

OLD SORREL

HISTORY

Old Sorrel was dedicated on May 9, 1986. Jerry Anderson, in remembrance of the people as well as the horse who helped found this University, sculpted the Old Sorrel Statue. In 1897 the entire population of Cedar City [1,500] engaged in building Old Main, the first building of the University. The men and women of the community donated money, materials, and labor to complete the building and meet the deadline imposed by the state. Families mortgaged their homes; one man even sold his farm to provide operating funds for the school. Beginning the project in mid-winter, many men from town risked their lives to gather lumber off the snow packed mountaintops during the worst winter of the century.



Old Sorrel was a large, rangy, eight year old draft horse. He was described as “long-legged, long-necked, and long-faced,” and was called Sorrel because of his coloring. Weighing in at about 1,600 pounds he tromped his way through the worst blizzard Cedar City has ever witnessed. The first party of 11 men went into the storm to gather the materials necessary to build Old Main and were followed by another party of - men who brought along Old Sorrel. The initial mountain expedition that resulted in the building of Old Main would have been dysfunctional had it not been for the old sorrel horse the mountain party placed at the beginning of it’s expedition up Cedar Canyon. The horse waded into the record high snowdrifts. He pushed his way through the drifts until they gave way and never gave up.

The men from both parties claim to owe their lives to the horse for his determination and he is now considered “the savior of the Founders’ lumbering expedition.” Sorrel lived for 23 years.

FUN FACTS

- If you stand at the back side of the statue and look east towards upper campus, you will notice that Old Main is directly in line with Old Sorrel. No one is sure if this was done on purpose, but you can see the correlation while looking from one place to the other.
- A time capsule was included in the base of the monument with items representative of the 1980’s including music tapes, newspapers, a program of the Centrum dedication, a copy of “Dr. Mac, The Man, His Land” by L.W. Macfarlane [if you can’t find your Thriller cassette, you now know where to find one].
- If you and a “significant other” touch the statue and kiss on a full moon at midnight, you can become a TRUE T-BIRD!

SHARWAN SMITH STATUE

HISTORY

Sharwan Smith was born November 25, 1970, to Hyrum and Gail Smith. She was the third of six children in the Smith family. Sharwan attended school in northern Utah, and graduated from Viewmont High School in 1988.

Following high school graduation, Sharwan enrolled in Southern Utah University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from the institution in 1994. An energetic and compassionate young woman, she was loved and respected by her fellow students and her professors at the University, who remember her quick smile and her eagerness to become involved in events and projects that would enhance the lives of others on campus.

Best remembered by many for her service as Activities Vice President for Southern Utah University Student Association during the 1991 - 92 school year. Sharwan was also active in

