

# This Day in History... February 25, 1928

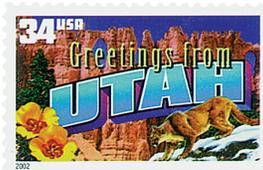
## Bryce Canyon National Park

On February 25, 1928, Bryce Canyon officially became Bryce Canyon National Park, securing permanent federal protection for one of America's most unusual landscapes. What began as a remote stretch of pink cliffs and strange rock spires in southern Utah had become important enough to earn the highest level of preservation in the National Park System.

Bryce Canyon is located in southern Utah on the Paunsaugunt Plateau. The plateau rises more than 8,000 to 9,000 feet above sea level. From its edge, the land drops away into a series of natural amphitheaters. Despite its name, Bryce Canyon is not a single canyon carved by a river. It is a collection of bowl-shaped depressions filled with thin rock walls, narrow fins, and tall spires called hoodoos.



Before settling near the canyon, Ebenezer Bryce joined the Mormon migration into Utah under The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A skilled carpenter, he also helped build the historic Pine Valley Chapel, the oldest continuously used LDS meetinghouse in Utah.



Stamp pictures the Wall of Windows arches in Bryce Canyon National Park as well as a mountain lion and sego lily.

area as "a hell of a place to lose a cow."

The canyon later took his name, though he did not seek that honor. Interest in protecting the area grew in the early 1900s. In 1916, the National Park Service was created. Soon after, forest supervisor J.W. Humphrey and photographer J.E. Broaddus began promoting the scenic value of Bryce Canyon. Broaddus published articles and distributed photographs. Railroad companies, especially the Union Pacific, also saw tourism potential. They built lodges and improved access roads to bring visitors by train and car.

In 1923, President Warren G. Harding used the Antiquities Act to designate the area as Bryce Canyon National Monument. This provided initial federal protection. However, the land was still partly owned by the state of Utah and private individuals. Congress passed legislation to purchase those lands. In 1924, Congress redesignated the site as a national park, but the change could not take full effect until the federal government completed the land acquisitions.

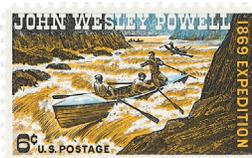
That final step occurred on February 25, 1928. On that date, Bryce Canyon officially became a fully established national park. The boundary included about 35,835 acres. This status ensured stronger protection, funding, and management under the National Park Service. It also placed Bryce Canyon among a select group of landscapes preserved for their natural significance.

Development followed carefully. The Bryce Canyon Lodge, designed by architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood, opened in 1925 and still operates today. Rustic-style cabins blended with the surrounding forest of ponderosa pine. Scenic drives were laid out along the rim. Trails such as Navajo Loop and Queen's Garden allowed visitors to descend among the hoodoos.

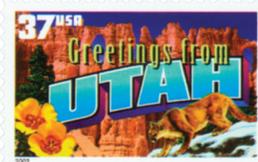
Today, Bryce Canyon National Park attracts more than two million visitors each year. People come to hike, photograph sunrise over the amphitheater, and view one of the darkest night skies in the continental United States. Because of its high elevation and dry air, the park is also known for clear stargazing.



The seventh stamp in the Scenic American Landscapes Series.



In 1872, explorer John Wesley Powell surveyed the Paunsaugunt Plateau near present-day Bryce Canyon National Park, mapping the area and documenting its striking rock formations.



Issued later in 2002 for a rate change.

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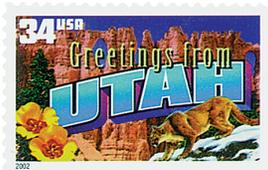
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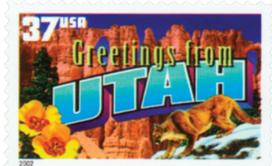
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who were turned to stone as punishment for wrongdoing.

In the 1850s, Mormon settlers moved into southern Utah. One of them was Ebenezer Bryce, a Scottish immigrant and skilled carpenter. He settled near the canyon in 1874. Bryce built roads and irrigation systems for the local community. He is said to have described the