The road to the ferry that would take them down the canyon wall. So they pounded on, blasted, chiseled, and shoveled a path of Rock — that led down to the Colorado River, and lopped almost 500 miles off their trip.

Instead, what they encountered was a narrow canyon wall in the canyon wall — nicknamed the Hole-In-The-Rock — that led down to the Colorado River some 1300 feet below. Opting to take their chances going down the steep canyon, the expedition stumbled, skidded, and slid a path toward the edge. When they reached the bottom, the settlers realized their only hope of reaching the river safely was to drive their wagons into the flatlands of the Western United States. The trail they planned to follow was supposed to lead directly across the Colorado River, and lop almost 500 miles off their trip.

By November of 1879, the settlers, who came from towns across southern and central Utah, were congregating at Forty-Mile Spring just south of Bluff, Utah. The party, which has since become known as the Hole-In-The-Rock Expedition, had been sent to present-day San Juan County to establish a religious utopia among the local Indians and open the region to further white settlement.

One hundred forty-one years ago this month, a hardy group of Mis- sionaries founded the town of Bluff, Utah. The party, which has since become known as the Hole-In-The-Rock Expedition, had been sent to present-day San Juan County to establish a religious utopia among the local Indians and open the region to further white settlement.

The settlement expedition that set- tled the San Juan County com- munity of Bluff.

The Settling of Bluff

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