

PIONEER MEMORIAL CEMETERY

One of Cottonwood Height's most significant historical locations is also one of its most over-looked landmarks. Tucked away on the north side of Creek Road near 1500 East is the Union Pioneer Memorial Cemetery.

The location had a humble beginning in 1851 when settler Rufus Forbush buried his wife, Polly, in a corner of the land they were farming. An outbreak of smallpox among settlers created the need for an established cemetery to serve the outpost of Union, and Forbush donated land surrounding his wife to the cause.

A number of the settlers responsible for building Fort Union, and their descendants, were interred in the burial grounds through the years. The cemetery also has an important role in the history of the region as the final resting place of Green Flake and his wife, Martha, who played integral roles in early Utah settlement and were part of a small but vibrant African-American community in the Union area.

The cemetery was repaired and revitalized in 1947 to commemorate the centennial of pioneering settlement of the Salt Lake Valley. Parking is available, but visitors are asked to respect the quiet spirit of this special location.