

## **History Question of the Month**

Mining activities in Little Cottonwood Canyon began in the mid 1860's, soon smelters were constructed at the mouth of the canyon to process the ore. At least four smelters and one stamp mill were built. Two of these smelters were in the present boundaries of our City, which ones were they?

### **Answer**

The Flagstaff Silver Mining Company Ltd. was incorporated in London, England. It not only operated the Flagstaff Mine in Little Cottonwood Canyon, it also built a smelter at the mouth of the canyon to process the ore from that mine and the Emma mine. The smelter was built by Buel and Batemen in 1870. It consisted of three furnaces, two of which went into service the first year and the third soon after. The smelter operated between 1870 and 1873. It appears that financial problems was its downfall.

The second was the Jones and Pardee Smelter. It was built about the same time as the Flagstaff. It consisted of one furnace that could process eight tons of ore a day. It was sold in 1872 to The Wellington Mining and Smelting Company which incorporated in San Francisco in 1872. It was also known as the Little Cottonwood Smelter.

In 1991, mine tailings located in Little Cottonwood Creek resulted into an investigation by the EPA. Contaminated areas where the two smelters had been located, plus two additional sites to the south were identified, tested and remediation of the areas took place.

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