

Brian Passey

Outdoor Guide and Writer

Presented

"I Was Here."

Wednesday, October 11 2017, 7 pm

Udvar-Hazy Building, Boeing Auditorium Room 121

Dixie State University Campus

Brian Passey is an award-winning journalist, most recently for The Spectrum & Daily News in St. George, Utah. For 13 years, he wrote about the culture and scenery of Southern Utah. He contributed regularly to St. George Magazine and from 2005-2015 was USA Today's Utah correspondent.

Brian discussed and illustrated several rock art locations in Washington County. He included only those he personally visited and photographed. Along with his descriptions he read portions of Ed Abbey's Desert Solitaire describing rock art and its indication of the presence of Native Americans on the landscape. The phrase "I Was Here" is from Abbey's book, and suggests a personal encounter between us and the rock art images. This encounter is not interpretive since we do not know what the petroglyphs meant to their creators, but suggests an intimate relationship between the maker of the glyphs and the observer.

Brian's list of sites included, but was not limited to, sites in Bloomington (Petroglyph Park), Santa Clara (Land Hill, Anasazi Ridge or Tempi'po'op, which means rock writing in Paiute), Snow Canyon, Red Cliffs Reserve, Babylon, Fort Pearce, Little Black Mountain, and petroglyphs found in Zion National Park.

Following this discussion Brian presented some tips on photographing rock art. His own photos were not Photoshopped or otherwise altered because they were intended for a newspaper outlet. He strongly indicated however that photographing petroglyphs in their natural context and including landscape, horizon lines and other elements of perspective added to the meaning of the rock art and made for better pictures. A discussion of photo enhancement programs such as d-Stretch followed Brian's talk.