

## Historic St. George LIVE! Tours Throughout the Summer

Have you ever wished you could talk 140 years into the past and actually speak to Brigham Young or Erastus Snow or Orson Pratt or Jacob Hamblin or Judge John Menzies Macfarlane? These were the giants who helped settle St. George.

The fact is that you can do it. Ten times each week from June through August these reenactment pioneers congregate in the town center to meet with visitors. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 9 a.m, and 10:30 a.m. people can talk with these great pioneers.

Jacob Hamblin is at the adobe house at the Pioneer Center for the Arts on Main Street and 200 North each of those days. He tells about his association with the Paiutes and Hopis and ranchers. He meets them there instead of in Santa Clara where his home still stands so that they can also meet the other pioneer leaders.

Following a visit with Jacob, a costumed guide takes the visitors into the Opera House where Orson Pratt is awaiting them. Besides describing his trek west and laying out of Salt Lake City, Pratt shows them the odometer he designed to help gauge the distances the pioneers traveled each day. Pratt also tells of his work in St. George between 1862 and 1865.

The visitors then take a bus to the St. George Tabernacle where they meet Orson Pratt's long-time co-worker, Erastus Snow, who spent decades in Dixie helping to build many communities and great civic buildings. Erastus tells the group how and why the Tabernacle was constructed, including fabled stories about the windows, the stones and the balcony.

A quick two-block bus ride takes the people to the Old Courthouse on the corner of 100 East and St. George Boulevard. On the second floor in the original courtroom Judge John Menzies Macfarlane is awaiting their arrival because a trial is about to begin concerning a local citizen who has been taking his irrigation water out of turn. Those watching the trial soon learn that cooperation was absolutely essential in Dixie's desert if they were to have any garden crops to harvest.

The final stop for the bus is at the Brigham Young home where the great founder warmly welcomes the people to his garden and winter residence. He invites questions and tells yarns. The folks love it and delight in the chance to walk through his house and office.

Many locals find this historic St. George tour to be a great way to entertain their families and visitors. They agree that the \$3 per person admission (over age 12) and children under 12 are free is a bargain. Many have commented that the Historic St. George LIVE! tour rivals places like Williamsburg, Nauvoo and Connor Prairie in Indiana. The tours have been going for 12 years and continue through August 31. There is still time to join a tour this month.