, a granddaughter of John Naegle, recently purchased the property as a gathering place for the 1,500 John Naegle descendants. She has refurnished the bedrooms with pioneer beds, handmade quilts and pillows and filled the house with pioneer antiques. The basement is being made into a museum.

The Old Winery is listed on the National and State Registers.



Thomas and Mary Browett Holmes Forsyth
111 North Toquer Blvd.

The family resided in Salt Lake City until 1861 when they were called to the Dixie Mission, Thomas being called especially because of his experience in lumbering.

They first settled in Santa Clara, but conditions did not suit them, and in 1863 he decided to build his lumber mill in Ash Creek Canyon, commonly known as Forsyth Canyon, and in 1865 he moved his family from Santa Clara to Toquerville.

While Thomas was building a sawmill up in Ash Creek, Mary went to Salt Lake City, taking the older girls with her. She made gloves and sold them to get iron for the mill and supplies for the family. She bought the first stove, a "Charter Oak" that came to this section of the country.

Christina Forsyth, one of Thomas' younger children, reported attending her first school at Toquerville. Mahroni Steele was her first teacher. Her pencil was of slate rock made by her father, who made enough for the whole school. The rock was taken from a slate bed down below Toquerville. He broke off a chunk, then sawed it into strips from which he made pencils. Christina had half of a slate, a pencil, and a blue backed spelling book for the first year. The second year she had a McGuffey reader which she shared with several others. The teacher received produce for his pay, mostly flour and molasses. It was at this time that Christina tasted her first apricots. Her sister Winnie spun one pound of yarn for a dozen apricots which she purchased from Gus E. Dodge who was the first to raise apricots in Toquerville.

Thomas built the first fruit evaporator in Dixie, taking most of the dried peaches to the Sevier to trade for flour, honey, potatoes, beans, cheese, cloth, etc., a year's supply. For trade, Mary got buckskins from the Indians which she and the village girls made into gloves in the late evenings and shipped to Salt Lake City. Mary served the girls tea to keep them awake. Sunbonnet on her head, she was the first woman to drive a double-bedded wagon of dried fruit to Salt Lake City to sell to Z.C.M.I.

This house is already listed in the National Register and is one of five well preserved exposed stone buildings in the town, and is an excellent example of a 1 1/2 story stone hall and parlor house whose projecting gable on the facade reflects Gothic Revival influences.

Recently the house has been renovated completely by Dr. and Mrs. Carl



Martin Slack, Sr. and Eliza Ann Jeffries
131 North Toquer Blvd.

In November, 1856, he was called by Brigham Young, "to go teach the old and the young their reading, writing, and arithmetic," to Parowan, Utah. For school teaching he received flour, bacon, cheese, or any usable thing the people had. He was a very proud and haughty Englishman, so his wife took one of her sons to collect the produce that was already earned as he could not bring himself to do it. He taught the little children who were saved from the Mountain Meadows Massacre while he lived in Cedar City.

Under the persuasion of George Batty, with whom he had lived at one time in England, he moved his family to Toquerville. Here he bought this home and a farm and taught school in the winter. He taught school for 25 years. He served as a lawyer of ability, and a District Judge in southern Utah. For one term he was Territorial Councilman in Utah Territory, at which time he sponsored the Free School Law.

Slack was a school teacher, land commissioner, county clerk, Probate Judge and legislator. An intelligent and highly respected citizen, he was secretary for the Hurricane Canal Company during its seven year construction. He taught free night school for adults; was Sunday School Superintendent for 38 years.

Eliza Ann served as counselor in the Relief Society for 15 years, and President for 12 years. She was especially good in sickness, and was famous in southern Utah for her eye-wash and her method of treating burns.

Every child in town can tell you of her good bread and butter or jam. No child ever came to her home and left without something to eat.

Robert and Evelyn Larsen now own this property.



Augustus Erastus Dodge born December 6, 1822 at Six Point, Jefferson, New York.

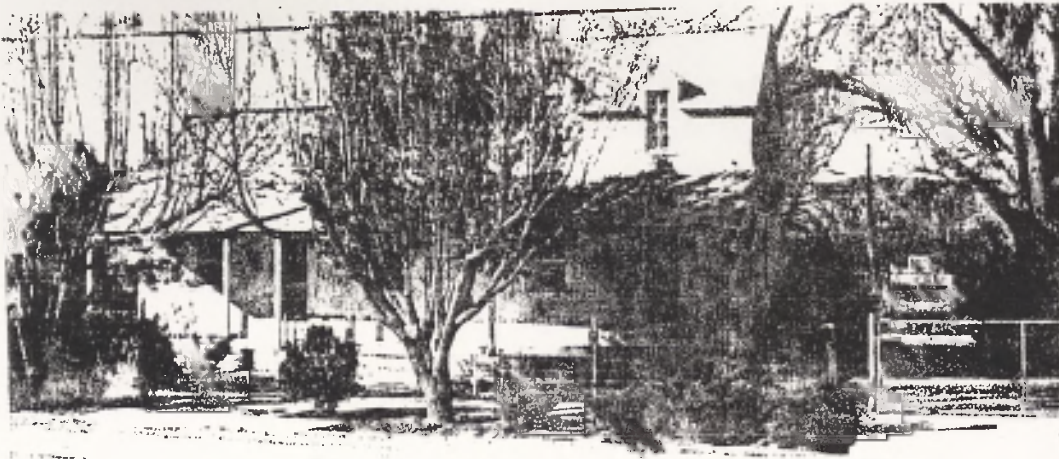
In the spring of 1834 the family moved to Kirtland, Ohio, where they became acquainted with Joseph and Hyrum Smith. Augustus labored in the construction of the Kirtland Temple for several months. He was protector and guard for Joseph and Hyrum from 1834 until the time that they were killed and laid to rest. After the death of Joseph Smith he became a very close friend to President Brigham Young and was personally invited by President Young to serve as his guard. On July 15, 1846, Augustus was called to go with the Mormon Battalion from Council Bluffs, Iowa to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and on to California. He served as a private in Company C. After service with the Battalion he returned to Utah and arrived in Salt Lake City on December 25, 1847.

In 1849 Augustus helped establish the Ferry at Green River and spent a short time in that area. Later in that same year, he was in an exploring party and founding families for Manti and Sanpete Valley. On September 5, 1850, he married Marion Wallace Clark in the Salt Lake Endowment House and brought her back to Manti to happily settle down in their little log cabin home. He was a member of the City Council in Manti and on police duty a great deal of the time. Also, he was appointed one of the masons to take charge of the work of building the stone forts.

In 1861 he was called to go to Dixie. Augustus soon sold his mill and house for three ox teams and enough flour to last five years. Sadie, who was the oldest child, being only nine, walked and drove one team, while Marion and Augustus drove the other two.

After searching for a good place to settle, they finally chose to live in Toquerville. The first year they lived in the wagon, and immediately after their arrival Augustus turned his attention to raising fruit trees. He put in a good orchard and vineyard and was known throughout Utah and Nevada for his fine fruit and grapes. He found ready market for most of his fruit by hauling it to Pioche, Nevada. It required about ten days to make the trip to Pioche and back as it was necessary to journey to Hamilton's Fort, over to New Castle and out that way, taking about four days each way.

This well preserved brick hall and parlor house is owned by David and Corrine Miller.



William A. and Selinda Palmer Bringham
245 North Toquer Blvd.

This home was built for Bishop Bringham's first wife, Selinda Palmer (Parmer) Bringham.

William Augustus Bringham, Sr. was born in Lionville, Chester County, Pennsylvania, January 26, 1839. His family was converted to Mormonism while living in Pennsylvania and then moved to Nauvoo in 1845. In 1847, the family left Nauvoo for Salt Lake City. Much of William's youth was spent herding cattle in the summer and attending school in the winter, although his chances for education were limited. At 16, William began to learn the wheelwright trade in his father's shop.

In 1857, he served as a volunteer for the United States in the Echo Canyon Campaign and enlisted in the Lot Smith Company under Captain D.D. McArthur to guard the U.S. Mail from the Indians. In the spring of 1862, President Lincoln petitioned Brigham Young for volunteers to help control Indian uprisings. William entered the service of the U.S. to suppress Indian troubles east of Salt Lake City. He probably served in this position for a short time as he was married on September 27, 1862 to Selinda Dolbey Palmer in the Salt Lake Endowment House.

William and Selinda moved to Toquerville and established the first mercantile store there. The store was first operated out of their home. On February 15, 1874, William was ordained to the office of Bishop and presided over Toquerville.

The store was then moved to the Tithing office, where the Telegraph Company installed telegraph equipment. The Bringham family operated the telegraph equipment. As business increased, the mercantile was converted into a co-operative store and moved into larger quarters.

Because Toquerville was then the county seat of Kane County, William also served as County Assessor, Collector of Taxes, High Sheriff, and County Judge. William married his second wife, Susann Adams Steele, May 25, 1867. He married his third wife, Mary Janette Stapley, December 13, 1884. Despite his standings in the community, William was prosecuted for polygamy. Between the living room and bedroom of this house is a portable staircase. When removed, it reveals a crawl space where William used to hide when Federal Marshals came to town looking for polygamists. Eventually, Bishop Bringham was caught and arrested, not at home, but feeding his animals at 5 a.m. at the tithing barns back of the Old Church. A neighbor had turned him in to the Federal agents. He was sentenced to six months in the Sugarhouse Prison.

William continued as Bishop to Toquerville for 39 years until his death on March 8, 1912.

This house, another example of a well preserved hall and parlor house, is owned by Cecil and Mary Rowley.



John and Catherine Campbell Steele
263 North Toquer Blvd.

John Steele, an Irish boot and shoe maker, joined the Mormon Church and, with his wife and children, migrated to America in 1845. Following a stay in St. Louis and Nauvoo, he joined the Mormon Battalion.

After mustering out of the Mormon Battalion, the group, including the Steele family, arrived in Salt Lake Valley on July 30, 1847. Soon after, on August 9, 1847, Catherine delivered a little girl who was named Young Elizabeth Steele, in honor of President Young and John's sister, Elizabeth. This daughter was the first white child born in Utah.

John, an expert at making and laying adobe brick, helped in building the fort on the public square. He built the first chimney that ever drew smoke in the Salt Lake Valley, for President Young. Brother Burr Frost supplied John a last knife from his forge and he quickly made lasts for those who could make men's shoes. He made the first pair of gaiter shoes made in Salt Lake for John Dangus. By the fall of 1849, the Steeles began to prosper. John was blessed in everything he put his hand to, accumulating horses, cattle and ranch substance. He worked day in and day out, many times doing as much work as two men could do. About the middle of September he got his house finished and they moved into it.

The scene changed as he was preparing to enjoy the winter of 1850. He was ordered out on a mission under command of George A. Smith to Iron County, and to sell out and go right away. The Iron Mission Company left Salt Lake City on the 5th day of December, 1850. John Steele was appointed pilot of the ten he started with, First Lieutenant of the Light Infantry Company, and Journalist of the Company. They arrived near the mouth of Parowan Canyon on January 15, 1851.

An organization soon took place which resulted in William H. Dame as mayor, John Steele, marshall of the city. He headed several expeditions against the Indians, always returning successful, and the Indians considered he held a charmed life, as they had several shots at him and could not hit him. At this time, he compiled the first Paiute Indian dictionary ever written.

It was thought best to organize Iron County into a Stake. Accordingly in May, 1852 a Stake was organized with John Calvin L. Smith, President, John Steele and Henry Lunt, Counselors. Henry Lunt was sent to preside in Cedar City. Steele remained to help President Smith in Parowan.

He was appointed Major of the Iron Battalion, G. A. Smith having gone back to Salt Lake City. He received his Major's commission under the hands of Governor B. Young and Secretary A. W. Babbitt, to take rank from January 3, 1854. After William A. Dame served out his time as mayor, and John Steele his time as marshal, Steele was duly selected Mayor of Parowan on June 18, 1853. Shortly after this Chapman Duncan, Judge of Iron County, James Lewis, Clerk, and Hosea Stout were called on a mission to China. John Steele was appointed by Governor Young to fill the vacant judgeship. He also was at that time County Recorder.

He received a call at the 6th of April Conference, 1855, to take a mission to Las Vegas and help settle that place and make friends with the Indians and have a fort built to protect travellers to and from San Bernardino where many Mormon people had settled under Apostles Amasa M. Lyman and Charles C. Rich.

John Steele moved to Toquerville in June, 1861 and the following spring moved his family from Parowan. His qualities of leadership show up again in Washington and Kane Counties. On November 15 of 1862 he was called by President Erastus Snow to take a mission to the Navajo and Moqui Indians. He was a Major in the 10th regiment of infantry under Colonel McArthur and General Erastus Snow and took quite an active part during the Indian wars. He was commissioned Justice of the Peace on January 29, 1869 by Governor Higgins of Utah. He was elected County Surveyor of Kane County, August 4, 1873; County Assessor and Collection for Kane County, March 9, 1874; reappointed Assessor and Collection for the succeeding year.

In Toquerville, John Steele was doctor, lawyer, boot and shoemaker, and practical pharmacist. He was lovingly called "Doc" by young and old. Weather permitting, he always wore a blue cape with a red lining and carried a cane. On call to help the sick and wounded, he always rode a fine white horse called "Charlie." One of Toquer's most prominent citizens, he looked like a dignified southern colonel on a white horse.

John built this house in 1862. Tall people will note from the height of the door frames that he was short in stature. The John Steele's Boot and Shoe Shop, located just south of the home, was built by Samuel Pollock.

Property owners, Wesley P. and June T. Larsen.



Richard Fryer Home/Presbyterian Church
10 North Ash Creek Drive

This home was built from native lava rock by Richard Fryer during the years 1874-75.

Although poor, Fryer was a man of culture and refinement. He was an artist, sculptor, musician, played for dances, led the choirs, painted the curtains and scenes for the local plays, and gave music lessons. He was a violinist in his own right.

There were people in the community who thought that Fryer considered himself better than the rest of the town and resented it. Fryer was assaulted and mistreated. For example, a few young men caught him, tied his feet to a single tree that was fastened to a harnessed work horse, and raced through the streets of Toquerville dragging him behind them. These cruel incidents might have injured him and caused a mental breakdown.

In addition, Richard became upset and worried because he thought his wife was carrying on a love affair with their next door neighbor, Thomas Batty. He finally ordered her to leave his house and take her infant son, which she did. After that she lived most of the time with the Thomas Batty family. Richard began to have temporary spells of insanity and had them for a year or two before an undreamed of tragedy took place.

On the morning of March 16, 1895, Fryer knocked on the door of Thomas Batty's house, and upon being asked, went in and asked if his wife was there. Being answered in the affirmative, he asked her if she had not brought disgrace and shame enough upon him. Fryer then drew a loaded revolver and fired a shot at Thomas Batty, the ball entering the left eye and coming out of the back of the head. Batty then fell onto the shoulder of Henry Willis, who was present, when Fryer fired a second shot, the ball entering the back part of the head and coming out through the right eye. Fryer then turned and fired at his wife, who was yet in bed, the ball entering below the left ear and lodging in the head, near the right eye, which shot produced instant death.

Fryer then shot his infant son, who was in bed with its deceased mother, the ball entering the child's forehead and coming out the back of the head.

After completing the tragedy, Fryer went to his house, a portion of which had lately been built of rock, unfinished, being without doors and windows. After getting into the house, he reloaded his revolver with cartridges, a number of which were found upon him by the sheriff. The sheriff of Kane County, as soon as he was notified of the facts, went as near the house of Fryer as was deemed safe and called from the bystanders a posse, instructing them to arm themselves, which they did. The sheriff and posse then approached the house as near as was wisdom, when the sheriff called and asked Fryer if he would surrender. The first time he answered, "I will not, if you want me, come and take me." The second time his answer was, "I will not. I have had enough of you and Bishop Bringham." The position occupied by Fryer precluded the possibility of taking him without a further sacrifice of life. After viewing the position and believing that unless immediate action was taken, more innocent blood would be shed, the sheriff ordered the posse to fire, which they did, killing Fryer instantly. Besides a revolver, Fryer was armed with a sharp butcher knife and a heavy loaded whip.

At their deaths, Richard and Teresa Fryer left three children: Eliza, age 13; Annie, age 11; and 3-year-old George. A Brother and Sister Lang raised George and took him to Mesa, Arizona. The girls stayed in Toquerville and Eliza married David Baxter the next year, and they lived in the rock house Richard had built. She was fourteen and David was 53. Annie lived with them and, when mature, married Charles Clawson and moved to Colorado. Later, Eliza and David sold the house to the Presbyterian Church and they used it for a school house.

This house, used as the Presbyterian Mission, is architectually significant as one of five well preserved exposed stone buildings in Toquerville. It is an excellent example of a 1 1/2 story stone hall-and-parlor house whose projecting gable on the facade reflect Gothic Revival influences.

(From the book, The Fate of the Fryers, compiled by Bessie Snow in 1973.)