

**QUESTION OF FOOTPRINTS.**

**Were they Really Made by Feet or by Hand?**

**"A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW."**

The "News" Draws the Sketches, the Readers May Draw the Conclusions.

RANSON, Millard County,  
January 9th, 1893.  
*Editor Deseret News:*

I have been asked by a friend in Fillmore to write for publication what I know about the footprints in the rock now to be seen at the offices of the World's Fair commission in the Daily block, Salt Lake City. My friend has been applied to for the information, and knowing that I was somewhat posted living here, I will give my views on the subject through the News where everybody will see it.

About one and a half miles due west from Kauna, disconnected with any other, is a black lava mountain, two or three hundred feet high, easily climbed from the south and east, but on the north it is almost perpendicular, and, at its base, are scattered fragments of rock of various sizes, some very large. From one of these fragments the footprints were taken—out a year or so since by parties coming from another town. The people have felt quite outraged at what was considered a piece of vandalism, as we, your correspondent among the rest, have looked upon them as genuine footprints made upon plastic matter, and there grew a kind of scandalized wonder in our minds as to whom and by whom the impress was made.

Mr. E. W. Penny, one of our citizens, corresponded with the Smithsonian Institute about the footprints, and they instructed a Salt Lake professor to visit the locality. The professor accompanied his visit, and the vandals came and carried off the prints.

To comply with the request of my friend I got leave and leisure to go with Mr. Penny to the place of origin of the prints and investigate, and the result is that other foot prints could be found. We did investigate and the result was that other foot prints could be found. We did not find any prints, but we did find some other marks, which we could identify as being made by hands. These were made by hands, and the marks were made by hands.

The rock, the fragment upon which the prints were taken, is about two and a half feet in diameter, and it is irregular in shape—and it measures 24 feet by 12 feet in the center, east and west, north and south. My leader is 17½ feet long; it did not reach the highest part of the rock by at least three feet. Standing on the south side

of the rock close up it would touch the bottom part of a medium-sized man's vest, sloping down from that to the nose, three feet, and sloping northward, and sloping down again to the top. It was on this northward slope that the footprints were found. As you stand on the ground and look at them they had the appearance of having been made by a person walking, leaning forward, supporting himself on the rocks. There certainly were two different steel foot marks, and we thought one was that of a female apparently being assisted by her lover in getting through the mud.

This rock is in a condition of absolute condition where it now lies. It is a large fragment of millions of tons of the same material heat by, with every sign of being broken by internal violence, water, mud, etc., etc. Footprints can easily be made upon a properly conditioned mud; but could that mud be transformed into lava rock, melted, boiled and cooled as this country for hundreds of miles has been, are there any footprints left? This is the solid magma again, taken and cooled off for a thousand years, and then this mighty chunk suddenly broken out by some violent shock, being broken just right to show us the footprints made before the hubbub of creation.

A return to the "News," November 18th, calls it "lava rock." That's what we call it. He suggested that the owner of the rock was in a hurry, while running over the partially dried lava, as the imprint of the footprints was still visible on the rock. I think very soft lava would be exceedingly warm for bare feet, and if the writer had had his experience in a rapidly constructed house hatched from a tile floor, he would have found the lava hot enough to burn him back on his heels to blisters.

Near by this rock from which the footprints were taken are several other rocks (fragments) about two and a half feet in diameter, each having a type which twenty-five men could stand. We observed and pointed out to friend Penny one after another the markings under his feet, a copy of which I enclosed made upon a pencil. There were many other markings than those presented. All are undoubtedly works of art, common all over Utah. The black spots are holes in which you could stand an egg. There are other prints of hands and I am told some prints of feet, but I have not seen any other markings than those presented. There can be no doubt that these were made with a hard instrument in human hands. On the south side of this rock are some peculiar bloodstained characters, which I believe are the remains of a child. There can be no doubt that these were made with a hard instrument in human hands. The English

are fond of making such artifacts in the British Museum, and the book of Abraham degenerates Egyptian.

Before getting down from this rock I discovered upon the edge at the only place a person could crawl up, another, much larger hole, which I suppose to be a natural appearance and my reason is that this rock was a kind of pulpit, shrine or altar, upon which none but the great or powerful might tread, and from which they paraded the common folk below. I have never seen any other rock like this other carvings so near by, (2 or 3 rods) also not the footprints in question and that they had some special use.

Perhaps on festal days certain matrons would test their agility in climbing, by placing their dainty feet in these prints and thus winning a claim upon a grosser work of art.

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the young warrior or priest. The footprints were made by human hands, I do believe, and not on an animal, and the prints are particularly to the top. It was on this northward slope that the footprints were found. As you stand on the ground and look at them they had the appearance of having been made by a person walking, leaning forward, supporting himself on the rocks. There certainly were two different steel foot marks, and we thought one was that of a female apparently being assisted by her lover in getting through the mud.

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Three hundred and seventy-eight

thousand people have emigrated to America during the last twenty years.

Anders Erickson, a man more than

one year old farmer of Hennepin county,

Minnesota, writes: "I am

an old man, and have

been a soldier, a sailor, a

farmer, a hunter, a trapper, a

miner, a prospector, a

blacksmith, a carpenter, a

teamster, a wagon driver, a

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