

Religion 342

Field Trip Report

The Brigham Young and Kimball Cemeteries

by

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Introduction

Brigham Young once said, "I feel like shouting hallelujah, all the time, when I think that I ever knew Joseph Smith, the Prophet whom the Lord raised up and ordained, and to whom He have keys and power to build up the kingdom of God on earth and sustain it."¹ Both Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball loved Joseph and sustained the church through some of its most difficult times. But most especially, they loved the Lord and had a testimony of His plan for the afterlife.

This is a report about my visit to the Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball cemeteries.

How do the grave sites of Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball relate to church history?

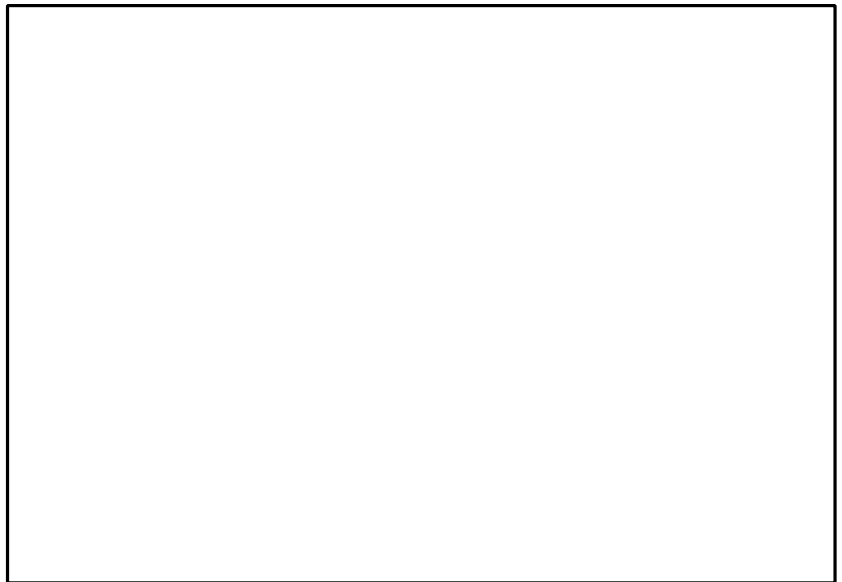
The grave sites of Heber C. Kimball and especially Brigham Young are flowing with church history. Not only is Brigham Young buried in his cemetery, but the following people are also buried there:

- Eliza R. Snow Smith
- Mary Young, his wife
- Alice Young Clawson
- Joseph A. Young
- Mary Angel Young
- Lucy A. D. Young

Also, The Mormon Pioneer Memorial Monument, created by Edward J. Fraughton, is located at the Brigham Young cemetery. A monument

to both Eliza R. Snow and William Clayton stands at the entrance to the cemetery. William Clayton wrote the tune "Come, come ye Saints," and that tune is engraved in his monument.

In figure 1, I have attached a picture of the monument at Heber C. Kimball's grave site. Heber died on 22 June, 1868. This beautiful monument is



the only monument at the Kimball cemetery.

Brigham Young died in the Lion house on 29 August, 1877. His brother Joseph Young, his son John W. Young, many of his wives, and many of his children were gathered at the Lion house at the time of Brigham Young's death. Brigham's daughter Zina wrote about the time immediately before Brigham Young's death when she reported, "...he seemed to partially revive, and opening his eyes, he gazed upward, exclaiming: 'Joseph, Joseph, Joseph' and the divine look in his face seemed to indicate that he was communicating with Joseph Smith, the Prophet".² Brigham Young's breathing became more sporadic and he quietly died. Zina Young talked of the look on Brigham's face at the time of his death. She said, "Gazing upon that noble face, I thought he looked like a God. Peace and serenity and grandeur were enthroned upon his countenance....".³

Brigham Young's funeral was held in the Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. He requested not to have an expensive funeral. Since he knew that death was simply a new beginning, Brigham did not want any mourning at his funeral. Brigham's family and friends went from the Tabernacle to his family's small cemetery on the hill, where he was buried in a mountain pine coffin. No monuments were placed over his grave, but only a simple grave stone surrounded by a small iron fence.⁴ The small gravestone and small iron fence are still at Brigham's grave site today.

What was interesting to me about the grave sites of Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball?

The most interesting thing to me was the many people buried at Brigham Young's grave site. I was expecting that Brigham Young would be the only person buried there. Many of his wives were buried there, as well as many other members of his family.

As I toured the grave sites of Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball, a powerful feeling came over my whole soul. I realized that these were the resting places of two of the Lord's apostles. Brigham Young had been the second president of the church, the first governor of Utah territory, and one of the greatest leaders who ever lived. I felt like rejoicing that I was a member of the Lord's church and that I had a sure knowledge that I would one day be able to meet these leaders and thank them.

Brief directions of how to get to the Heber C. Kimball and Brigham Young grave sites from

BYU...

To get to the Brigham Young and Kimball cemeteries from BYU, follow the map in figure 2. Take University Parkway to I-15, then go north on I-15 to 6th south. Exit at 6th south, go to West Temple, and turn on North Temple. Just north of North Temple, there are some parking lots where you can park for the day. The two cemeteries are just a short walk from these parking lots. The Brigham Young cemetery is located on the south side of First Avenue, between State Street and A Street. The Kimball Cemetery is located on the west side of State Street, just north of N. Temple.

