

Utah Place Names by John W. Van Cott

ALDRIDGE (Aldrich) was at the mouth of Pleasant Creek on U-24, eleven miles east of Capital Reef Hdqts. Settled in 1882...abandoned by 1900....insufficient arable land.

NOTOM is on Pleasant Creek. It was first called Pleasant Creek but the postal authorities requested a change since the name was already in use. It has also been known as Pleasant Dale. Notom was finally chosen, but the name origin is not known. Today it is a large ranch complex.

SANDY CREEK (Wayne) originates 12 miles west of Mt. Pennell in the Henry Mountains. It drains through some very sandy terrain and empties into the Fremont River.

GRAND WASH (Wayne) is in Capital Reef N.P. where it cuts through the Capital Reef. It drains northeast into the Fremont River 3 miles east of Fruita. It is named for its size and spectacular surroundings.

CAPITAL GORGE (Wayne) is the branch of the Fremont River Gorge that drains Capital Reef. The gorge drains into Pleasant Creek near Notom. In Pioneer days (pre bridge) travelers taking the Fremont River Gorge were forced to cross and recross the river even though it periodically flooded. Capital gorge was an alternate rout taken to avoid the Fremont River Gorge.. Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch used the Capital Gorge many times in their travels.