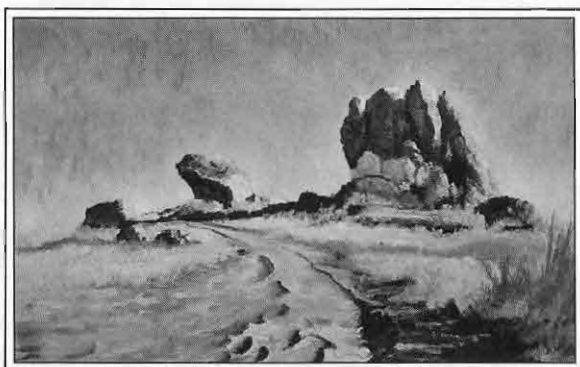


A HISTORY OF _____
Tooele
County



Compiled by
Ouida Blanthorn

UTAH CENTENNIAL COUNTY HISTORY SERIES

A HISTORY OF

*Tooele
County*

A HISTORY OF

Tooele County

Compiled by
Ouida Blanthorn

Tooele County is the second-largest county in the state, extending from the ridge line of the Oquirrh Mountains to the state line in the west across a broad portion of northwestern Utah. Human habitation extends back thousands of years to the period of ancient Lake Bonneville. Tooele was one of the first six counties created in Utah and began to be settled as early as 1850 by Mormon pioneers, who made extensive use of the county's rich grazing and timber resources.

Tooele County has been known in recent decades for its vast desert expanses, including Bonneville Salt Flats, its mineral resources from both the Great Salt Lake and area mountain ranges, and its uses by the U.S. military for test ranges and various other facilities, including the storage and disposal of chemical and other weapons.

Growth of the county has been rapid in recent years, due in part to its proximity to Salt Lake City, many residents using Tooele County towns as bedroom communities for the Wasatch Front. Controversy currently exists between such residents and those who would expand use of the county for industrial growth and waste disposal, including nuclear-waste repositories.

ISBN: 0-913738-44-1

A HISTORY OF
Tooele County

A HISTORY OF _____

*Tooele
County*

Compiled by
Ouida Blanthorn

1998
Utah State Historical Society
Tooele County Commission

Copyright © 1998 by Tooele County Commission
All rights reserved

ISBN 0-913738-44-1

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 98-61318

Map by Automated Geographic Reference Center—State of Utah

Printed in the United States of America

Utah State Historical Society
300 Rio Grande
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1182

Contents

GENERAL INTRODUCTION	vii
INTRODUCTION	ix
CHAPTER 1 The Geology and Geography of Tooele County	1
CHAPTER 2 Native Americans in Tooele County	33
CHAPTER 3 Trappers, Surveyors, and Wagon Trains: The Coming of Euro-Americans to Tooele County	45
CHAPTER 4 The Early Settlement of Tooele County	62
CHAPTER 5 Transportation: Wheel Tracks and Railroad Beds	90
CHAPTER 6 Early Mining and Industrial Activities	118
CHAPTER 7 Society, Cultural Development, and Religion	154
CHAPTER 8 Education and Medical Care	194

CHAPTER 9	The Industrialization of Tooele County in the Twentieth Century	211
CHAPTER 10	Agriculture	226
CHAPTER 11	Tooele's Defense Industries	247
CHAPTER 12	Skull Valley and Environs	271
CHAPTER 13	Rush Valley Towns: Stockton, Clover, St. John, and Vernon	286
CHAPTER 14	Deep Creek Country, Wendover, and the Great Salt Lake and Its Desert	311
CHAPTER 15	Grantsville and Other Tooele Valley Towns .	331
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY		373
INDEX		381

General Introduction

When Utah was granted statehood on 4 January 1896, twenty-seven counties comprised the nation's new forty-fifth state. Subsequently two counties, Duchesne in 1914 and Daggett in 1917, were created. These twenty-nine counties have been the stage on which much of the history of Utah has been played.

Recognizing the importance of Utah's counties, the Utah State Legislature established in 1991 a Centennial History Project to write and publish county histories as part of Utah's statehood centennial commemoration. The Division of State History was given the assignment to administer the project. The county commissioners, or their designees, were responsible for selecting the author or authors for their individual histories, and funds were provided by the state legislature to cover most research and writing costs as well as to provide each public school and library with a copy of each history. Writers worked under general guidelines provided by the Division of State History and in cooperation with county history committees. The counties also established a Utah Centennial County History Council

to help develop policies for distribution of state-appropriated funds and plans for publication.

Each volume in the series reflects the scholarship and interpretation of the individual author. The general guidelines provided by the Utah State Legislature included coverage of five broad themes encompassing the economic, religious, educational, social, and political history of the county. Authors were encouraged to cover a vast period of time stretching from geologic and prehistoric times to the present. Since Utah's statehood centennial celebration falls just four years before the arrival of the twenty-first century, authors were encouraged to give particular attention to the history of their respective counties during the twentieth century.

Still, each history is at best a brief synopsis of what has transpired within the political boundaries of each county. No history can do justice to every theme or event or individual that is part of an area's past. Readers are asked to consider these volumes as an introduction to the history of the county, for it is expected that other researchers and writers will extend beyond the limits of time, space, and detail imposed on this volume to add to the wealth of knowledge about the county and its people. In understanding the history of our counties, we come to understand better the history of our state, our nation, our world, and ourselves.

In addition to the authors, local history committee members, and county commissioners, who deserve praise for their outstanding efforts and important contributions, special recognition is given to Joseph Francis, chairman of the Morgan County Historical Society, for his role in conceiving the idea of the centennial county history project and for his energetic efforts in working with the Utah State Legislature and State of Utah officials to make the project a reality. Mr. Francis is proof that one person does make a difference.

ALLAN KENT POWELL
CRAIG FULLER
GENERAL EDITORS

Introduction

Tuilla" County, as it was originally spelled, was one of the five original counties formed as the result of a convention called in 1849 and formalized by the General Assembly of the Mormon proposed State of Deseret on 31 January 1850. Tooele County holds a unique place in the larger Utah story. The development of Tooele County is reflected in the growth of the county's population from a few Mormon pioneers in 1849 to a population of 32,321 in 1998; and the population is projected to increase by the year 2010 to over 46,000 people. Many newcomers are likely to build homes in the county but commute to employment in the Salt Lake City area.

Tooele County is known for its great expanses of open space, and the use of this space for recreation and for preservation is one of the county's greatest future assets. It has also been vital to the county's economic growth—with the federal government reserving large areas of the county for defense purposes, military training grounds, and the storage and disposal of weapons. This latter use of the county as a testing, storage, and disposal area of biological and chemical weapons has recently thrust Tooele County into the national spot-

light, and controversy currently swirls around such projects, with both ardent supports and vehement critics vocal for their respective points of view.

The natural resources of the county—the remaining timber, grazing lands, mineral deposits, and water—also are subject to increasingly heavy demands, and the effort to preserve and protect them will doubtless occupy county leaders and residents in the decades of the twenty-first century to come.

The writing and publication of this history of the county were made possible by funds authorized by the Utah State Legislature as part of a statewide project of publishing histories of all twenty-nine Utah counties. Work on the history project began in 1992, and the Tooele County Commission earmarked additional funds to supplement those of the state. A conscious effort was made by many residents of the county to promote and research Tooele County's history, with the emphasis being on broad developments rather than on specific individuals.

The compiler, confronted with an enormous mass of material and having to sift through it to make a one-volume history of Tooele county, has no doubt that this book has fallen far short of including everything of importance in the county's history. Only a several-volume history could do that. Still, it is hoped that this history will highlight some of the important developments in the county's history and help reveal its place in the greater general history of the state of Utah.

The compiler was aided at various times in her research by those who have helped provide records of various wards and stakes of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon or LDS), the Catholic Diocese, school district files, and various federal records and censuses, among others. Records at the Tooele County clerk's and recorder's offices provided additional information. Material in the Utah State Archives and publications from the U.S. Bureau of Mines were of additional help. News articles were obtained from the *Salt Lake Mining Review*, *Salt Lake Tribune*, *Salt Lake Herald*, *Deseret News*, *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, *Grantsville Gazette*, and *Dugway Desert Sampler*.

Research libraries consulted included the special collections at the Marriott Library, University of Utah, Salt Lake City; Harold B. Lee

Library, Brigham Young University, Provo; Merrill Library, Utah State University, Logan; Family History Library, Salt Lake City; and the Historical Department, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Assistance from the offices of Public Affairs at Dugway Proving Ground and Tooele Army Depot proved invaluable.

The Utah State Historical Society opened its files for much of the historical data. Kent Powell and Craig Fuller of the Historical Society were of tremendous help in supervising and aiding the project from start to finish. Secondary sources of special value were two previously published volumes of Tooele County history, edited respectively by Mildred Mercer and Orrin P. Miller, both of which are cited extensively in the text. Primary sources consulted included diaries, journals, minutes of the Tooele County Historical Society, and various city and town council minutes.

Various authors are responsible for much of what is contained in this volume. They are generally credited in the notes beginning the various appropriate chapters. These authors wrote self-contained chapters, but the publishing decision was later made to reconstitute and reorder some of the topics of the book, resulting in great changes being made to many of the individual chapters. For this reason, thanks is extended and acknowledgement made here to the following people for their work, which formed much of the basis of the completed history: Craig Fuller, Karl Swan, Dr. Edward J. Dalton, George W. Tripp, Frank Wicks, Donald J. Rosenberg, Dorothy H. Davis, Darrell Johnson, Howard Clegg, Jean Mogus and Helen Penok, Kathryn D. Wilson, Zettie Painter Garcia, Diane Sagers, and Patricia Hunter.

The following men and women reviewed completed chapters of the primary draft of the manuscript and offered valuable comments, helping make this history a much better one: Cecil Arthur, Dr. Edwin Dalton, Jr., Chris Weyland, Howard Clegg, Loya S. Beck, Sidney Hullinger, Jane Brown, Boyd Blanthorn, Virginia P. Johnson, Elna Kuester, Jean Mogus, Leatha Hicks, Gertrude Tripp, Elaine Allen, Bruce Steadman, Darrell Johnson, Ann Siebers, and Joyce Feuebach.

Special thanks is extended to Rachel Brown Smith, Karl Swan, Beverly White, Orson Johnson, and Margene Kirk, who contributed to the history by compiling lists of public officials and religious lead-

ers, even though not many lists could be included due to space and other publishing considerations. Photographers who worked on the project included Ron Allen and Wilcox Photography. Thanks for population figures is also extended to Karen Wikstrom.

Inspiration was provided by Dr. Eugene E. Campbell, a native of Tooele, as I sat in one of his many classes at BYU.

A special debt of gratitude goes to Angie Cummings for her expertise in typing various drafts of the project under the able supervision of Cheryl Adams, Administrative Assistant to the Tooele County Commissioners. As chair of the Tooele County Centennial Committee, Maxine Grimm has also proved helpful. Tooele County Commissioners Lois McArthur, Gary Griffith, and Teryl Hunsaker provided assistance and encouragement.

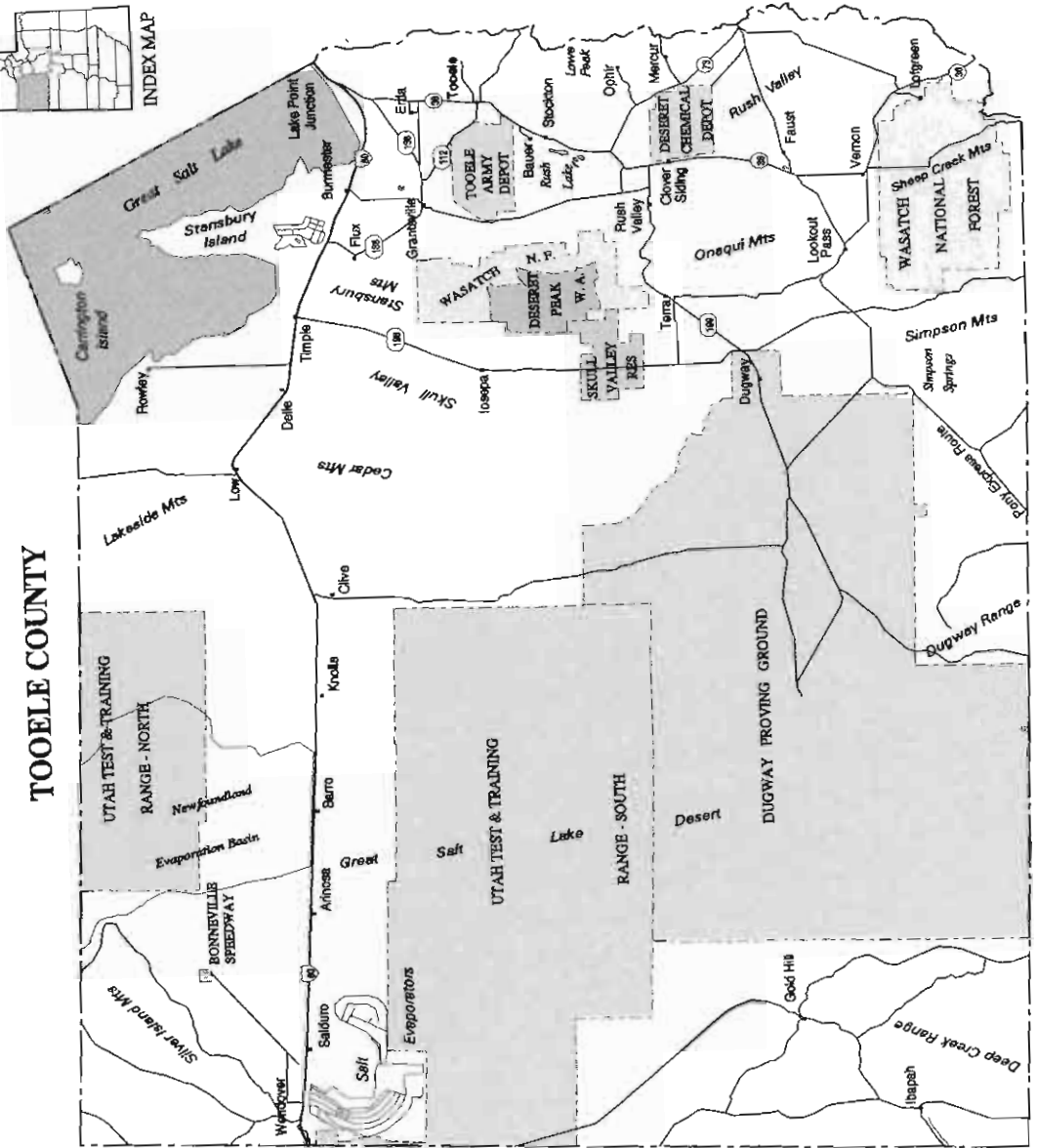
Finally, I thank my husband, Boyd, for his support and valuable assistance.

QUIDA N. BLANTHORN

TOOELE COUNTY



INDEX MAP



CHAPTER 1

THE GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY OF TOOELE COUNTY

Tooele County, the second largest county in the state of Utah, measures 6,919 square miles and is located between the ridgeline of the Oquirrh Mountains on the east and the Utah-Nevada state line on the west.¹ There are several different spellings, pronunciations, and derivations of the word Tooele, including the name of a Goshute Indian chief, a black bear, and a reference to the reeds, or tules, found in the swampy areas of the county. None have found universal acceptance.² The county's northern border is at forty-one degrees north latitude; its southern boundary is marked at about thirty-nine degrees fifty-three minutes north latitude. The county's landscape and natural environment is as diverse as any in the state, containing a portion of the Great Salt Lake, the largest dead sea in the western hemisphere, much of the Great Salt Lake Desert, and the scenic Stansbury, Deep Creek, and Oquirrh mountains, which provide spectacular alpine beauty and respite from the searing summit heat as well as water to counter the aridity of the county's valleys. Several of the mountain ranges in the county yield vast amount of mineral

wealth. The county has 188 identified minerals, the largest number of any county in the state.³

The geology which produced the county's mineral wealth, the refreshing beauty of the mountains, the harsh realities of the west desert region, and the wonders of the Great Salt Lake have greatly influenced the settlement and economic development of the county from the time of prehistoric people to the present occupants.

The mountains and valleys of the county reveal thousands of years of natural history and millions of years of geologic history. Each layer of rock is like turning a page, revealing more of the county's geologic history. These ancient layers of rock yield valuable information about how sedimentary rock was successively deposited over time and how and when the mountains and valleys were formed. In an undisturbed sequence of rocks, those layers at the bottom are oldest, while those at the top are younger. The rock type and its characteristics yield information about the environment at the time the sediments that made the rock were deposited. Fossils found in sedimentary rocks also tell us a great deal about the environment of the county millions of years ago. However, like certain old books where some of the pages are missing, some of the ancient rock formations have eroded from the county's geologic book.⁴

Scientists have divided the earth's history into three long eras (Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic) characterized by various life forms known during those times. Ancient history has also been divided by geologists into numerous periods. The first great period, the Precambrian, includes rocks formed more than 600 million years ago. In Tooele County such rocks are found south of Vernon in the Tintic Sheeprock Mountain areas and in the Deep Creek Mountains. Later rocks of the Cambrian period (620–500 million years ago) can be found in the Creek and Lakeside mountains. The Stansbury Mountains and Stansbury Island are long fault-block mountain ranges in which Paleozoic rocks are complexly folded and faulted. (A bend in layers of rock is called a fold, and an anticline is defined as a raised upfold.) Hard, erosion-resistant Cambrian quartzite forms the central peaks of the Stansbury Mountains.⁵

The western part of Utah, now a portion of the Basin and Range physiographic province, was covered during much of the



Rock formation in Skull Valley. (Utah State Historical Society)

Precambrian period and Paleozoic era by open seas and received vast quantities of marine sediment deposits. Limestones, sandstones, quartzite, dolomite, shale, and conglomerates were deposited when Tooele County was submerged by oceans. During the Paleozoic era (beginning about 570 million years ago), the western part of the continent was subjected to inundation by open seas. The Mississippian period about 350 million years ago was marked by shallow, warm seas, and was followed by the Pennsylvanian period, some 280 million years ago, a time when a great basin appeared. A variety of thick sediments were deposited.

During the Mesozoic era (220–75 million years ago), the region generally was uplifted to form a major mountainous area. Beginning about 210 million years ago, at the beginning of the Jurassic period, upheavals, convulsions, and disturbances of gigantic proportions reshaped and reformed the face of the land, forming major mountains in the region. Layers of rock millions of years old were thrust upward to form mountains in the county, which were immediately exposed to erosion. When the depression of the present Great Basin began to form during the early Tertiary period (about 60 million years ago), the north-south-trending mountains were formed. These mountain ranges were separated by desert basins that gradually filled with alluvial sediment.⁶ Typical fault-block mountains of the Basin and Range Province include the Lakeside and Cedar Mountains. The Silver Island Mountains are another of many fault-block ranges of the Basin and Range Province. They consist of steeply tilted Paleozoic rocks.⁷

During the Oligocene and Miocene epochs of the Tertiary period, intrusive and extrusive igneous rock pushed through fissures and other breaks in the older rock. As mountain building continued during the middle Tertiary period about 25 million years ago, igneous magma deep from the bowels of the earth pushed upward into cracks and fissures in some of the mountain ranges of Tooele County. This geologic activity of mountain building and igneous rock flow are important elements to the mining activities that have taken place in the county.⁸ Some of this igneous rock contains most of the metallic mineral deposits found in the county and the western United States.

The Great Basin, of which Tooele County is a part, is a result of a very long and complex geologic history involving hundreds of millions of years. Tooele County and the western half of the state of Utah belong to the larger physiographic Basin and Range Province (often referred to as the Great Basin Province), which extends from the Wasatch Mountains to the Sierra Nevada, and from southeastern Oregon and southern Idaho to southern Nevada and the eastern portion of southern California. The Basin and Range Province is a closed hydrologic basin; that is, no rivers discharge the basin's surface water to either the Atlantic or Pacific oceans.

The Basin and Range Province is subdivided into ninety smaller topographical basins or systems, containing more than 160 mountain ranges. Tooele County is located in the heart of the Lake Bonneville Basin, the easternmost of these smaller basins. Lake Bonneville, the freshwater ancestor of the Great Salt Lake, was formed during the Wisconsin age of the Pleistocene epoch, or last Ice Age, about 25,000 years ago. The ancient lake was up to 1,000 feet deep or more and covered about 2,300 square miles, extending from southern Iron County on the south to Bear Lake Valley and southeastern Idaho on the north, and from the Wasatch Mountains on the east to eastern Nevada on the west. Major terraces or lake levels (Stansbury, Bonneville, Provo, and Gilbert—oldest to youngest, respectively) are clearly visible on the west face of the Oquirrh Mountains and elsewhere in Tooele County.⁹

The Great Salt Lake Desert, once part of the area covered by Lake Bonneville, and parts of which receive less than five inches of precipitation annually, dominates the western portion of the county.¹⁰ The desert extends west from the Cedar and Lakeside mountains into Nevada; it accounts for approximately one-half of the land area of the county. The Great Salt Lake Desert does not provide a welcome environment for humans or for many plants and animals.

To many, the most noteworthy geographical feature of the county is the Great Salt Lake. Approximately 20 percent of the lake is located in the county. This, coupled with the desert, leaves less than a quarter of the county, the area primarily along its eastern boundary and the land immediately adjacent to the Deep Creek Mountains in



The Great Salt Lake Desert. (Utah State Historical Society)

the extreme southwestern corner of the county, suitable for settlement and economic development.

Within Tooele County, there are seven mountain ranges with an elevation of more than 6,500 feet: the Sheeprock Mountains, Deep Creek Mountains, Stansbury Mountains, Oquirrh Mountains, Silver Island Mountains, Lakeside Mountains, and Silver Mountains. There are also four major valleys, each more than 300 square miles in size: Rush Valley, Sink Valley, Skull Valley, and Tooele Valley.

The Sheeprock Mountains are about twenty miles long and are a southern continuation of the Onaqui Range. Black Crook Peak (also known as Bennion Peak) at 9,274 feet above sea level is the highest peak in the Sheeprock Range and, like other mountain ranges in the region, is composed mostly of sedimentary rock of marine origin. Intrusive igneous rock which holds deposits of silver, lead, gold, zinc, and tungsten is found in the mountain range.

A number of small perennial streams including Vernon, Cherry, Cow Hollow, Joes, Sheeprock, Albert Ekker's (Cottonwood),

Bennion, Elderberry, and others drain the Sheeprock Range. In normal years of precipitation all but Cherry and Vernon creeks disappear before they reach the valley floor. The soil, moisture, and altitude of the mountain range provide for a variety of vegetation zones. Various species of sagebrush and grasses dress the valley floor and foothills of the mountains. Moving up the slopes, several species of juniper (locally called cedar) are found. Some mountain mahogany is found on the south slopes, with yellow and pinyon pines found in abundance on the north-facing slopes. Aspen and chokecherry are clumped around the springs at the highest elevations. Much of the Sheeprock Range is included in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The Sheeprock Mountain Range includes on its northern slopes Sabie, Vernon, Bennion, Dutch Creek, Oakbrush, South Pine, and East Government canyons; on its southern slopes are Erickson, South Oakbrush, Ekker, Judd Creek, Death Creek, Indian, and Simpson canyons.

Located astride the Tooele and Juab county line paralleling the Utah-Nevada border are the Deep Creek Mountains. An imposing presence, the Deep Creek Range can be readily seen from the Elko-Wendover highway. The Deep Creek Mountains are the highest mountain range in western Utah. Ibapah Peak (12,101 feet), located just south of the Tooele County line, is the highest peak in the range.

The mountains are primarily composed of sedimentary and metamorphic rock, from Precambrian to Permian in age. The Deep Creek Mountains over millions of years have undergone deformation, uplift, and mountain building caused by tectonic shifting and movement beginning in the late Devonian period (360 million years ago) and continuing to the present.¹¹ In much more recent geologic time, during the Pleistocene epoch a few thousand years ago, the Deep Creek Mountains were reshaped by glaciation. The upper reaches of Granite Canyon, Cedar Canyon, Indian Farm Canyon, Toms Canyon, and several other canyons west of Ibapah Peak contain typical glacial features of cirques and moraines.¹²

Several perennial streams are found in the Deep Creek Mountains. Fifteenmile Creek and Deep Creek provide water for several ranches located west of the mountain range, from the Goshute Indian Reservation north to White Sage Flat. The perennial streams

of Trout, Red, Cedar, Toms, and Basin creeks are located on the east face of the Deep Creek Mountains. Growing along the foothills are various species of sagebrush, greasewood, and pickleweed. Progressing up the slopes are stands of Utah juniper, mountain juniper, single-leaf pinyon, and mountain mahogany. Still higher are clumps of white pine, Engelmann spruce, alpine fir, limber pine, aspen, and even some bristlecone pine. Above the timberline can be found attractive yellow alpine buttercup and other alpine plants. More than 400 species of flowering plants have been found growing in the Deep Creeks.¹³ Outcroppings of intrusive igneous rock in the Deep Creeks host gold, silver, lead, copper, zinc, and other minerals.

Located west of the Oquirrh Mountains are the Stansbury Mountains, named in honor of government explorer Captain Howard Stansbury. The Stansburys separate Tooele and Rush valleys from Skull Valley. An extension of the Stansbury Range southward is the Onaqui Range. It has on the Rush Valley side Rock Canyon, Faust, De. St. Jeor, Hell Hole, Davis, Big, Settlement, and Harriet's canyons. These mountains contain an abundance of limestone, dolomite, and chert, but no minerals have been found there.

A northern section of the Stansbury Mountains juts into the Great Salt Lake to form the rugged island of the same name.¹⁴ The oldest exposed rock in the Stansbury Mountains is Cambrian rock from up to 570 million years ago. The Stansbury Mountains were formed during the Mesozoic era (230–63 million years ago) and are typical of other mountains in the Great Basin. The Stansburys are part of the fault-block mountain ranges which are found in much of the Great Basin. The ancient rocks are complexly folded and faulted. Stansbury anticlines are easily seen on the south end of Stansbury Island. The Stansbury Mountains contain all formations of the Paleozoic era but contain little intrusive rock containing minerals. While there has been extensive prospecting for minerals beginning in 1875, primarily in North and South Willow canyons, little in commercial quantities has been found in the range.¹⁵

The canyons in the Stansbury Mountains of Tooele County are, beginning on the eastern side: Timpie, Miners, Broad, Mack, East Dry, West Dry, Pope, Abbott. Baker, Davenport, North and South Willow, Box Elder, and Hickman. On the western slopes are found



The shoreline of ancient Lake Bonneville is visible along the mountain slope with the Great Salt Lake in the background. (Utah State Historical Society)

Burnt Springs, Muskrat, Arbon, Broons, Round, Boy, Little Granite, Big Granite, Monument, Chokecherry, Pass, Little Pole, Big Pole, Spring, North, South, and Middle Lost canyons, and Deadman Canyon.¹⁶ Some of these canyons were named for early settlers, including James and William Davenport, Benjamin Baker, and Jacob Abbot.

There is some geological evidence that glaciation activity occurred on the Stansbury Mountains during the Pleistocene epoch. Deseret Peak (11,031'), Victory Mountain, and other peaks reveal exposed scarring caused by glaciation erosion, and the heads of South and North Willow canyons have well-defined cirques or valleys eroded by glaciation.¹⁷

Although the Stansburys lack in mineral production, they stand out in beauty and in the amount of moisture they collect. The mountains are home to a wide variety of flora and fauna and are an important source of water for ranchers and farmers in Tooele and Skull valleys as well as for the community of Grantsville. In an effort to protect this vital watershed, residents of Grantsville and northern Tooele Valley petitioned the federal government in 1904 to establish a forest reserve on the Stansburys. The county's petition was heard and

Washington responded, creating the Grantsville Forest Reserve. Two years later, a second petition was initiated by Alonzo Stookey of Clover and Israel Bennion of Vernon to establish a forest reserve in the Sheeprock Mountain Range.¹⁸ Today, these two forest reserves are part of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. In September 1984 the 25,500-acre Deseret Peak Wilderness Area was established in the Stansbury Range as part of the Utah Wilderness Act.

The juniper-woodland and sagebrush communities occupy much of the lower elevations of the mountains. At higher elevations the Stansbury Mountains contain stands of mixed Douglas fir and white fir. In some of the canyons there are clumps of aspen. There are approximately 180 species of wildlife, including 114 species of birds, fifty-one species of mammals, and fifteen species of reptiles, that make the Stansbury Mountains their home.¹⁹ In addition, the mountains are home for a variety of birds of prey such as the sharp-shinned hawk, the Cooper hawk, the northern bald eagle, the duck hawk, and the eastern sparrow hawk. Other birds which make the Stansburys their home during various times of the year include the dusky-blue grouse, the sage hen, the red-naped sapsucker, the Rocky Mountain downy woodpecker, the long-crested jay, and the Hepburn rosy finch. The big brown bat, Nuttall cottontail, yellow-bellied marmot, longtailed meadow mouse, longtailed weasel, bobcat, mule deer, and mountain lion find a home in the Stansbury Mountains as well.²⁰

The canyons found in the Oquirrh and Stansbury mountains were important but limited sources of wood for fuel and timber for building. One way the early settlers had of gaining access to these canyons was by granting certain individuals (usually church and community leaders) the right to the timber if they would make and keep in good order the roads to that canyon. When the residents of a settlement were charged for loads of wood or timber, the controlling party had to report receipts on an annual basis to the Auditor of Public Accounts of the Territory of Utah (earlier State of Deseret). By an Act of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Deseret on 3 December 1850, Mormon apostle Ezra T. Benson was granted exclusive control of the timber in the western canyons of the Oquirrh Mountains leading into Tooele Valley.²¹

The name Oquirrh is a Goshute Indian word which has several

interpreted meanings, including wooded mountain, cave mountain, and shining mountain.²² Travelers bound east or west are impressed by this imposing mountain range. The Oquirrhs have been described as a series of "great, isolated, brooding prehistoric monsters frozen into silent place by a hardening earth."²³ However, as earlier travelers experienced the mountains up close and intimately, the mountains became a point of beauty and wonder. John Muir, noted nineteenth-century American naturalist, while on a trip across the future state in July 1877, spent several days becoming acquainted with the northern Oquirrhs. From afar, the foothills of the Oquirrhs were alive with a green carpet of vegetation, he observed. "Surely nothing in heaven nor any mansion of the Lord in all his worlds could be more gloriously carpeted," he wrote, when he first viewed the mountains from the Salt Lake Valley.²⁴ He added, "the two north most peaks of the Oquirrh Range are seen swelling calmly into the cool sky without any marked character, excepting only their snow crowns, . . . the simplicity of their slopes preventing their real loftiness from being appreciated."²⁵

As he drew nearer, Muir found the Oquirrhs covered with blooming violets, lilies, azalea, honeysuckle, and buckthorn, "all meeting and blending in divine accord." Muir continued to extoll the importance of the mountains: "Lovers of science, lovers of wildness, lovers of pure rest will find here more than they may hope for."²⁶ Near Lake Point, Muir spent a hot July day climbing the Oquirrhs. He described the mountains covered with "a glow" of lilaceous plants, meeting the edge of the snow at about 5,500 feet. He was further impressed with the abundance of Mormon sego lilies, hundreds in full bloom within a foot or two of the snow line.

The Oquirrhs at that time provided a suitable environment for a wide range of wildlife. Muir noted fresh deer tracks and a fresh trail of wild sheep, during his climb. Birds, especially woodpeckers and linnets, were sighted. Near the summit, spruce and fir grew "erect and arrowy in a thrifty, compact growth." Compared to spruce and fir found elsewhere in the West, however, these trees were quite small: "from six to twelve or fourteen inches in diameter, and about forty feet in height."²⁷ Aspen were also found in abundance. After hiking through the soft snow of depths up to twenty feet, Muir witnessed



West slope of the Oquirrh Mountains south of Tooele in 1941. (Utah State Historical Society)

from the summit a marvelous panorama seen only by other hikers who reach the crest of the Oquirrhs.

The Oquirrhs were home to both brown and black bears. Often people of Tooele would encounter bears while visiting the Oquirrhs. John Bevan recalled an incident of Dave Eagle and his son, who went to Settlement Canyon to gather serviceberries. Eagle was confronted by a bear and was able to kill the bear with his gun. The claws of the bear became a prized possession worn around Dave Eagle's neck.²⁸

The Heaston Wildlife Range in the Oquirrhs presently harbors both deer and elk and contains Leavitt, Pass, Flood, Bates, Pole, Coyote, Big, and Roger's canyons. Individual draws and hollows locally named include Wood Hollow, Keith's Hollow, Max's Canyon, Devil's Hole, and Blind Hollow. Bates Canyon, named for pioneer settler Ormus E. Bates, lies east of Erda in the Oquirrh Mountains and can be reached from Bates Canyon Road. Primarily, area vegetation is grass, scrub oak, and sagebrush at lower elevations. Spruces,

aspens, and maples cover higher elevations. Flood Canyon lies south of Bates Canyon.

The Oquirrhs are composed of Mississippian, Pennsylvanian, and Permian rock from hundreds of millions of years ago containing intrusions of other rock which occurred in the middle Tertiary period, some 30 million years ago. The mountains were uplifted between 80 and 40 million years ago during the Rocky Mountain, or Laramide, Orogeny (mountain-building period), with some deformation of the mountains continuing to occur. Much of the more recent deformation of the Oquirrhs is associated with the Garfield Fault, which runs through the heart of the mountains. There are also other faults located in the mountain range.²⁹ The highest peak in the Oquirrh Mountains is Flat Top Peak at 10,620 feet, followed by Lowe Peak at 10,589 feet above sea level. Snow- and icefields capped the Oquirrhs during the last Ice Age and slowly shaped the upper portions of the canyons.

As beautiful and scenic as the Oquirrhs were to John Muir, economically the mountains have provided a bounteous wealth of gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, and other minerals. Some claim the Oquirrhs to be the "richest mountains on earth," and it can be safely said that the Oquirrhs contain the richest mining districts in Utah.³⁰ The largest and best-known mining district in the Oquirrhs is West Mountain (Bingham) District, created in 1863. Primarily located in Salt Lake County, the district is noted for its high copper yield. Within a short time of its organization, the West Mountain District was divided into the Tooele, Rush Valley (Stockton), Ophir (East Canyon), and Mercur (Camp Floyd) districts. All have provided significant yields of minerals.

The Silver Island Mountains straddle the Tooele-Box Elder county line at the far northwestern corner of the county. Once known as the Desert Range, the Silver Island Mountains consist of three fairly distinct segments: Crater Island Mountain, situated north of the Tooele-Box Elder county line; the Silver Island Mountains proper, which are in the middle of the mountain range; and the Leppy Mountains, which extend into Nevada northwest of Wendover. Captain John C. Frémont in 1845 crossed over the Silver Island Mountains, probably through the gentle pass now known as the

Donner-Reed Pass, which separates the main mountain range from Crater Island to the northeast. This trail, later part of the Hastings Cutoff, was a troublesome and difficult trail for early transcontinental travelers, as it lacked water in many places, while the soft playa to the east slowed down wagons, including those of the Donner-Reed party in 1846.³¹ In 1853 Captain Howard Stansbury, while exploring the area west of the Great Salt Lake, was impressed by the Silver Island Mountains, as they seem to be floating like an island on the shimmering salt flats. Stansbury described them as "several island mountains," rising as it were from the water.³²

Like that of the other mountain ranges in the county and Great Basin, much of the exposed strata of the Silver Island Mountains was laid down during the Paleozoic era (570–245 million years ago) when the county and the state were occupied by ancient seas. Rock exposures represent every period of the Paleozoic era.³³ When these ancient seas withdrew from western Utah beginning in the Jurassic period some 200 million years ago, the uplift of the Silver Island Mountains began. During the Paleocene epoch beginning about 65 million years ago, much of the relief of the Silver Island Mountains occurred, while, at the same time, igneous rock (both intrusive and extrusive) pushed into the Silver Island Mountains. Earlier igneous disturbances occurred during the late Jurassic and early Cretaceous periods. Several extrusive flows have been identified and dated, primarily in the Leppy Mountains. The highest peak in the mountain range is Graham Peak, located in the main range at 7,563 feet.

Situated west of Stansbury Bay of the Great Salt Lake are the Lakeside Mountains. These mountains expose rock from nearly every geologic period from the Cambrian to the Pennsylvanian (570–285 million years ago). Mountain building began in late Jurassic time (150 million years ago) and continued on a large scale about 100 million years ago during the middle Cretaceous period. It then gradually subsided by the middle of the Tertiary period. Craner Peak at 6,625' is the highest peak in the Lakeside Mountains.

The Cedar Mountains are located near the geographical center of the county. They run parallel to the Stansburys and form the western flank of Skull Valley. To the west sits the expansive Great Salt Lake Desert. The area which includes the northern two-thirds of the

mountain range, the southern two-thirds of Ripple and Puddle valleys, and the western third of Skull Valley was considered in the 1980s as a possible site for the nation's largest and most expensive scientific project ever, the superconducting super-collider, which was later discontinued.

The crest of the Cedar Mountains averages about 6,000 feet above sea level, with Tabby's Peak the most prominent at 6,921'. There are two other unnamed peaks, at 7,039' and 6,929', located just south of Tabby's Peak. There are no perennial streams that drain the Cedar Mountains. A small herd of mule deer and a group of wild horses call the Cedar Mountains home. The mountains and foothills also are home for coyote, bobcat, kit fox, and badger. Various birds can be found in the Cedar Mountains and the nearby valleys at various times of the year, including golden eagles, burrowing owls, turkey vultures, prairie falcons, and redtailed hawks.

While the mountain ranges provide much of the resources and scenic beauty of the county, the valleys are where permanent agricultural settlements and developments have taken place. Valleys are parts of large fault-block sequences which occurred during the Laramide and subsequent mountain-building episodes beginning perhaps 60 million years ago. The upward-thrust blocks are called horsts and the valleys are called grabens.

As the mountains were forced upward, water and wind erosion began to take place, and the valleys were gradually filled with the deposition of the eroded material. In addition, volcanic ash collected in the valleys of the Great Basin, making many of them very fertile and productive when water is applied to the land. Erosion and deposition increased during the Pleistocene epoch, during the last Ice Age about 25,000 years ago, when Lake Bonneville was formed. This ancient lake covered most of the county except for the mountains. From the mountains of western Utah millions of tons of unconsolidated material was eroded and deposited on what became the west desert of Tooele County.

Rush Valley is about thirty miles long and seventeen miles wide and is about 400 square miles in total area. The valley is rimmed by the Oquirrh, Stansbury, Onaqui, and Sheeprock mountains. These mountains are generally too narrow to catch enough winter precipi-

tation to provide the surrounding valleys with large annual streams of water. Rush Valley does receive some surface water from Clover, Soldier, Ophir, Vernon, Bennion, Dutch, Harken, and Oak Brush creeks. These perennial streams provide water to irrigate about 2,500 acres in the valley. Before Lake Bonneville formed, water from these mountains drained freely to Tooele Valley.

During the time of Lake Bonneville, a lake bar created between South Mountain and the Oquirrh closed drainage from Rush Valley to Tooele Valley. As a result, Rush Lake was formed. According to the survey made by Captain Howard Stansbury in 1850, Rush Lake at the time was about 1.25 miles in length. It continued to grow, reaching an overall length of 4.25 miles early in the 1870s.³⁴ Eight years later, in 1880, geologist Grove Karl Gilbert measured the lake and found that it had shrunk to half of its earlier maximum size. Today, because of irrigation developments and a possible change in climate, Rush Lake is a dry lake, much like Sevier Lake in western Millard County. Rush Valley receives less than twelve inches of precipitation (mostly rain) annually. The valley, like other agricultural valleys in the county, depends heavily on the natural watershed of the surrounding mountains. Summers in Rush Valley are dry and hot, with occasional cloudbursts resulting in serious erosion in the canyons surrounding the valley.

Sink Valley (also known as Puddle Valley) is 300 square miles in area and is located between the Great Salt Lake and the small outcrop known as the Grassy Mountains in the north-central portion of the county. It, like most of the county, receives less than twelve inches of precipitation a year. Sink Valley receives very little surface water; groundwater is the valley's principal source of water. Vegetation includes sagebrush, shadscale, cheatgrass, rabbitbrush, greasewood, and pickleweed. Semiarid conditions and the valley's proximity to the Wasatch and Uinta Mountains make this and the other valleys in the county good winter-grazing grounds for sheep.

Apparently named for skulls of buffalo found in the valley, Skull Valley, located between the Cedar Mountains on the west and the Stansbury and Onaqui mountains on the east, is approximately fifty miles long and fifteen miles wide, with a total area of approximately 750 square miles.³⁵ Skull Valley was occasionally referred to in earlier



Devil's Post Pile in Skull Valley. (Utah State Historical Society)

times as Spring Valley because of the several springs which drain the west face of the Stansbury Mountains and which provide most of the valley's surface water during the summer months. Melting snow from the mountains feeds intermittent streams of Barlow Creek and the streams flowing from Antelope and Big Creek canyons. Situated at the north end of the Skull Valley are two wetlands and waterfowl management areas. One, the Timpie Springs Wildlife Management Area, was developed by the State of Utah in 1961. The other, the Horseshoe Springs Wildlife Management Area, was officially established by the federal government in 1990 after having been managed for multiple use for years by the Bureau of Land Management.

Various birds are found in Skull Valley; many are migrants, some are permanent residents. Some of the more common shorebirds, songbirds, and birds of prey found in the valley are the common loon, white pelican, grebe, blue heron, Brewster snowy egret, white-faced glossy ibis, whistling swan, common mallard, ruddy duck, sharp-shinned hawk, rough-legged hawk, bald eagle, and duck hawk. Ring-necked pheasant, spotted sandpiper, western sandpiper, western mourning dove, western meadowlark, and Brewer blackbird are among many others also found in Skull and other valleys of the county.³⁶

Compared to the other valleys in the county, Tooele Valley is well watered, receiving water from several streams draining the Stansbury and Oquirrh mountains. Pine and Dry creeks furnish much of the domestic and irrigation water for Tooele City. North and South Willow Canyon creeks provide irrigation water for the community of Grantsville. The availability of groundwater, an annual average precipitation in excess of twelve inches, good soil, and a mild climate influenced by the Great Salt Lake make most of Tooele Valley the most suitable location in the county for extensive large-scale human occupation.

Tooele Valley is bounded by South Mountain to the south, the Stansbury Mountains to the west, the Oquirrh Mountains to the east, and the Great Salt Lake to the north. Like the other valleys of the county, Tooele Valley is relatively flat and floored with Lake Bonneville sediments. The valley is ringed with alluvial fans, or bajadas. The valley floor is composed generally of unconsolidated deposits of fine-grained sediments. A high water table exists at the north end of the valley, where springs are found at Erda, Grantsville, and the northeast base of the Stansbury Mountains.

A major geographical feature of Utah and Tooele County is the Great Salt Lake Desert. Deserts receive less than ten inches of precipitation annually and feature high summer temperatures. Wendover, for example, receives less than five inches of moisture annually, and its yearly average high temperature is 102° Fahrenheit. The Great Salt Lake Desert extends west from the Cedar Mountains into eastern Nevada, and north from the Fish Springs and Deep Creek Mountains to the Grouse Creek Mountains and Park Valley in western Box Elder County.

Sediments of rock, mostly igneous, from the Tertiary and Quaternary periods of the last 60 million years constitute the floor of the Great Salt Lake Desert. The upper levels of sedimentation of the desert were beds of Lake Bonneville deposited during the Pleistocene epoch about 10,000 years ago. In 1880, Grove Karl Gilbert, conducting geological work in the region of the Great Salt Lake, named one of the three most conspicuous terraces of Lake Bonneville, the Stansbury; the other two shorelines were the Bonneville and Provo.³⁷ Most surface features of the Great Salt Lake Desert were formed by

fluvial (stream flow) processes. Because most of the mountain ranges in the county have steep slopes and are relatively free of vegetation, water action has transported much fine rock from the surrounding highlands to the desert floor. A vast playa, a special type of alluvial plain, makes up most of the Great Salt Lake Desert. In many places the top layer of sedimentation has varying amounts of salt content, as much as five feet or more, and a high concentration of clay. The world-renowned Bonneville Salt Flats is such an area of high concentration of coarse crystalline salt mixed with fine clay.

Within the Great Salt Lake Desert are several smaller drainage basins, which are separated from each other by small groundswells caused by elasticity of the soft clay. Water pressure causes this fine clay to be compressed; however, when there is reduced water pressure, clays in the Great Salt Lake Desert swell and expand, forming small knolls. For example, the knoll which is located between the Terrace Mountain Range and the Lakeside Mountains is about ten feet high and separates the Great Salt Lake from the Newfoundland Basin in Box Elder County.³⁸ Within some of these small, extremely shallow drainage basins salt deposits are collected. The Bonneville Salt Flats are in one of these shallow basins where crystalline salt has collected. Its surface is very hard and quite smooth, perfect for racing automobiles. Elsewhere, the Great Salt Lake Desert isn't quite as hard. It is at one of these softer areas, just east of Floating Island Mountain, that the ill-fated Donner-Reed party of 1846 became mired in the soft clay, forcing its members to abandon several of their wagons.

In addition to its lack of potable water and alternating soft and hard surfaces, the extent of the Great Salt Lake Desert presented a physical barrier for transcontinental travelers that was not fully conquered until the transcontinental railroad in 1869 and the later completion of the Lincoln Highway for automobiles in the early 1920s.

The dearth of water and the alkaline soil has limited plant life on the Great Salt Lake Desert floor. Pickleweed, saltgrass, greasewood, and shadscale are the dominant species of plants found in the desert. Pickleweed is widespread throughout parts of the desert. Little or no vegetation is found near the Dwight D. Eisenhower Highway



A natural arch in the Great Salt Lake Desert. (Utah State Historical Society)

(Interstate 80) east of Wendover and extending to the salt ponds at Arinosa, a siding for the Union Pacific railroad.³⁹

As there is little plant life found in the Great Salt Lake Desert, except around the marshes, springs, and mountains, so too there is little animal life. The tiger salamander and leopard frog are found at Fish Springs. The red-spotted toad and western spadefoot toad are also found where there is moist soil or small pockets of water. Several species of lizards including the desert whiptail lizard and the Utah northern ground lizard are found living on the Great Salt Lake Desert, where they eat small insects. Several species of snake are also found in the Great Salt Lake Desert; they include the wandering garter snake, the western striped racer, the western king snake, and the Great Basin rattlesnake. Nine species of bats, four species of rabbits including the black-tailed jackrabbit and the pygmy rabbit, three species of ground squirrel, and two species of pocket mice are found at various locations in the desert. The larger mammals found living

on the Great Salt Lake Desert include small populations of weasel, coyote, bobcat, and kit fox.

As they lack the essentials for attracting full economic development and settlement, thousands of acres of the Great Salt Lake Desert are used by the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army for military and gunnery ranges and other purposes.

The Great Salt Lake occupies the lowest area in the Bonneville Basin and is the remnant of Lake Bonneville. The lakebed is part of a series of horsts and grabens. On the lake's east side is the Wasatch Mountain Range. Moving west is the Wasatch Trench, filled with sedimentation called the Farmington Graben. Running north and south from the Promontory Mountains to the Oquirrh Mountains is the Promontory-Antelope Horst, or uplift. This is followed to the west by the Great Salt Lake Graben, which is in turn followed by the Bird Island-Stansbury Island Horst. At the extreme west end of the lake is the Lakeside-Skull Valley Graben, bordered by the Lakeside Mountain Range.⁴⁰

The northern Tooele County line encompasses the south arm of the lake, with the county line running in a northwesterly direction from the northern tip of the Oquirrh Mountains and Lake Point Junction on Interstate 80. The county line runs to the middle of Gilbert Bay (the lake's south arm), and then in a westerly direction follows a course between Hat (Bird) Island on the north and Carrington Island on the south, taking in most of West Bay to the west shore and the Lakeside Mountains. Depending on climatic conditions influencing its size, about 20 percent of the lake is located in Tooele County. Within this section of the lake are Stansbury, Badger, and Carrington islands. At times, Stansbury Island is a peninsula jutting out into Gilbert Bay; at other times it is an island, the second largest island in the lake, with approximately 22,300 acres. The highest peak on Stansbury Island stands at 6,645', that on Badger Island at 4,205', and that on Carrington Island at 4,727'. On Carrington Island grow nine different grasses, eleven different forbs, and eight types of shrubs.⁴¹

The floor of the lake is relatively flat, similar to that of the Great Salt Lake Desert. The depth of the lake (averaging approximately 30 feet) is quite shallow and, as a result, the size of the lake has markedly

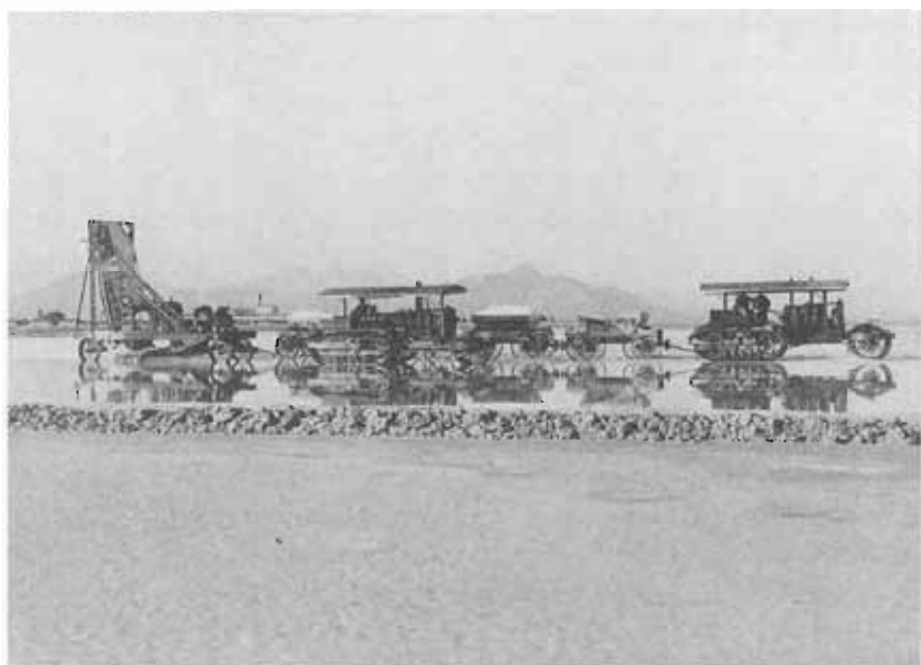
increased or decreased historically depending on climatic conditions. The highest point of the lake in historical times was reached in 1873 at an altitude of 4,212' and the lowest point in 1963 at 4,191'. Lake Bonneville at its maximum depth reached an elevation at its surface of more than 5,200 feet, making it well over 1,000 feet deep in places.

The upper levels of the lake bottom are composed of sediments of coarse to fine sand as well as silts and clays. One of the best swimming beaches of the lake is located at Sandy Beach Bay on Stansbury Island.

The Great Salt Lake is one of the most saline lakes in the world. With no outlet for water entering the lake, evaporation has concentrated high amounts of chloride, sodium, sulfate, magnesium, and calcium in the lake brine. The density and composition of the brine in different parts of the lake was altered with the construction of the rockfill causeway for the railroad in 1959. In addition, inflow has also altered the brine content of the lake. Also, over the years, a number of companies have extracted salt, magnesium, and other minerals from the lake and its shores at various locations.

The chemical composition of the lake, although inhospitable to most lifeforms, does not make it entirely sterile. At least eleven species of bacteria and eight species of protozoa are found in the lake. Seventeen species of algae have been identified growing in the lake, most living in the south arm of the lake. Brine shrimp and three species of brine flies are the most abundant group of animals inhabiting the water of the Great Salt Lake. Mosquitoes (eleven species have been identified), deerflies, horseflies, and gnats—both biting and nonbiting—are found in plentiful numbers at various times of the year around the shores of the lake.

The Great Salt Lake has produced a curious fascination in the minds and writings of a wide range of authors who have been struck by a certain uniqueness of the "inland sea." Dale Morgan said that the lake "unites a haunting loveliness to raw desolateness." He called it a "lake of paradoxes. . . an ironical joke of nature—water what is itself more desert than a desert." Terry Tempest Williams loved the "paradoxical nature" of a "wilderness adjacent to a city" and the "liquid lie" of the West. Peter Czerny wrote a poem about the lake's therapeutic effort on his "sorrows."⁴² For Tooele resident, Utah politician, and lake



Early harvesting equipment for gathering potash salts in Tooele County. (Utah State Historical Society)

historian Karl Swan, the lake's beauty lay in a combination of shapes and colors: "The shapes of mountains rising out of waters which change in color from deep blue to turquoise or to a brooding gray; and the brilliant mixture of reds and orange skies at sunset."

A safe assumption can be made that Native Americans before the time of the trappers and early pioneers used salt from the Great Salt Lake. History records that during the late fall of 1825 mountain men from William Ashley's Rocky Mountain Fur Company, rendezvousing near Ogden, boiled lake brine to obtain salt.⁴³

On his second expedition to the West, John C. Frémont's memoirs record that upon returning from what is now called Fremont Island, his group filled a five-gallon bucket with brine. The record describes the process they used to produce fourteen pints of white, fine-grained salt from the lake. Early Mormons, aware of the report, went to the lake shortly after their entrance to the Salt Lake Valley not only to bathe in the buoyant waters but also to test its salt-producing

capacities. The early immigrants found they could produce large quantities of table salt not only by boiling the brine but also by collecting salt which had collected at the lake's shore.⁴⁴

Such salt was a bitter-tasting salt because it included a number of minerals such as magnesium, potassium, and calcium. Only about 86 percent of the salt was sodium chloride. Later techniques of production would eventually extract a high-quality salt, little different in taste from today's product.

The Climate of Tooele County

Overall, like much of the state of Utah, Tooele County is characterized as semiarid high desert country. In the higher elevations on the county's steep mountains, there is an average annual precipitation of 25–40 inches of water in the form of snow or rain. At lower elevations (6,000–8,000 feet), the average annual precipitation is 17–25 inches. The alluvial fans and terraces have an annual average precipitation of 8–12 inches. Erda has a mean air temperature of 50° Fahrenheit, with an average annual precipitation of 14–16 inches. The higher valley floors also receive precipitation of from 8–12 inches a year.

In the valley bottoms of Tooele County, the average annual precipitation is 6–8 inches in the drier western section and 8–10 inches in the east. Skull Valley has a mean temperature of 47° F. and average annual precipitation of from 7–10 inches. Because the Stansbury Mountains create a rain shadow, precipitation on the western side of Tooele Valley is less than at the same altitude on the eastern side. At lake level (about 4,200') the climate is more arid, with a mean temperature of about 52° F. and precipitation from 4 to 8 inches.

In Rush Valley the rainfall averages 10 inches a year. The growing season averages only 130 days compared to Salt Lake Valley's average of 170 days. The valley is rimmed by mountain peaks described as too narrow to catch enough snow to give the lower areas large streams of water. The climate of Grantsville is relatively mild, and because of its proximity to the Great Salt Lake a very deep accumulation of snow is usually prevented. At Wendover, high summer temperatures and the wind create a great evaporation rate of the very limited precipitation that falls. The alluvial fans extending eastward

from the Deep Creek Mountains receive 5–8 inches of precipitation annually. The Ibapah area receives 8 to 12 inches each year on average.

Animals of Tooele County

Animal life in Tooele County is abundant. In 1859 Captain James Simpson reported seeing on Lookout Pass two antelope, a couple of sage hens and a curlew.⁴⁵ Today in the county deer herds abound in the Oquirrh, Stansbury, Sheeprock, and Deep Creek mountains, along with antelope herds in Puddle and Rush valleys, and at Riverbed near Dugway Proving Ground. A cooperative effort by the Bureau of Land Management and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has placed Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep which were trapped in Wyoming in the Deep Creek Mountains. Also released in the Deep Creek mountains was a new elk herd, and, in the Stansbury Range, bighorn sheep. On the Oquirrh Heaston Range about 700 elk are found, most wintering north of Middle Canyon.⁴⁶

Although Utah never had vast herds of buffalo, Skull Valley was favored by the animals because of the numerous springs in the valley and the salt licks available in the lake area. However, after a severe winter in 1830–31, bones and skulls of the buffalo reportedly littered the valley after many of the animals died, resulting in the name of the valley.

Overall, the county has a wide variety of wildlife. The numerous mountain ranges, some supplying groundwater to the nearby valleys, and the various valleys with their different ecosystems allow for a wide array of flora and fauna. Because of the limited water resources and other ecological factors, there are few native fish found in the county. The least chub is native to the Bonneville Basin and has been found in the freshwater ponds and swamps around the Great Salt Lake. The speckled dace may also be a native fish and is found in several of the desert springs in western Utah. Two species of fish which likely have been introduced to the county are rainwater killfish found in Timpie Springs and western mosquitofish.⁴⁷ Other fish found in the county include the Utah chub, bluegill, mottled sculpin, large mouth bass, rainbow trout, brook trout, brown trout, and cutthroat trout.

In the upper limits of the desert shrub community are found hawks, magpies, and golden eagles; and in the woodlands of the lower shrub layers are found horned owls, flickers, and crows. In pinyon pine woodlands pinyon jays, hawks, and warblers reside. Below, in the canyon-floor woodlands, robins, wrens, juncos, woodpeckers, and thrushes live. Mountain meadows are the home of hummingbirds. Higher up are found flycatchers, chickadees, and swallows; and at timberline are mountain bluebirds, wrens, and pipits.⁴⁸

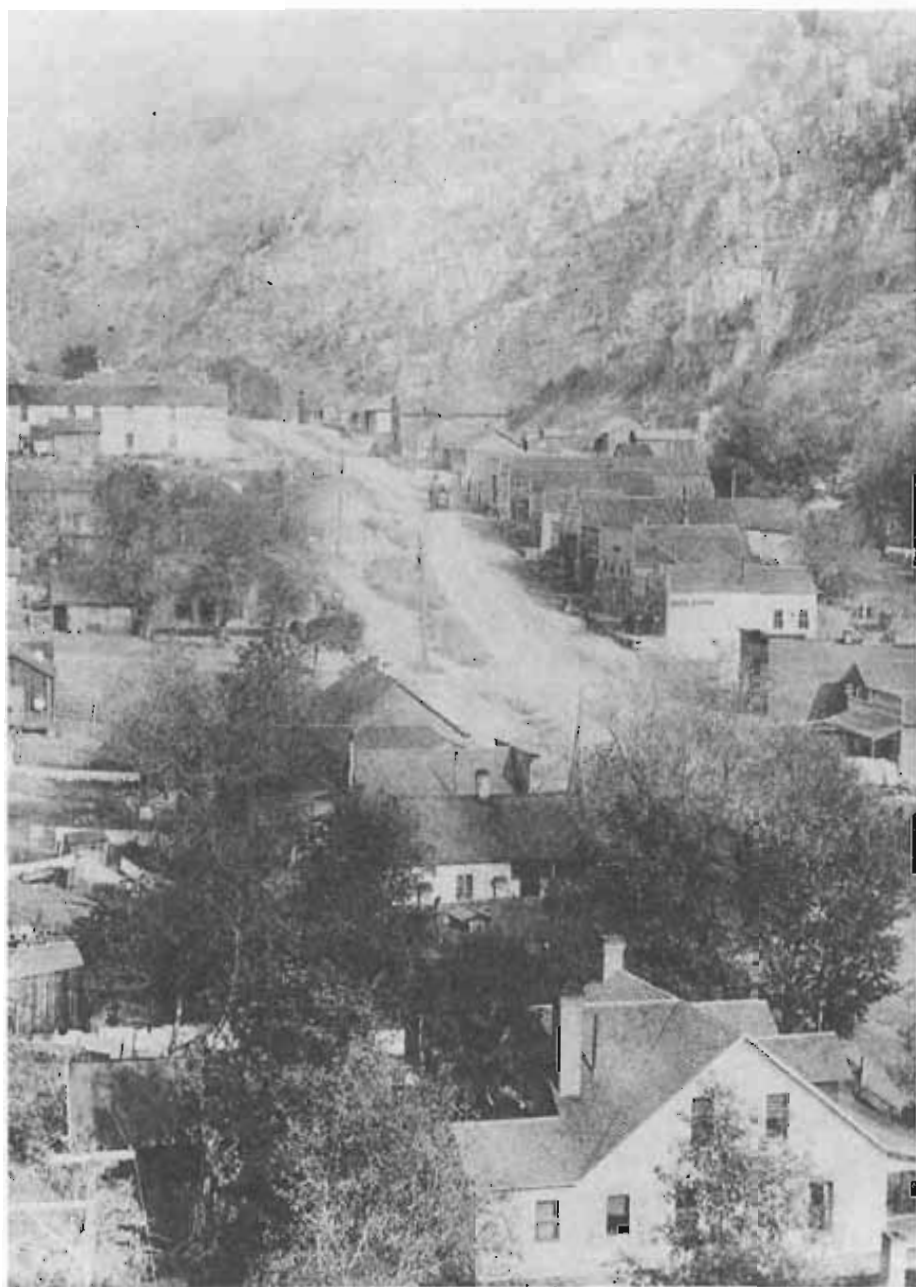
Some 100 species of shorebirds and other dependent fowl migrate annually to the Great Salt Lake, going north and returning south along Tooele County's lakeshores. The Great Salt Lake has long been part of a magnificent ecosystem supporting enormous numbers of birds, including waterfowl, herons, egrets, gulls, terns, pelicans, ibises, raptors, and songbirds. As mentioned, the county has two waterfowl management areas, both in Skull Valley, at Timpie Springs and at Horseshoe Springs. The endangered peregrine falcon has been introduced into that area, and bald eagles winter yearly in Tooele County.

Flora of Tooele County

Some early writings described Tooele Valley as one big meadow, others wrote of it as a sea of grass, and one entry in the "Tooele LDS Stake History" described it as "the best grazing in the territory."

There are four large springs in the semiarid county: one just west of Adobe Rock, the Mill Pond Spring in Stansbury Park, the Six Mile Spring, and the Fishing Creek Spring just east of Grantsville. These springs flow from 6 to 10 cubic feet per second (about 450 gallons per minute) and don't fluctuate much during the year, although they vary somewhat between wet and dry years. There were also many smaller springs in Grantsville. At the time of first settlement, canyon streams were running unobstructed into the Great Salt Lake.

The plant cover was possibly not much different than it is at the present. The main grass plants today include wire grass, red top, salt grass, cattails, Meadow foxtail, and alkali sacaton. They are used heavily by livestock, especially in the spring. Several shrubs were found in this area; silver sage was very palatable as well as nutritious. Big sage-



The mining town of Ophir—located in a narrow canyon in the Oquirrh Mountains. (Utah State Historical Society)

brush and rabbitbrush grew quite large and were used by the pioneers for fuel; neither was very palatable to livestock. Shadscale and saltbush grew throughout the valley and were palatable to livestock. Mormon tea was common in parts of the valley and was used by the pioneers for medicinal purposes.⁴⁹

The most common grasses in the upper valley and benches were blue bunch wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, Great Basin wild rye, and Nevada bluegrass. All of these grasses grew very well and were much more common than the shrubs. Indian ricegrass grew in large patches in the south-central part of the valley. In the late summer and fall, Indians would harvest the seed of this grass. It would be stored and ground with other foodstuffs such as insects.

Utah juniper is common throughout the county and is mingled with pinyon pine at locations between 5,000 and 7,000 feet.⁵⁰ On bars or streams the Fremont cottonwood and sandbar willows spread their branches. River bottoms nurture the box elder. Lombardy poplars were so widely planted that they were commonly called "Mormon Trees." Ditches provided ideal places for shade and wind-break trees, and the lombardys were the most popular for many years as they were fast growers and provided good shade and windbreaks. Slips could be cut from poplar branches and put in soil in small containers where they were kept wet until they could be transplanted. This method provided shade much sooner than starting trees from seed. Many Mormon settlements from Canada through most western states and into Mexico had lombardy poplar trees.

The early pioneers transplanted box elder trees out of the canyons onto the town ditches. Many of these grew to over four feet in diameter and lived more than 100 years. Black locust and honey locust were planted, as were mulberrys for the raising of silkworms. The climate was too cold for the worms, but the trees grew well. Black walnut was also popular. These were mostly planted along the irrigation ditches. In the 1920s and 1930s, when the curb and gutters were installed in Tooele city streets, most of the big old trees died for lack of water.⁵¹

The natural history, environment, and climate have shaped and molded the human occupation of Tooele County. Today, these same natural forces directly or indirectly influence life in the county.

ENDNOTES

1. Various sources list the measurement of Tooele County a few square miles more or less than this figure, which is based on dry land surface. See *County and City Data Book, 1993: A Statistical Abstract Supplement* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1983), 564.

2. See Orrin P. Miller, ed., *History of Tooele County, Vol. II* (Tooele: Tooele Transcript Bulletin, 1990), 66–67; George Tripp, “Tooele—What Is the Name’s Origin?” *Utah Historical Quarterly* 57:273–76; and John W. Van Cott, *Utah Place Names* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1990), 372.

3. Kenneth C. Bullock, *Minerals and Mineral Localities of Utah*, *Utah Geological and Mineral Survey Bulletin* no. 117 (Salt Lake City: Utah Geological and Mineral Survey, 1981), 146.

4. Dr. Edward A. Dalton, remarks given by at the Tooele County Historical Society, Tooele, Utah, 20 April 1988.

5. Ibid.; Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 3; Halka Chronic, *Roadside Geology of Utah* (Missoula, MT: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1990), 250; Chester R. Longwell and Richard F. Flint, *Introduction to Physical Geology*, 2nd Edition (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1962), 357.

6. Dale Stevens, ed. *The Great Salt Lake Desert: A Geographical Survey* (Provo: Brigham Young University Department of Geography, 1975), D2.

7. Chronic, *Roadside Geology of Utah*, 247

8. See Robert E. Cohenour, *Sheeprock Mountains, Tooele and Juab Counties*, *Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey Bulletin* no. 64 (Salt Lake City: Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey, 1959).

9. Grove Karl Gilbert, one of many government scientists who spent their professional lives studying the West, conducted an extensive study of ancient Lake Bonneville. His findings are found in his *Lake Bonneville* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1890).

10. R. Clayton Brough et al., *Utah’s Comprehensive Weather Almanac* (Salt Lake City: Publishers Press, 1987), 462.

11. Kenneth F. Bick, *Geology of the Deep Creek Mountains, Tooele and Juab Counties*, *Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey Bulletin* no. 77 (Salt Lake City: Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey, 1966), 73–92.

12. Ibid., 97.

13. Calvin McMillan, “A Taxonomic and Ecological Study of the Flora of the Deep Creek Mountains of Central Western Utah” (University of Utah: Master’s thesis, 1948), 96.

14. In 1850, while conducting an extensive survey of the Great Salt Lake, U.S. Army Captain Howard Stansbury indicated that Stansbury Island

was superior to either Tooele Valley or Antelope Island as a stock range. See Brigham D. Madsen, ed., *A Forty-Niner in Utah* (Salt Lake City: Tanner Trust Fund/University of Utah, 1981), 190.

15. J. Keith Rigby, ed., *Geology of the Stansbury Mountains, Tooele County*, Guidebook to the Utah Geology of Utah no. 13 (Salt Lake City: Utah Geological Society, 1958), 126, 128.

16. Minutes, Tooele County Historical Society, 19 February 1986. A horseman could ride from the Skull Valley side to the Tooele side by way of Pass Canyon.

17. See Rigby, *Geology of the Stansbury Mountains*, 105–8.

18. See Charles S. Peterson and Linda E. Speth, *A History of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest* (Logan: Utah State University Press, 1980), 40, 48, 52; and Dana Parkinson, "Report to J. Cecil Alter, Establishment of Utah National Forests" (1930), copy at Utah State Historical Society Library.

19. Bureau of Land Management, *Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Draft, Environmental Impact Statement, West-Central Region, Vol II* (n.p., n.d.), 17.

20. Angus M. Woodbury, ed., *Ecological Check Lists, The Great Salt Lake Desert Series* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah, 1956).

21. *Bancroft Collection of Mormon Papers*, Historical Department, Archives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (hereafter cited as LDS Church Archives), film 135, reels 8, 9.

22. Rufus Leigh, *Five Hundred Place Names* (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1961), 68; Van Cott, *Utah Place Names*, 282. There are many variations of the spelling Goshute. Goshute also has several meanings, including "dry earth." See Warren L. D'Azevedo, ed., *Handbook of the North American Indians: Great Basin*, vol. 11 (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1986), 281.

23. William Smart, "Where History's Stamp is Fresh," *Deseret News*, 21 July 1962.

24. John Muir, *Steep Trails* (Dunwoody, GA: Norman S. Berg, Publisher, 1970), 118.

25. *Ibid.*, 127.

26. *Ibid.*, 125, 127, 129. See also Arthur Cronquist et al., *Intermountain Flora: Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, U.S.A.* (New York: Hafner Publishing Company, Inc., 1972); and Robert H. Foster, "Distribution of the Major Plant Communities in Utah" (Ph.D. diss., Brigham Young University, 1968).

27. Muir, *Steep Trails*, 132.

28. John A. Bevan, "Events in the Early History of Tooele City" (1922), 20, copy at Utah State Historical Society library.

29. Douglas R. Cook, ed., *Geology of the Bingham Mining District and Northern Oquirrh Mountains: Guidebook to the Geology of Utah, Number 16* (Salt Lake City: Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey, 1961), 36 ff.

30. William Lee Stokes, *Geology of Utah* (Salt Lake City: Utah Geological and Mineral Survey, 1986), 171, 173. According to the U.S. Bureau of Mines in 1960, the production of the Oquirrhs exceeded \$10 billion.

31. For further information about the Donner-Reed party and subsequent studies see George R. Stewart, *Ordeal by Hunger* (New York: H. Holt & Co., 1936); and Bruce R. Hawkins and David B. Madsen, *Excavation of the Donner-Reed Wagons: Historic Archaeology Along the Hastings Cutoff* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1990). The Donner-Reed Memorial Museum in Grantsville, Utah, houses a number of artifacts found along the Donner-Reed Trail.

32. Howard Stansbury, *Exploration of the Valley of the Great Salt Lake* (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1988), 108.

33. Frederick E. Schaeffer et al. *Geology of the Silver Island Mountains: Guidebook to the Geology of Utah, No. 15* (Salt Lake City: Utah Geological Society, 1960), 15. The highest peak in this mountain range is Campbell Peak, 7,300 feet.

34. Grove Karl Gilbert, *Lake Bonneville*, 228.

35. Buffalo in small numbers roamed northeastern Utah including the Great Salt Lake Valley. It seems likely that some found their way into the eastern valleys of Tooele County. See Frank Gilbert Roe, *The North American Buffalo: A Critical Study of the Species in Its Wild State* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1951), 277.

36. Woodbury, "Ecological Check List."

37. Brigham D. Madsen, ed., *A Forty-Niner in Utah* (Tanner Trust Fund, University of Utah Library 1981), 124.

38. Stevens, *Great Salt Lake Desert*, 113.

39. See *ibid.*, J1-J8; and Foster, "Distribution of the Major Plant Communities," chapter 3.

40. J. Wallace Gwynn, ed., *Great Salt Lake: A Scientific, Historical and Economic Overview* (Salt Lake City: Utah Department of Natural Resources/Utah Geological and Mineral Survey, 1980), 55-57.

41. *Ibid.*, 344.

42. Dale L. Morgan, *The Great Salt Lake* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1973), 17, 360; Terry Tempest Williams, "A Year with

the Great Salt Lake,” *Salt Lake Tribune*, 28 December 1992, C8; Peter G. Czerny, *The Great Salt Lake* (Provo: Brigham Young University Press, 1976), 1.

43. Gwynn, *Great Salt Lake*, 203.

44. *Ibid.*, 203–4.

45. James H. Simpson, *Report of Explorations Across the Great Basin, 1859*, reprint (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1983), 46.

46. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 617.

47. William F. Sigler and John W. Sigler, *Fishes of the Great Basin: A Natural History* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1987), 182; William F. Sigler and Robert Rush Miller, *Fishes of Utah* (Salt Lake City: Utah State Department of Fish and Game, 1963), 82, 117, 120.

48. William H. Behle, *The Birds of the Deep Creek Mountains of Central-Western Utah* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1955), 10–29; Roger Tory Peterson, *Western Birds* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1990), 224, 234, 248, 332.

49. *Conservation History of Tooele County* (Tooele, Utah: n.p., n.d.), 35–36, 56.

50. Robert C. Burnham, “The Climates of Utah” (Master’s thesis, University of Utah, 1950), 68–70.

51. *Deseret News*, 28 April 1985; 12 April 1989.

CHAPTER 2

NATIVE AMERICANS IN TOOELE COUNTY

Prehistoric Indians

The land that is now Tooele County has been home to human beings for at least 10,000 years and includes habitation sites that are of great importance to archaeologists and other researchers of ancient life in the Western Hemisphere.

Some 25,000 years ago, ancient freshwater Lake Bonneville covered much of future Tooele County—its surface being more than 1,000 feet above that of its present remnant, the Great Salt Lake. Many of the mountain ranges in the Great Basin were partially submerged by the water, leaving the peaks as islands. It is believed that some 20,000 to 15,000 years ago migration into the Western Hemisphere occurred across the Bering Strait, the new inhabitants gradually spreading across the continents of North and South America. Tooele County could well have been in a migration pathway or even have been the site of lengthier habitation; however, since such activity would likely have been around the fluctuating shores of the Lake Bonneville, any cultural remains would most probably have been short-lived. And, in fact, none have been found. The climate was

colder and wetter than at present, coniferous forests abounded, and until about 13,000 years ago Lake Bonneville was at its highest levels—up to 5,250 feet elevation—leaving much of Tooele County underwater.

The earliest inhabitants of the continent have been termed Paleo Indians and were nomadic hunters and gatherers. Many hunted the great now-extinct prehistoric mammals known as megafauna, which included mammoths, cave bears, saber cats, ancient camels, and long-horned bison. In fact, Paleo Indians have been classified according to the type of projectile points they used to hunt the great beasts. Clovis, Folsom, and Plano are three culture types, named after finely crafted stone spear points the respective people used in their hunting activities. The names come from the locations where some of the most distinctive and characteristic of the various projectile points were found. It can be assumed, but not proved, that Paleo Indians had at least an occasional presence in Tooele County from perhaps as early as 13,000 years ago.

Some 9,000 years before the present day, the Paleo Indians either had developed technology and lifeways to the point that archaeologists have now classified them as the Desert Archaic culture, or they were displaced on the land by the Archaic people. These people used smaller projectile points, indicating their common pursuit of smaller game animals, and had developed basketry and tools such as the mano and metate for grinding grain and seeds, indicating perhaps a greater reliance on gathering foodstuffs as contrasted with hunting. In the thousands of years that the Archaic people inhabited the land some climate changes occurred and the Archaic period people developed their culture in ways that has led modern researchers to subdivide it into distinct periods—early, mid, and late. For example, the first fire hearths found in Black Rock Cave have been dated to about 6,100 years ago, during the Mid-Archaic period; in Danger Cave to the west, evidence of fire from much earlier—some 10,000 years, during the Early Archaic—has been found.¹

It is with the Archaic people that the first human artifacts have been found in Tooele County, and some of the archaeological evidence has been of major importance to researchers. The fluctuating levels of Lake Bonneville helped create numerous caves between the

4,200- and 5,200-foot elevations, and some of these caves were used by the early inhabitants of the land. Important Archaic sites have been found at Danger Cave as well as at Juke Box and Raven caves on the western edge of the Great Salt Lake desert, in Black Rock caves near the south shore of the Great Salt Lake, and at other places in the Stansbury Mountains.²

Lake Bonneville generally was receding at the time of early human occupation of the land. Geologists believe that it reached the 4,775-foot level (the Provo Bench) about 11,000 years ago, during the Paleo Indian period, and that it had reached the 4,300-foot level some 2,000 years later due to a general warming and drying trend throughout the region. It is thought that the Archaic people hunted and gathered at the water's edge and in the surrounding marshlands and caves created by the lake in the nearby hillsides. Danger Cave near present-day Wendover was used by these people at least 10,000 years ago, and stone and bone tools and weapons have been found there along with basketry, sandals, and hide clothing remnants.

Dr. Jesse Jennings of the University of Utah began excavating Danger Cave in the 1950s and eventually found up to five different levels of cultural debris covering a period of some 8,000 years beginning some 10,000 years ago.³ This information has allowed researchers considerable insight into the lifeways of the ancient inhabitants as well as into the gradual environmental changes and the strategies used by the early Native Americans to adapt to their environment, which continued its general warming and drying trend. This change led to gradual changes in the flora and fauna of the region, making the region generally less hospitable to humans, with a resulting decline in population in the region. Still, throughout this period, the future Tooele County was a very important place of occupation for early humans in the West.

A marked decline in the population of Tooele County took place at about the beginning of the Christian era, and for about 1,000 years, for reasons not well understood by researchers, Tooele County had few human inhabitants. When numbers of people again began living in Tooele County, the Archaic culture had been replaced by what archaeologists term the Fremont culture. Archaeologists are uncertain whether the Fremont Indians displaced or absorbed the

earlier inhabitants or whether the Archaic people developed their culture to the point that modern students consider it distinctive. In any event, by A.D. 1000 the Fremont culture was established in Tooele County as well as in much of the present state of Utah.

The Fremont culture has been categorized into five subgroups that occupied almost the entire state of Utah with the exception of southern and southeastern Utah, which was occupied by groups of the more famous Anasazi, with whom the Fremont were contemporaries. The area that became Tooele County was divided between two Fremont subgroups, the Great Salt Lake Fremont in the desert areas in the north and the Sevier Fremont in the mountains and valleys of the southern part of the present county.⁴

The general Fremont culture is characterized by relatively basic but distinctive pottery and figurines, a distinct type of mocassin, one-rod-and-bundle basketry, pit houses for living, and the practice of horticulture, thus reducing the practice of the nomadic existence of the strict hunter-gatherers who preceded them. Subgroups of the Fremont have been classified according to their own variants of some of these cultural traits and characteristics. The Fremont of Tooele County still relied heavily on hunting and gathering, especially in the harsh and arid desert areas, but some agricultural activity was practiced, resulting in more permanent dwelling places. The Fremont people also created some of their distinctive geometric and anthropomorphic rock art on Stansbury Island and near Coyote Canyon in the Oquirrh Mountains, among other places.

After a lengthy developmental period of many centuries (which leads many scholars to believe that the Fremont arose from the Desert Archaic culture) the Fremont culture bloomed from about A.D. 1000 to 1300, at which time—like the neighboring Anasazi—it went into swift and little-understood eclipse. It is believed that much of the region underwent a severe drought lasting many years about A.D. 1300. A drought of even a decade would severely challenge even our modern society with its great technological powers and water-storage reservoirs, and the drought of that period is believed to have been quite a bit longer. Certainly it greatly affected the Fremont people. Also, it is known that at about this time other Indian peoples—ancestors of the historical Indians of the region—began to

immigrate into the area. These aggressive and more nomadic Numic language-speaking (Shoshonean) Indians had effectively displaced the Fremont on the land by about the time of Columbus.⁵

The historic Ute, Shoshoni, Paiute, and Goshute people are descendents of these newcomers, and the Goshutes especially came to occupy what was to become Tooele County. It is believed, in fact, that they came into the area as early as A.D. 1200, a time when the Fremont culture was still flourishing. Their material cultural artifacts such as pottery were crude compared to those of the Fremont; but little archaeological evidence of the early Numic peoples exists, leaving gaps in the historical record that only began to be filled when Euro-Americans began to enter the area some centuries later. It is thought that the newcomers were both more skilled as hunters and more aggressive than the Fremont, thus enabling them to displace the latter when the prolonged drought made living conditions much more difficult and resources more limited.⁶

The newcomers were skilled at living in the hostile environment of the desert areas surrounding what had become the Great Salt Lake. Once Lake Bonneville's surface had dropped below its natural outlet to the north which led to the Snake River Plain and eventually the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean, the waters began to stagnate as they continued to receive sediments with the incoming water but had no outlet to help keep the water fresh. The resulting increase in minerals deposited in the lake continued, eventually resulting in the loss of all but the most specialized of living flora and fauna in the lake and its immediate environs. Rivers and streams from the nearby mountains continued to flow into the lake, and some of the lakeshore environs no doubt provided food for the newcomers; but the desert areas to the west of the lake became increasingly inhospitable to humans.

As mentioned, however, the Paiutes and Goshutes became skilled at living in such an inhospitable land, and although later European observers thought these people to be very backward and primitive because of the foods they gleaned from the land and their simple mode of living without many material cultural resources, the Indians actually had become superbly adapted to living in the difficult land that included Tooele County. They used basic but effective hunting tech-



A Goshute mother and child. (Utah State Historical Society)

niques and tools for the limited game animals in the area, clothed themselves with the skins of rabbits and other creatures they hunted, and lived in caves, dugouts, or simple brush shelters. Their pottery and basketry were crude but effective; their clothing not elaborate but adequate.

The Goshutes hunted the area's big game, primarily antelope and deer, with bows and arrows; smaller game was hunted with sticks, traps, and snares. They also depended on pine nut, chokecherry, sunflower seed, and other plant harvests for food. Because they dug for roots and bulbs, they received the belittling name "Diggers" from white settlers, explorers, and travelers who little understood how well the Indians had adapted to living in the harsh land. Also, it should be mentioned that the arrival of Euro-American immigrants to the region and their subsequent appropriation of the best lands and resources to themselves did actually cause poverty and destitution among many Native Americans who until that time had been self-sufficient and responsible stewards of the land.

The Goshutes were often treated with some contempt due to the fact that they generally were without horses, were often timid, and were less aggressive than many other Indian groups in the West. As a result, to most whites they were just "poor diggers." Their springs and favorite campsites in the county became occupied and natural game and foods such as Settlement Canyon wild rice were disappearing with the coming of whites to the region, particularly the Mormons in 1847.

The harshness of the region actually helped shield the Goshutes from extensive contact with Euro-Americans until the arrival of the Mormons. The first written description known of them is from the journal of Jedediah Smith for 1827, and contact with other explorers and travelers was rare until about the year 1850 when Mormons began to aggressively settle the Tooele Valley.

Mormons settling Tooele County found the Goshutes living in small, basically family, groups in Tooele, Rush, Skull, and Deep Creek valleys. It was inevitable that difficulties between the groups would result. Not only were large groups of settlers colonizing the area, outposts on the Overland Trail at strategic locales and watering spots also further reduced the resources available to the Indians. Even when the Goshutes had the valleys to themselves, subsistence was a struggle; with the newcomers competing with them for what little food there was and appropriating the best lands and resources, the Indians were reduced to more marginal areas and often appealed to their white neighbors for assistance. These appeals usually met with

meager help from the newcomers, who were also endeavoring to survive on the land. As a result, raids began to be made on the settlers's stock, which were increasingly abundant on the county's ever-diminishing rangelands.

Indians reportedly stole three oxen belonging to Ezra T. Benson in the spring of 1850 and then continued stock raids through the summer and fall of that year. On 11 February 1851 some fifty head of horses and cattle were stolen from a herd of about twice that number, prompting a pursuit by militiamen of the Nauvoo Legion sent from Salt Lake City. A blizzard delayed the pursuit, however, and the raiders escaped with their stolen animals.

Raids continued and there were even attacks and rumors of attacks on settlers, prompting the gathering together of settlers and the building of a fort in Tooele in 1851 for protection. One man, Lorenzo D. Custer was killed by Indians he and others were attempting to bring to Tooele on charges of horse theft. Custer was an emigrant bound for California who had wintered in Tooele, working for Ezra Taft Benson. By September of 1851 Mormon church authorities calculated that \$5,000 worth of livestock had been stolen that year in Tooele. This was a substantial loss, made even more significant when compared to the total value of real estate in Tooele Valley being calculated that year as slightly more than \$4,000.⁷ The epistle from the church authorities that cited these figures also mentioned that several Indians had been killed; so the hostilities took a toll on both sides of the conflict.

Although the Mormons tried to follow Brigham Young's maxim that it was cheaper to feed the Indians than to fight them, increasing white settlement and loss of the Indian's traditional resources led to an increasingly desperate situation for the Native Americans that was not fully understood or addressed by the white newcomers. The Goshutes, however, were not many in number, had few resources and weapons, and were not very militaristic; therefore, although they continued random attacks and raids over the years, they were forced to surrender in 1863 after the Mormon militia, the Nauvoo Legion, became actively involved in stopping the raids. U.S. troops under Colonel Patrick Connor also entered into action against the Indians. Even with this involvement, hostilities between Indians and settlers



A Goshute Indian at Ibapah in 1924. (Utah State Historical Society)

in Tooele were much less costly in terms of both lives and property lost than in most other sections of the territory.

On 13 October 1863 the Goshute Indians signed a treaty agreeing

to cease hostilities and allow mines, mills, ranches, roads, and communication lines through their territory, with attendant stations and military posts, as necessary. They did not cede any land, however, or give up their sovereignty, though settlers could graze animals and harvest timber on the land. The government agreed to pay the Goshutes \$1,000 a year for twenty years to compensate for the loss of native food resources. Leading men of the tribe, Tabby, Tintsa-pa-gin, Adaseim, and Harry-nup signed for the Indians, while Indian Superintendent James Doty (later territorial governor) and General Patrick Connor signed for the government. The treaty was ratified by the U.S. Senate in 1864 and announced by President Abraham Lincoln in January 1865.⁸

The region's Goshutes congregated on the western portion of the Deep Creek Range and in Skull Valley, and many soon abandoned their traditional ways of life to attempt farming. In 1856 an "Indian Farm" had been established briefly in the Deep Creeks, but this had been discontinued with the hostilities of the period. Increased settlement by whites made farming even more difficult, and an attempt was made in the 1860s to relocate the Indians to the Uintah Ute Indian Reservation in the Uinta Basin. The Goshutes refused to go, and in response the government ceased paying the yearly allotment of \$1,000, further putting pressure on the Native Americans.

In 1873 Major John Wesley Powell came to Skull Valley on behalf of the U.S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs to determine the valley's adaptability for an Indian reservation. Nothing came of it, as far as is known. In 1874 the Mormon church established an Indian Farm at Deep Springs, and established another farm at Ibapah in 1882.

Conditions for the Goshutes became even more difficult in the later decades of the nineteenth century and early decades of the twentieth as increasing numbers of whites moved to the area to ranch and as miners and industrial workers. The Goshutes were in great part forgotten and neglected by the government and surrounding society, having been reduced to the state of true destitution mistakenly attributed to them by those first explorers and settlers who encountered them.

Finally, on 17 January 1912, some eighty acres in Skull Valley was set apart officially for the local Indians by President William Howard

Taft. This reservation was enlarged to 17,920 acres in 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson. A larger reservation was established in 1914 by President Taft for the Deep Creek Goshutes. It lies in Juab County and in Nevada.

Although neglected subsequently and ignored in great part for years, Goshutes have played an important part in county life and have contributed in the highest measure to society, including service in the armed forces during wartime. Arthur Johnson, for example, was the first Goshute to enter the military during World War II. He died on 12 March 1992 and had been the Goshute Tribal Chairman and also a worker at Dugway Proving Ground for thirty-five years.⁹

Goshutes began to assert themselves increasingly after World War II. For example, when Hercules Corporation leased Goshute lands in Skull Valley to test rocket motors for NASA and the Navy, one of the stipulations in negotiating for use of the land was the hiring of Indian people.

Goshutes at the Skull Valley Reservation in recent years have begun to aggressively seek to improve their economic condition, including exploring the possibility of establishing a temporary depository for spent fuel rods from nuclear reactors. The Goshute council applied for and received a \$100,000 grant in April 1992 to study the feasibility of storing the spent (but still highly radioactive) nuclear rods on the reservation.¹⁰ Some Indian residents oppose it, fearing damage to the delicate environs of the valley. Generally speaking, however, tribal members favor the move, which will give them a much-needed economic boost, and they have received support from some other officials and residents of Tooele County, who also see an economic benefit for the entire area. Governor Mike Leavitt and many other residents throughout the state have opposed the creation of a nuclear waste depository on the land; however. It remains to be seen what will happen, since other state officials in the past have approved hazardous waste dumps in the county. The proposal will doubtless spark controversy in the years to come until some resolution is reached.

Other important changes for the Goshutes are pending, as the tribal government seeks to transform the Skull Valley reservation economically. With some of the Tooele Army Depot being turned back

to the private sector, some members of the Skull Valley Goshute Tribe claim some of that land belongs to them and have appealed to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Resolution of this too is pending. One thing is certain, however: the Goshute Indians of the county have asserted themselves and established a presence not easy to be overlooked or ignored as the twentieth century draws to a close.

ENDNOTES

1. See Orrin Miller, ed., *History of Tooele County Vol. II*, 14–25, 37.
2. Ibid., 19.
3. Ibid., 42. See also Jesse Jennings, *Danger Cave* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah, 1957).
4. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 26. See also David Madsen, *Exploring the Fremont* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Museum of Natural History, 1989).
5. David E. Miller, ed., *Utah History Atlas* (Provo: Brigham Young University Press? Weber State College, 1968), 5, 6; Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 26–36.
6. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 36.
7. Ibid., 74–75.
8. Allan Kent Powell, ed., *Utah History Encyclopedia* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1994), 228–29.
9. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 17 March 1992.
10. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 21 April 1992.

CHAPTER 3

Trappers, Surveyors, and Wagon Trains

THE COMING OF EURO-AMERICANS TO TOOELE COUNTY

European awareness of Tooele County and the surrounding area began early in the eighteenth century when published maps indicated the reported existence of a large lake in the western part of North America.¹ The geographical knowledge of the region was expanded in the summer of 1776 when Father Francisco Atanasio Domínguez and Father Silvestre Vélez de Escalante, two Spanish Catholic churchmen, and their small expedition from Santa Fe visited the Native Americans as far north as Utah Valley on their expedition hoping to find a northern route to the newly established missions and settlements on the Pacific Coast.

The two Catholic friars learned of the lake from the Ute Indians living in Utah Valley. The Indians told them that a larger body of water noxious to the taste was within a day's march to the north. The intrepid friars and their party did not visit the lake; however, leaving to other whites the historical distinction of first viewing and setting foot upon Tooele County. Upon the expedition's return to New Mexico, a map was prepared by Don Bernardo Miera y Pacheco, one of the members of the expedition, which indicated a two-armed lake

(Utah Lake and Great Salt Lake being mistakenly connected) called Laguna De Los Timpanogos, which the map also mistakenly showed could be connected to the Pacific Ocean by a river, the mythical great river of the West, the Rio Buenaventura, futilely searched for by many early explorers of the West. If other Spaniards followed Domínguez and Escalante to the area, their names have not come down through the historical record—Utah, including Tooele County, was left to the Native Americans until the next century as far as history records.

The Fur Trade

There is controversy concerning which Euro-Americans first discovered the Great Salt Lake and visited the future county. It may have been as early as 1811–12 when a group of five trappers from John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company were dispatched south from the Snake River Valley to trap northern Utah, although they did not claim such a distinction. There are claims of discovery made in the 1820s by fur trappers connected with the American fur trade.² In any event, it is reasonable to assume that the northern and western parts of Tooele County were visited by Europeans and Americans in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, although the area was not favored by beaver and hence was not highly traveled or explored by the trappers.

In 1824 fur trapper James Bridger is reported to have “discovered” the Great Salt Lake. Although it is certainly possible that other Spanish explorers entered the county after Domínguez and Escalante and that other trappers may have preceded Bridger to the area, his is the first historical claim of discovery. Bridger himself was a member of the Ashley-Henry Fur Trading Company group that had first entered the region through South Pass in Wyoming in early 1824.

Jim Bridger reportedly discovered the Great Salt Lake after floating in a hide boat down the Bear River after having spent the summer of 1824 trapping around the Bear Lake region. He believed that he had found the ocean due to the vast expanse of the salty water. As he did not conduct an extensive investigation, it is most doubtful that he entered the actual area of present Tooele County. The following year, 1825, trappers James Clyman, Henry Fraeb, Moses (Black) Harris, and Louis Vasquez paddled a boat around the shores of the

lake looking for beaver streams, and to them belongs the historical distinction of first setting foot (or paddle) in the county.³

Though the lake environs were not conducive to trapping, other trappers and explorers traveling through the region soon regularly traveled within the future county. Among them was Jedediah Strong Smith, who was familiar with the Great Salt Lake, calling it his home in the wilderness, and who is known to have first entered future Tooele County from the south in 1827, traveling to the Salt Lake Valley from the Sacramento, California, area. Upon leaving California, where he and his men had been trapping, and after failing to find the mouth of the mythical Rio Buenaventura, which he had hoped would lead him home, Smith crossed the Sierra Nevada on his second attempt but left behind all but two of his men.⁴

During the course of what was to become the first known crossing of the Sierras by white men, two of the horses and one mule froze to death. Descending the eastern flank of the Sierras and traveling south of Walker Lake, the three men journeyed across the Nevada desert until they reached the present Utah-Nevada border near present-day Gandy. Already "condemned to eating the leathery flesh of their horses as they gave out," the men turned north from Gandy to Snake Valley, with the snowcapped Deep Creek Mountains in view, "on the tops of which was some snow and from which ran a creek."⁵ Reaching Fish Springs Valley, Smith and his men crossed the Tooele County line, then headed north around the sunbaked Dugway Range. Suffering greatly from thirst in the arid region, and coming into the Ditto area of present Dugway Proving Grounds and Skull Valley, Smith descended from the high point of a hill and wrote in his journal: "I durst not tell my men of the desolate prospect ahead, but framed my story so as to discourage them as little as possible. . . . But the view ahead was almost hopeless." In Skull Valley the men struggled on, searching for water. At length, Robert Evans laid down under the shade of a small cedar, unable to proceed farther. Smith wrote, "We could do no good by remaining to die with him."⁶

Smith and Silas Goble left Evans and fortunately soon found a lifesaving spring, probably Orrs Spring or Spring Creek, flowing from the western base of the Stansbury Mountains. Taking water back to Evans and reviving him, the three remained at the springs the rest of

the day (25 June); the next day, after traveling ten miles north along the west side of the Stansbury Range, they came within view of the Great Salt Lake, with Smith expressing his joy at his return to his home in the wilderness.⁷

They encountered Goshute Indians who told them that buffalo could be found to the east at "Tuilla"—the Shoshoni word for "tall grass." On 27 June 1827 the three men crossed into Tooele Valley, which Smith called the "Valley of Twenty Wells," due to the springs he found at the Grantsville area and at other locations in the valley.⁸

The lake and surrounding countryside continued to draw interest from explorers and from later scientists. In 1833 Joseph R. Walker was sent by U.S. Captain Benjamin L.E. Bonneville with sixty-six men to reconnoiter the area on their way to California via the northwestern side of the Great Salt Lake. Walker recognized that the Great Basin was indeed a closed basin from which no water flowed. Although Bonneville himself never saw the area, his name was given to the ancestral lake and the salt flats left by that lake near the shores of its alkaline remnant.⁹

Wagon Trains and Explorers

The fur trade soon declined, and the trapper era was virtually over by the mid-1840s; however, by this time Americans had begun migrating west to the Oregon country (disputed between the United States and Great Britain) and the Mexican province of California. Emigrants generally traveled north of the future Utah county along the developing Oregon Trail or south of it along the Old Spanish Trail. However, in the summer of 1841 an intrepid group heading to California from Missouri known to history as the Bartleson-Bidwell company turned south from the Oregon Trail near present Soda Springs, Idaho, and followed the Bear River south.

The wagon party of thirty-two members was led by Captain John Bartleson, with John Bidwell as secretary and historian.¹⁰ They had left Missouri in May 1841 and had divided at Soda Springs on Bear River from thirty-four others on their planned path to California. The wagon train traveled northwest around the Great Salt Lake, then south to Owl Spring. One wagon had to be abandoned along the eastern base of the Pilot Range. They came to Donner Spring, then



The Pony Express Trail crossed Tooele County on its east/west course. (U.S. Army Photograph)

passed over the present Tooele County line. The group was ignorant of the route but was blessed with good luck, and their success in crossing the forbidding desert of northwestern Utah and eastern Nevada inspired others to follow.¹¹ Nineteen-year-old wife and mother Nancy Kelsey has been credited by local historians as the first white woman to enter Tooele County. However, unless Kelsey was the only woman in the group, it must be pure conjecture who would have been the first to actually enter the future county's boundaries.

After reaching the Nevada line, the remainder of the party's wagons had to be abandoned, and their possessions were packed on the remaining animals. Continuing south along the eastern base of the Pilot Range, which extends north from Wendover roughly along the Utah-Nevada line, they encamped at springs along the mountain base. They were probably the first whites to visit Pilot Springs. Later, after, much tribulation, the party crossed the high Sierras. One member of the party, Nicholas Dawson, said "he would never forget the

sight of Nancy Kelsey “walking barefoot, high in the mountains, holding her baby in her arms. There were no horses left to ride, and her shoes had given out [and] she was an inspiration to the others in the party.”¹²

In 1843 Captain John C. Frémont, a member of the U.S. Corps of Topographical Engineers, with some of his men made a scientific reconnaissance of the Great Salt Lake using an India-rubber boat and visited Fremont Island, later named in his honor. Frémont returned in 1845 to explore more of the lake, particularly its south shore.¹³ Fremont recognized the Great Basin as a basin with no external drainage of water. He then left for California, pioneering a route from the Grantsville Springs to the Pilot Range: from Redlum Spring to Pilot Peak. Frémont was guided by Christopher (Kit) Carson and August Archambeau. The party left the southern shores of the Great Salt Lake and traveled through the north end of Tooele Valley to the springs near Grantsville. They rounded the Stansbury Mountains into Skull Valley, crossed the Cedar Mountains, and blazed a new trail across the salt desert, Frémont named the mountain which had been his guide across the barren desert Pilot Peak. It is located just west of the present state (and Tooele County) line in eastern Nevada.¹⁴

This route across the salt flat desert of Tooele County became a key portion of the route that became known as the Hastings Cutoff, a short-cut on the California immigrant route advertised by Lansford Hastings, who had backtracked Frémont’s trail on horseback and hoped that his promotion of the route would help his aspiring political career in California with grateful immigrants. Although the route was used by some with satisfactory results, it has achieved infamy because it was taken in 1846 by the ill-fated Donner-Reed party.

Mountain man James Clyman knew the country between Skull Valley and Pilot Peak quite well. When Hastings was urging wagon trains to cut across the deserts of Tooele County to save time on their way to California, Clyman advised against it. In the summer of 1846 the Russell-Bryant party successfully used Hastings Cutoff, but they were using mules and not wagons to transport their goods. Instead of rounding the Stansbury Range on the north, the party determined on a course directly through the mountains. Ascending North Willow Canyon, southwest of Grantsville, they dropped down into Skull



Tooele in 1902. (Utah State Historical Society)

Valley. From the Cedar Mountains, Pilot Peak could be viewed about seventy miles away.¹⁵ James Hudspeth, who earlier had accompanied Hastings on the route, went with the travelers as far as Skull Valley; he then advised them to “ride like hell” in crossing the desert to the west.

Succeeding wagons through Tooele County on Hasting’s Cutoff were the Harlan-Young and the Heinrich Lienhard companies. Like the Bryant-Russell group, both parties stopped at springs near the site of future Grantsville but chose to round the Stansbury Mountains, not to cross them. The wagon train led by Samuel Young and George Harlan earlier had been able to negotiate Weber Canyon after an incredibly difficult time. The group then passed along the eastern and southern shores of the Great Salt Lake, traveling through Tooele Valley and future Tooele County, as they were able to negotiate the salt flats after two days and a night of continuous travel.¹⁶

The Harlan-Young party was the first to take wagons across Tooele’s salt desert. Thirty miles short of Pilot Springs, they had to

abandon wagons and then spend days going back to recover them. The Lienhard company fared better—they did not lose a single ox during the crossing.¹⁷

The Donner-Reed Party

The Donner-Reed party was not as fortunate. This company was generally prosperous, and their heavily laden wagons caused them to fall behind other emigrants on the trail that summer. Although the party was warned by mountain men James Clyman and Joseph Walker not to take Hastings Cutoff, the group did not heed the advice, perhaps hoping to make up for time they had lost earlier in the journey. Unfortunately, the difficult trip through the Wasatch Mountains further slowed them and weakened their teams.

The Donner-Reed party left the Jordan River in the Salt Lake Valley near the present-day Utah State Fairgrounds on 29 August 1846, soon entering into future Tooele County.¹⁸ They had trekked through thirty-six miles of mountain terrain before entering the Salt Lake Valley, cutting away dense underbrush.¹⁹ They were greatly slowed, and their animals much jaded, by this ordeal. Earlier, while encamped on the Weber River, they had sent James Reed and two other men ahead to locate their guide—Lansford Hastings.²⁰ They found Hastings camped on the south side of the Great Salt Lake with an advance party. Hastings had gone ahead with another group but was passing back along the lines of wagons between Skull Valley and the Weber River trying to assist more than one party. He agreed to accompany Reed some of the way back.²¹

Climbing the summit of mountains above the present site of Salt Lake City (probably Parley's Canyon)²², Hastings pointed out the way. Reed took notes, making blazes on the trees to help him retrace his course if the Donner party decided to take the new route, instead of trailing down the Weber River into the Salt Lake Valley, as the advance party had done.²³ The company agreed to try the new route across the mountains through Little East Canyon, Little Dutch Fork, Mountain Dell, and finally Emigration Canyon from Henefer to the Salt Lake Valley. The path they cut later was called by the Mormons the "most arduous and hazardous" of their more than 1,000-mile journey.²⁴

As the Donner party came out of Emigration Canyon, they were pleased to find "the peaceful stillness and loveliness of this most interesting valley," a striking contrast to their ordeal in the mountains.²⁵ In the distance the glistening surface of the Great Salt Lake could be discerned; and they hoped to make up time lost in the mountains crossing the pleasant plains of the Great Salt Lake Valley. They trailed from the Jordan River to the southern shore of the lake.²⁶ Charles Kelly records that they crossed the plains of the Salt Lake Valley to a spring at Lakepoint in Tooele Valley, with Abode Rock two miles west.²⁷ One of the party's wagons, which had trailed behind, came into the encampment bearing a dead member—Luke Halloran. He was buried in the future county, reportedly near the grave of John Hargrave, a member of the Harlan-Young party, who had died earlier in the year as that group traversed the county.

From their encampment in the shadow of the Oquirrh Range at Lakepoint, they followed the solid ground above the shoreline of the Great Salt Lake towards Abode Rock and then circled the Millpond. Heading west, they camped at Hasting's Wells, which they renamed Twenty Wells, and which today is Grantsville.²⁸ Natural wells found in the fields about three miles northwest of Grantsville's present main street. One later emigrant party was troubled by their "cattle falling into them."²⁹ Some of the wells were sounded "with lines of more than seventy feet, without finding bottom."³⁰

From Grantsville the trail west took the Donner party members around the Stansbury Mountains; at the point of this range, with their backs to the Great Salt Lake, they began finding brackish springs and salty grass—the water was bad for five miles—until they reached Burnt Spring.³¹ Passing Muskrat Springs, they found sweet water at what was later Iosepa in Skull Valley. Since good green grass was abundant at the future site of Iosepa, the party cut and loaded some of it onto their wagons and packed water in preparation for their desert crossing, which they knew from a note and Hasting's "Emigrant Book," which they carried, was two days and two nights away.³²

Their road skirted a butte on the north end, then looped southwest, until water was reached rather high on the Cedar Mountains at Redlum Spring. The water was brackish. (Redlum was later known as

"Dell spring."³³ South about one mile from Redlum is Henry's Spring; five Miles south and one mile east is Sulphur Spring.) After 2.5 miles over steep hills which the Donners may have had to double up teams to ascend, the pass was entered. Frémont had gone over the same ground to Redlum in 1845; but the pass in the Cedar Mountains was later named after Hastings.³⁴

At the crest of the Cedar Mountains, the Donner party members looked across at their destination to Pilot Peak, their watering hole seventy miles away.³⁵ They clambered down Hastings's Pass, and then turned northwest to the last ridge before hitting the salt flats. They traveled through the pass which bears the party's name today, near the Box Elder-Tooele County line (the gap which separates Silver Island from Carter Island).³⁶ Twelve more miles would be required before they reached the springs at the foot of Nevada's Pilot Peak.

The crossing was a nightmare for the party—thirst-crazed oxen died or ran away, and wagons and many goods were abandoned on the salt flats—especially after the wagons became mired in the mud. About two-thirds of the way across the Great Salt Desert, and after two nights and one day of suffering from thirst and heat by day and piercing cold at night, many of the emigrants abandoned their wagons. James Reed went ahead to the springs on horseback to get water. He found both his animals and their drivers missing upon his return—the drivers had unhooked the oxen too soon and they had run frantically away. Eighteen head of Reed's cattle were lost.³⁷

For well over a hundred years remains of the Donner party's wagons and goods could be found in the desert lands of Tooele County, as could tracks of their vehicles until the tracks were finally obliterated in the 1980s by the flooded desert lands. The Donner-Reed party must have hoped their trials were over when they finally completed the desert crossing of Tooele County, in which happily no human lives were lost. As history records, however, future trials awaited them and they were finally trapped in the Sierra Nevada by early winter snows. Many perished and some of the survivors resorted to cannibalism in an attempt to save themselves before they were finally rescued in the spring of 1847.

Hastings Cutoff became synonymous with misfortune and it was subsequently avoided by almost all travelers; but Tooele was soon to

be the scene of renewed white visitation and settlement. In 1847, Mormon emigrants led by Brigham Young followed the Donner Trail to the Salt Lake Valley, where they elected to stay and begin the establishment of their kingdom of God in what was still at the time Mexican territory. Within a very short time, as will be detailed, the new immigrants had expanded into future Tooele County.

More Soldiers

In 1849, U.S. Army Captain Howard Stansbury was ordered by the U.S. government to make an extensive survey of the Great Salt Lake and surrounding region while researching possible sites for military posts and incidentally reporting upon the new Mormon settlement of the area. Stansbury and his survey party were in the Great Salt Lake region in 1849–50 and spent a great deal of time in Tooele County. Stansbury grazed his animals in the northeast part of Tooele Valley, and under the edge of Adobe Rock, described by Edwin Bryant earlier as “rising in tower-like shapes . . . to the height of sixty or eighty feet”³⁸ built a shelter of adobe for his herdsman. Stansbury Island (which was named in honor of Stansbury) was known earlier as “Kimball’s Island” because Heber C. Kimball grazed his cattle on the island from his Grantsville ranch headquarters. Adobe Rock can be viewed today where it overlooks Tooele Valley on Utah Highway 36, one-half mile north of Mills Junction.

Stansbury discovered that much of the lake’s shoreline was barren of vegetation and lacked potable water. During part of his party’s surveying work around the west side of the lake, Stansbury’s expedition walked for sixty hours without finding grass or water. After several days of hard travel in which some of their mules nearly gave out and the party began to even despair for their own lives, the expedition reached the springs at Grantsville. Stansbury described it at that time as a “noble spring of fresh, cold water, with abundance of excellent grass.”³⁹ The spring area provided an important respite for overland travelers. Further intensive scientific study of the lake and surrounding country continued.

With some distrust and suspicion evident from both the Mormons and the government surveyors and their accompanying military personnel, both Brigham Young and Stansbury worked to



The Tooele City Hall was constructed in 1867. (Utah State Historical Society)

keep the expedition's relations with the Mormons cordial. Stansbury accepted Young's secretary, Albert Carrington, into the party to assist with the work. Carrington, in turn, kept Young and other Mormon

church leaders informed about the expedition's activities. An island in the lake was named for Carrington; another, as noted earlier, was named for Stansbury.

After helping Stansbury map the Great Salt Lake in the fall of 1849, Lieutenant John Gunnison spent the winter of 1849–50 writing a book about the local theology and culture called *The Mormons, or Latter-Day Saints, in the Valley of the Great Salt Lake*, considered a rather impartial account written on the subject during that period of growing animosity between Mormons and many of their fellow Americans and government officials. Following his winter of writing in the city, Gunnison once again set out on the lake surveying, where “he observed the Charley White family at work [at Black Rock] on the southern shore of the lake.” The Whites used an upthrust rock dividing present Tooele and Salt Lake counties as a corral for their animals, which grazed in the hills above.⁴⁰

Tooele was at that early time being eyed as a grazing ground for the rapidly expanding livestock herds of the Salt Lake Valley residents, particularly in light of the continued influx of immigrants and their animals to the Mormon Zion. Charley White had advertised from his Black Rock Ranch in the *Deseret News* of 30 November 1850 that he was prepared “to drive all kinds of stock to his herdground at Black Rock 20 miles west . . . and [that the drive would commence] on Monday of each week, starting from widow Whites’ in the 13th Ward at 9 o’clock A.M.” The summer following, however White lost most of his own livestock to Indian stock raids in Tooele County.⁴¹

James and Hannah Huntsman, neighbors of Charley White, had located on a sulphur spring three miles to the west. Here they “set up a little salt works,” boiling down the water in exchange for “Squash and other produce.” Since this proved to be “not a very paying business,” the couple moved to Tooele in 1854.⁴²

Gunnison’s comments show that Tooele County was beginning to be settled and utilized by Mormons spreading out from their major settlement of Great Salt Lake City. One further U.S. military expedition should be noted here, as it was connected with Gunnison and occurred before the major military troubles between the government and the Mormon church in the late 1850s, the so-called Utah War.

Lt. Colonel Edward Steptoe arrived the last day of August 1854 in Salt Lake City at the head of detachment of 175 troops. Among their purposes for being in the area was to investigate the deaths of Lieutenant Gunnison and seven members of his surveying party. The group had been massacred by Indians the previous summer while working near the Sevier River in central Utah. Steptoe was to investigate any Mormon complicity in the murders, rumors of which were circulating among opponents of the Latter-day Saints. Steptoe's party's animals (some 450 mules and 300 horses) were left in the care of soldiers in Rush Valley, where quarters, stables, and corrals were erected on the east shore of Shambip Lake and where grass for grazing reportedly was waist high. A small military reservation known as Camp Relief was laid out in Rush Valley, which also proved to be a good place to winter stock.⁴³ The town of Stockton was later built at the site of Camp Relief.

The soldiers spent some time in the nearby canyons building roads and bridges.⁴⁴ One bridge on Stockton Pass is still standing. The soldiers made one road to get timber out in a nearby canyon. The bridge and the canyon became known respectively as Soldiers Bridge and Soldier Canyon.

From Rush Valley, Steptoe sent out Oliver and Allen Huntington to check a more direct route west through Nevada to California, his final destination, in order to find an alternative to the most-used northerly Humboldt River route. The Huntingtons left in September and were directed to try to follow Lt. Edward Beckwith's route. Beckwith had been an assistant to Gunnison and had taken over leadership of Gunnison's railroad surveying expedition after the latter's death. In 1854 Beckwith was authorized to follow the 41st parallel west to California to map a proposed railroad route. The Huntingtons returned in November with a glowing report of the new route, but Steptoe eventually took the old more-trusted one, employing the services of a new guide, Orrin Porter Rockwell, the notorious bodyguard of Mormon church leaders and law-enforcer, who among his extensive holdings in the territory had ranching enterprises in Tooele County.⁴⁵

Steptoe and most of his soldiers spent the winter of 1854–55 in Salt Lake City. While there, Steptoe was offered the position of gov-

error of the territory, but refused. He cleared the Mormons of any complicity or charges in Gunnison's death and left for California. In the spring, when Steptoe's troops left, Brigham Young recommended the services of a blacksmith from Tooele—Philip DeLaMare. His responsibility for the next eighteen months was to repair wagons and shoe mules and horses for the army. He was with that military company until news came of the destruction of crops in Tooele Valley by grasshoppers and an attendant famine in 1856. He took his pay of "8 square one ounce gold pieces," purchased dry goods, clothing, and food, loaded these materials into wagons and returned home to help relieve the suffering not only of his family but of others in Tooele, part of the "kingdom of God" that the Mormons were endeavoring to build and protect.⁴⁶

ENDNOTES

1. David E. Miller, "The Great Salt Lake: Its History and Economic Development" (Ph.D. diss., University of Southern California, 1947), 18.

2. There are a number of famous fur trappers who had an early association with the Great Salt Lake and surrounding territory. They include James Bridger, Etienne Provost, Peter Skene Ogden, John H. Weber, and Jedediah Strong Smith.

3. Miller, "The Great Salt Lake," 81.

4. William B. Smart, *Old Utah Trails* (Salt Lake City: Utah Geographic, 1988), 34–35.

5. Dale L. Morgan, *Jedediah Smith* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1953), 211; Ronald R. Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections* (Salt Lake City: n.p., 1984), 36.

6. Smart, *Old Utah Trails*, 38.

7. Morgan, *Jedediah Smith*, 211–13; Ouida Blanthorn, "Tooele Footpaths, Wheeltracks," *Tooele Bulletin*, 21 May 1991.

8. Orrin P. Miller, ed., *History of Tooele County Vol. II*, 42–43.

9. Bernard DeVoto, *Across the Wide Missouri* (New York: Bonanza Books, 1957), 146–54; Hubert H. Bancroft, *History of Nevada* (San Francisco, History Co., 1890), 41.

10. LeRoy R. Hafen and Carl Coke Rister, *Western America* (New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1941), 350.

11. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 68.

12. Harold Curran, *Fearful Crossing* (Las Vegas: Nevada Publications,

1982), 21; William Barnett, "The First Overland Letter to California," *Overland Journal* 2 (1993): 25.

13. See John C. Fremont, *Report of the Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains in the Year 1842, and to Oregon and North California in the Years 1843–1844* (London: Wiley & Putnam, 1846).

14. Mary Lee Spence, "The Fremonts and Utah," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 44 (Fall 1976): 290–94; *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 21 March 1991.

15. Smart, *Old Utah Trails*, 61–62; J. Roderick Korns, ed., "Journal of Edwin Bryant," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 19 (Winter 1951): 92; Henry J. Webb, "Edwin Bryant's Trail Through Western Utah," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 29 (Spring 1961): 130.

16. Miller, *Tooele County History*, 69.

17. Smart, *Old Utah Trails*, 64. See also Dale Morgan, *The Great Salt Lake* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1973).

18. Morgan, *Great Salt Lake*, 171.

19. C.F. McGlashan, *History of the Donner Party* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1968), 27.

20. Walter M. Stookey, *Fatal Decision* (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1950), 91.

21. Charles Kelly, book review of Heinrich Lienhard's journal, *From St. Louis to Sutter's Fort, 1846*, *Utah Historical Quarterly* 29 (Spring 1961): 181.

22. Morgan, *Great Salt Lake*, 168–69.

23. *Ibid.*, 168.

24. Fannie J. Richins and Maxine R. Wright, *Henefer Our Valley Home* (Salt Lake City: Utah Printing Co., n.d.), 185.

25. J. Quinn Thornton, *The California Tragedy* (Oakland: Biobooks, 1945), 154.

26. McGlashan, *History of the Donner Party*, 33; Dale L. Morgan, *Overland in 1846* (Georgetown, CA: The Press, 1963), 419.

27. Charles Kelly, *Salt Desert Trails* (Salt Lake City: Western Epics, 1969), 154.

28. Thornton, *California Tragedy*, 13; Ouida Blanthorn, "Donner Party Tracks through Tooele County," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 10 October 1991, 37.

29. Morgan, *Overland in 1846*, 230.

30. Thornton, *California Tragedy*, 13.

31. J. Roderick Korns, "Journal of James Clyman," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 19 (Winter 1951): 34.

32. McGlashan, *History of the Donner Party*, 34.

33. Morgan, *Overland in 1846*, 266, 420.
34. Morgan, *Great Salt Lake*, 150; T. Edgar Lyon, "This is the Place," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 27 (Summer 1959): 205.
35. Kelly, *Salt Desert Trails*, 150.
36. Henry J. Webb, "Edwin Bryant's Trail through Western Utah," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 29 (Spring 1961): 133–37. The pass between Silver Island and Crater Island was named by Warren L. Anderson in 1956. See also Morgan, *Great Salt Lake*, 14.
37. Kelly, *Salt Desert Trails*, 96–97.
38. Korn, "Journal of Edwin Bryant," 78.
39. Howard Stansbury, *Exploration and Survey of the Valley of the Great Salt Lake* (Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo & Co., 1852), 118.
40. Brigham D. Madsen, "John W. Gunnison's Letters to his Mormon Friend, Albert Carrington," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 59 (Summer 1991): 280; Madsen, *A Forty-Niner in Utah*, 129.
41. Ouida Blanthorn, "The Many Owners of Black Rock," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 5 June 1990; *Desert News*, 14 June 1851.
42. Blanthorn, "The Many Owners of Black Rock."
43. Orson F. Whitney, *Popular History of Utah* (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1916), 106–7.
44. "Brief History of Stockton, Utah," (1976), 5.
45. James H. Simpson, *Report of Explorations Across the Great Basin in 1859* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1983), 24.
46. Ouida Blanthorn, "Servant of Sugar," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 8 November 1984.

CHAPTER 4

THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF TOOELE COUNTY

The story of the establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons or LDS) by church prophet and founder Joseph Smith, Jr., and the subsequent growth of the church and migration of the faithful from New York state to Ohio to Missouri and then to Illinois is well known and need not be reiterated here. Similarly, the murder of Joseph Smith in 1844 and the subsequent expulsion in 1846 of the Mormons from their city of Nauvoo, Illinois, and their migration west to the Salt Lake Valley under the leadership of Brigham Young have been well treated elsewhere. The Mormon interaction with what soon was to become Tooele County began shortly after the arrival of the Latter-day Saints in July 1847 in the Salt Lake Valley.

On 27 July 1847, three days after the main Mormon pioneer company entered the Salt Lake Valley, a group of church leaders including Brigham Young and Orson Pratt traveled with a few others to examine the Great Salt Lake. The men bathed in the lake and then at least some are reported to have continued west into what is now Tooele County. Although they returned that day to the encamp-

ment that was to become Salt Lake City, the men had seen enough of Tooele Valley to conclude that it could provide grazing range for their livestock. Orson Pratt's journal entry for 27 July 1847 states, "We continued on about four miles farther [beyond Black Rock], when we reached a valley putting up to the southward from the lake." Following the exploration of Tooele Valley in July 1847 by Young, Pratt, Willard Richards, and George A. Smith, the valley was visited from time to time by other Salt Lake Mormons.

With the increasing influx of people and livestock into the Salt Lake Valley, nearby grazing land soon became overgrazed and in danger of being depleted, leading to the search for new cattle ranges. Before the end of 1847 Mormons had extended north into the Bountiful area with their animals, and perhaps as early as the summer or fall of 1848 they were pushing west into Tooele Valley to graze their animals.¹ The animals were accompanied by herders, who established temporary camps. No permanent structures were erected until men of Captain Howard Stansbury's expedition to the area built a cabin in late 1849 or early 1850.²

Contemporary with the Mormons' entrance into and beginning settlement of the Great Basin, was the Mexican War between Mexico and the United States—a relatively brief struggle won in 1848 by the vastly larger and better-equipped forces of the United States. As part of the peace terms of the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ending the war, Mexico ceded its claims to what is now the American West and Southwest, including land that became the state of Utah. Mormons were thus again subject to the government from which they had fled; but they were determined to do what they could to dominate the region and determine their own lifeways and destiny.

For its part, the U.S. government was determined to control its newly acquired lands. As part of this initial effort, a surveying and reconnaissance expedition under the command of Captain Howard Stansbury was sent to the region of the Great Salt Lake in 1849, as mentioned in the previous chapter. The stated purpose of the expedition was to survey the area of the lake and its environs, providing information about available resources for supplying westward-bound emigrants (including those of the rapidly growing California gold rush), and locating a site for a military fort; an unstated objective was

to report upon the Mormons and their attitude toward the government.

Stansbury was assisted by Lieutenant John Gunnison, also of the U.S. Army Corps of Topographical Engineers. Both men were trained surveyors; Stansbury also had diplomatic skills which he put to good use convincing Brigham Young and the Mormons of the expedition's peaceful intentions. Gunnison was an intelligent observer and his subsequent book *The Mormons* helped give the nation a look at the people inhabiting the Great Basin. Stansbury's official report of the expedition, *An Expedition to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake of Utah* (1852), provides valuable information about the earliest period of the Mormon settlement of the area, including Tooele County.³

The Stansbury group arrived in Salt Lake City in the summer of 1849 and commenced surveying activities. In October, Stansbury began a circuit of the lake and desert, traveling to Pilot Peak and then retracing part of the Hastings Cutoff route on the return, entering Tooele County in the process. Crossing the valley in November 1849 Stansbury wrote: "This valley is called 'Tuilla Valley' by the Mormons and forms an excellent pasturage for numerous herds of cattle wintered here by them under the charge of keepers. The grass is very abundant and numerous springs are found on both sides of it."⁴

Before the expedition members completed their work and left for Washington on 28 August 1850 they spent a considerable amount of time in Tooele County, establishing a base camp near Dunn Spring, west of Adobe Rock in Tooele Valley. However, the information they gathered and published was mainly related to their surveying objectives. They did construct an adobe shelter in Tooele Valley for those watching over their animals, which they grazed there, and they noted on the official map published in 1852 that a sawmill existed in the county. On that map were the spellings "Tuilla Valley" and "Tooele City"—revealing the unresolved spelling of the name at the time. Brigham Young resolved the difficulty, establishing Tooele as the official spelling.⁵ Stansbury's name was given to the largest permanent island in the Great Salt Lake (another was named after Gunnison) as well as a mountain range within the county.

Tooele Settlement

The actual settlement of Tooele County is somewhat obscure. Certainly by 1848 livestock were being grazed in the county and perhaps some settlement was underway or at least contemplated. Stansbury passed through Tooele Valley on 6 and 7 November 1849 and commented on the number of animals being grazed in the valley, and there are reports of Indian raids on the cattle before permanent settlers arrived.⁶ Stansbury made no mention of settlement in Tooele at the time of his November visit. By consensus of historians, 1849 is the year of the first permanent settlement of Tooele County, but early written histories of the area conflict on almost all other matters discussed.

Tooele was not officially initially colonized by a designated ("called") group of Mormons as were most of the other early church settlements in the Great Basin; however, church members were soon sent to the area and it does appear that church leader and apostle Ezra T. Benson was at least looked to for early local leadership, as he had established the county's earliest mill sites. Benson was one of the leaders of the emigration of Mormons to the Great Basin from their holding camps at Winter Quarters and elsewhere in the Midwest, and many of the earliest settlers of the county had been in emigrant trains led by him.⁷

Apostle Ezra Taft Benson had first come to the Salt Lake area in Brigham Young's pioneer company of 1847. After arriving in the Salt Lake Valley, Benson was sent back to the Missouri River to supervise others preparing for their journey west, and he did not enter the Salt Lake Valley a second time until 28 October 1849. He then was captain of a company and brought with him upon his return John Rowberry and his wife Eliza and others destined to play a prominent role in the founding of Tooele City.⁸

Official records from 1849 indicate that Benson petitioned to construct a sawmill in the county on Pine Creek and on Small Creek as well as a gristmill on Big Creek. The petition was approved on 24 November on condition that Benson build roads into the canyons for public use.⁹ Brothers Cyrus and Judson Tolman had been hired by Benson along with millwright Phineas R. Wright to find the mill sites

and build the mills. In December 1849 Benson hired John Rowberry and Robert Skelton to take his cattle to winter in Tooele Valley. A year and a half later, at the time of the official census, all five men were still in the valley.

The sawmill at Settlement Canyon was the site of the first housing in the winter of 1849–50, when temporary shelters were constructed for the first settlers. It is unlikely that any logging or construction work on what was then called Settlement Canyon Creek took place before the necessary permission was obtained. The late winter founding date is also likely as Benson could not have hired his employees until his late October entrance to the territory. Another justification for the later date is the hurriedly assembled living quarters set up at the mouth of the canyon.

Judson Tolman was a woodsman from Maine. He was twenty-three years old in 1850, and his wife, Sarah, was expecting her third child, which would be born in February 1850. One of their little daughters died as they were crossing the plains and they had another young daughter with them.¹⁰ Twenty-seven-year-old Josiah Call, his wife, Henrietta, and their two-month-old son, Josiah Cyril, were among the first families to settle in the county. Call reportedly whistled the tunes for the Christmas dance held by the pioneers in December 1849. Eight years later he was killed by Indians near Fillmore. Sam Meacham and his wife, Sarah Call, age twenty-one (a sister to Josiah Call), and their eighteen-month-old son, Sam, were other early settlers.¹¹ These families only stayed a few years in Tooele: the Meacham family moved to California, the Calls to Fillmore, and the Tolmans to Bountiful. In the "Tolman Book of Remembrance," compiled by Judson Leon and Velva Elizabeth Davids, Judson Tolman stated, "I helped to fight the crickets in 1849 and that year together with two families, settled in Tooele, Utah. . . . In 1850 I was one of a company of thirty-one called by Brigham Young to serve as a guard on the Southwestern frontier on Utah, under Captain Phineas White [Wright]. . . . In the fall of 1854 I moved to Bountiful, Utah."

These three families came into Tooele Valley and camped the first night in Pine Canyon. The next day they followed the mountains on the east and camped near a stream just a little west of Little Mountain. They could see across the valley to the blue water of the

Great Salt Lake. Behind them were the mountains of Settlement Canyon. Brigham Young began to send more settlers to Tooele Valley including Judson's brothers Cyrus and Benjamin Tolman. The first wife of Cyrus had been killed in a fall from a runaway wagon; he had a five-year-old daughter, Julia, by her, and when he came to Tooele he had with him his second wife, Alice, who turned sixteen in January 1850, along with a little son, Cyrus. Benjamin Tolman was twenty years old and still single.¹²

That winter was especially severe, and the pioneers greatly suffered. Many of their livestock froze to death. Snow began to fall early in the year, and one snowstorm lasted two days. Men found many of their cattle down in the willows frozen stiff.¹³ The first winter on Settlement Creek was miserable for the Tooele pioneers, apparently convincing them in the spring to construct private single dwellings in place of the common ones that had been hastily erected. John Rowberry located his house of cottonwood logs in the new settlement a short distance west of the old dwellings.

Tooele was linked to the territorial capital by one of the first two territorial roads, which were constructed in 1850 (the other ran through Salt Lake City, connecting Ogden on the north with Provo to the south). In 1850, permanent structures began to be built, including one by John Rowberry, which served as the community's meeting place until a log schoolhouse was constructed later in the year.¹⁴ The Mormon church first organized a ward in Tooele in late April or early May 1850 (dates vary) and John Rowberry was sustained as the first bishop, with Phineas Wright and Judson Tolman as his counselors. The bishopric also supervised civic affairs, since no separate civil government was established at the time.

The spring of 1850 the Tooele pioneers were greatly concerned about their dwindling food supply. Because of this, after the snow had melted and the ground had dried sufficiently, they wasted no time working the plot of land they had selected for farming. First clearing the ground with their plows, they then planted approximately fifty acres of grain (using all the seed they had), bringing water from Settlement Canyon Creek in irrigation ditches they had dug. Located northwest of the settlement and north of the original bed of Settlement Creek, this farmland was called the "Big Field."

Each family head was responsible for erecting and maintaining a certain amount of the fence surrounding the Big Field. In addition to their portion of the products of the farmland in the field, each family also had an individual vegetable garden.¹⁵

The first white child born in Tooele was either Permelia (Amelia) Rowberry (daughter of John and Eliza Rowberry) or William H. Jackson (son of Henry W. and Eliza Jackson)—both were listed as six months old according to the June 1851 census. Mary E. Lee (daughter of Francis and Jane V. Lee) was five months old when the census was taken.

In addition to warm weather and wildflowers, the spring of 1850 brought an infestation of Mormon crickets that ate everything green in their path. The newly planted Tooele fields were just turning green when the crickets emerged from the foothills and headed directly towards them. According to some later local accounts, residents of the tiny community did everything that they could think of to divert the hordes of invaders; but their efforts were futile.

On the verge of despair, Bishop Rowberry called the people together in his home, where they prayed for divine assistance. At the conclusion of the prayer, Judson Tolman spoke “in tongues,” and the bishop interpreted the message: “If the people would be faithful, the crickets would be turned away and they would raise a good harvest.” According to the account, when the people returned to their fields after the meeting they discovered that the crickets had reversed their course and were heading back towards the hills. In a few days, the insects had disappeared.¹⁶ Though the account may have been varnished over the years, it nonetheless illustrates the challenges facing the local settlers and their willingness to work to succeed with every means at their disposal.

To strengthen the struggling settlement in the fall of 1850, several new families were sent out from the main settlement at Salt Lake City. Among them were the families of Benjamin Clegg, William Sagers, Royal Barney, Joseph Robinson, Joseph Boyington, Francis Gunnell, and Thomas Heath.¹⁷

At the time of the census (actually taken in 1851), Tooele was one of the six official counties of the Territory of Utah, established by Congress in 1850. The county had been created by the Mormon pro-

visional State of Deseret assembly on 31 January 1850 as "Tuilla" County. By the summer of 1851 the federal census taker found 152 people living in the county. They were scattered near the springs and streambeds, most living near Settlement Creek, close to the site of the future city of Tooele. There were thirty-two households in the county, including a few run by plural wives of polygamous Mormon men. At least two non-Mormons (called "gentiles" by the Latter-day Saints) were listed as inhabitants of the valley—both had intended to travel in search of gold in California but had tarried in Tooele County. One, Samuel Lee, remained and was later baptized a Mormon; the other later continued to the gold fields. The census taker found eighty-five males and sixty-seven females in the county. The women ranged in age from fifteen to forty-four. More than thirty of the inhabitants were children under four years of age. For protection, the settlers had begun construction of a fort near Settlement Creek.¹⁸

In September 1851 Elizabeth Lee assisted her husband, Alfred, in loading up the family wagons in Salt Lake City for the journey to Tooele. Earlier, after meeting in the Salt Lake City Tithing Office with the leaders of the new community to be called "Tooele," Alfred Lee and his brother Eli were convinced a future looked bright in the new location. Elizabeth Lee's sons Tom and Samuel had gone to the bench area of the Salt Lake Valley to round up their animals for the trip and met their uncle Francis Lee coming out of a canyon with an immigrant train. After a joyous reunion, Francis and his wife, Jane, decided to go to Tooele after paying a visit to Brigham Young's office the following day. They were told by Young, "You have arrived just in time, Francis. . . . We have just called Alfred to go to Tooele. Will you go with him?"¹⁹

Two days later, before the crack of dawn, the four families began their journey. It took them two days to make the trip. They arrived in the afternoon of the second day, and a later family history reported that "after supper Elizabeth and Jane Lee climbed to the top of the hill at the south. Gazing out over the dusty, sunburned valley in the last rays of the sun, Elizabeth exclaimed, 'This is a good valley. With water and muscle we can make this into a new garden of Eden. I never want to move again.'²⁰

In the new community of Tooele care for their families con-

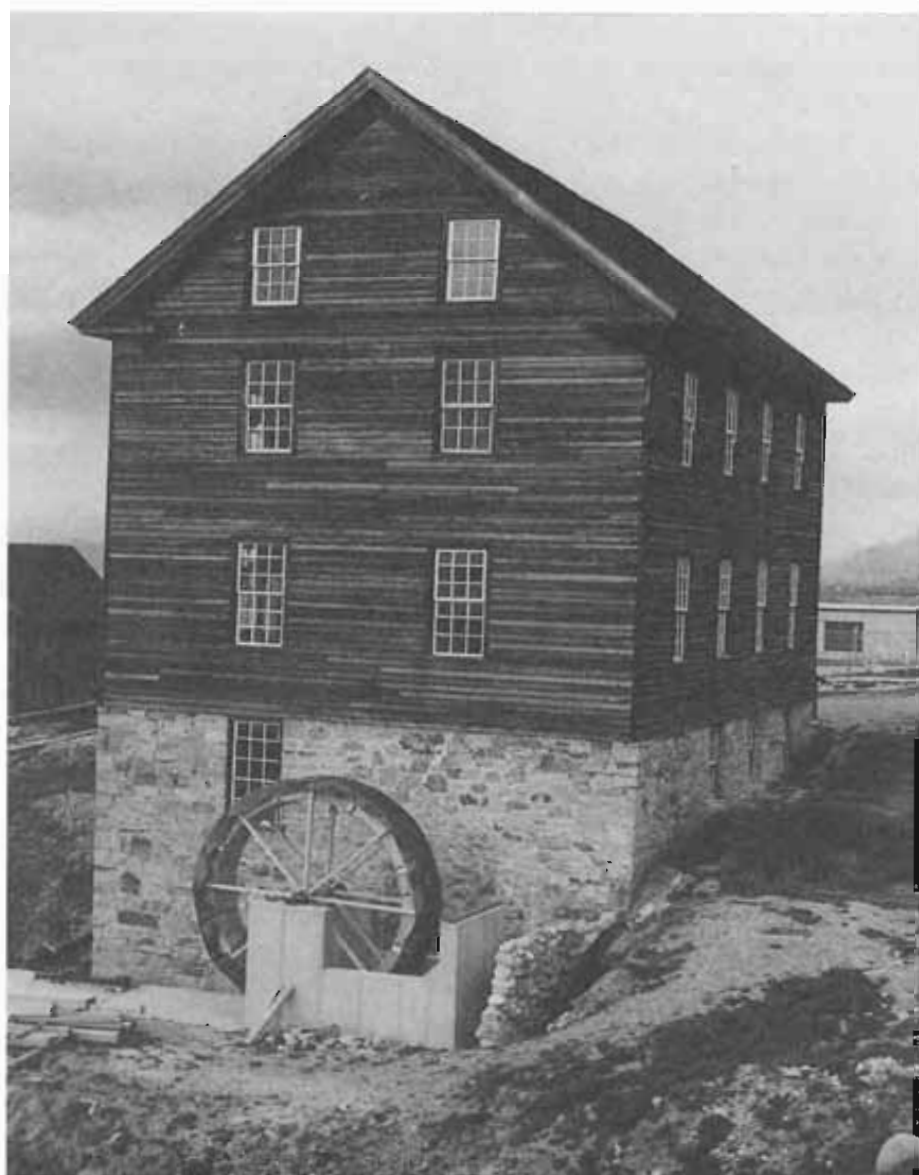
sumed most of the strength of Elizabeth and Jane Lee and the other women. The settlement offered few comforts, and furnishings were meager. Before leaving Nauvoo, Illinois, Elizabeth and her husband had considered how much furniture to take; their decision was to use the allotted space for food and other implements.²¹

Soon after beginning their individual homesteads, Tooele residents soon grouped together again—this time due to hostilities with the Indians of the area. New houses were built in close proximity to each other in 1851 in a central location called the “Fort.” The houses were arranged to form three sides of a central courtyard or square, livestock corrals forming the fourth wall. According to George Craner, when he came to Tooele in 1852 he found remnants of the first housing location made in 1849, but it had been vacated. The people had already then moved to the fort. In the autumn of 1852 the settlers began to disperse to escape the crowded conditions in the fort.²²

A new site about one-half mile north of the fort became the center of the new Tooele City, which was soon granted a charter by the legislative assembly. To counter the haphazard growth of the earliest settlement, the new townsite was surveyed by Jesse W. Fox and featured the grid pattern of large lots and wide streets well known and used in most early Utah towns founded by members of the Mormon church. Samuel Lee, assisted by John Shields, plowed the grid pattern into the soil; growth of the city rapidly followed. On 14 May 1853 the *Deseret News* announced that a post office had been approved for Tooele, with John Rowberry as postmaster. On 7 October 1853 church authorities Ezra T. Benson and Wilford Woodruff were instructed to call fifty more families to strengthen the settlements in Tooele County.²³

The Benson Mill

Milling operations were soon established in Tooele County—sawmills exploiting the area’s timber resources and gristmills grinding into flour the grain produced by early settlers. In fact, county settlement originally focused around the mills (both a sawmill and a gristmill) built for Ezra T. Benson. According to one local history, in the fall of 1849 Cyrus Tolman brought a load of saw and shingle tim-



The Benson Mill, shown in this 1998 photograph was constructed in 1850–51. (Allan Kent Powell)

ber to Brigham Young to show the feasibility of timber production in the new county, thus facilitating the granting of mill and timber rights to Ezra Taft Benson, Anson Call, Josiah Call, and Judson Tolman in the Provisional Council of the State of Deseret on 24

November 1849. In return, the men agreed to build public roads to the established mills and to furnish lumber at twenty dollars per thousand feet.²⁴

The stream flow at Settlement Canyon was deemed insufficient for the first mill there and Benson advertised in the *Deseret News* in September 1850 for workers to construct a dam and mill on Twin Springs Creek (Lake Point). The framework of hewn logs was hauled by the Tooele settlers to a new site near present-day Stansbury Park, where the water of the Mill Pond (Twin Creek) provided a greater flow and source of power. The task of building the sawmill at the new location and impounding the waters, which then spread out in many directions, was in part given to Lorenzo D. Custer and others of an emigrant party bound for California who were wintering in Utah. The sawmill was in operation by 1851 and plans were made to build a flour mill, as the nearest one was at Mill Creek in Salt Lake City. The sawmill was operating by the spring of 1851 and was subsequently acquired and expanded by a number of individuals. It served the area for almost a hundred years before it was finally abandoned.

A sawmill was established in Settlement Canyon in the 1860s by John A. Smith and his sons, and timber produced there was used in many of Tooele's pioneer homes. Farther up Settlement Canyon another sawmill was built. It was owned by William Parker. Abel and Jerry Parker built a sawmill at the mouth of Middle Canyon, and another mill up the canyon was owned by Norton Tuttle.²⁵ Other early sawmills included one at Clover operated by Richard Green and another nearby, owned by John S. Lee, which furnished lumber for the nearby mining camps at Mercur, Stockton, and Ophir. According to the *History of Tooele County*, a volume compiled by the Tooele County Daughters of Utah Pioneers and edited by Mildred Mercer, James Gollaher later operated a sawmill in Tooele, using his threshing machine engine during the winter for the purpose. This book elaborates on this and many other items of county history and is a valuable resource for anyone interested in Tooele County history.

A gristmill was established in 1853 by Esaias Edwards at the mouth of Settlement Canyon, enabling locals to have their grain ground locally rather than hauling it to Salt Lake County and back. Ownership of this mill changed over the years; however, it operated

for more than eighty years. For much of its operating history the gristmill owner was paid a portion of the grain milled, which flour or meal he would then sell. The mill at first featured stones to grind the grain; large metal rollers later were installed which provided a finer grade of flour. After that remodeling, conducted by owner George Huffaker about 1910, the mill was called the Oquirrh Roller Mills.²⁶

The gristmill for E.T. Benson was built in 1854 at Lake Point by Thomas Lee and others. Alfred Lee and his brothers Eli and Francis also were employed to help build the mill. From the top floor of the mill one could view E.T. Hill, with Adobe Rock atop like an imposing fortress. The Forsyth family homesteaded beneath its shadow in a cabin built by Andrew and Emily Elizabeth Moss in 1872. (This cabin has since been moved to the Benson Mill complex.) John Rowberry supervised the mill for corporate owners who included him, E.T. Benson, and Benjamin Crosland, and perhaps others among Mormon church leaders.

In 1852 the mill area was one of three precincts formed in the county; in 1855, when Ezra Taft Benson served as a representative from Tooele County in the Utah Territorial Legislature, Richville became the county seat, with the area from the mill to Black Rock becoming known as "E.T. City," named after Benson. Because the area extended such a large distance, it did indeed warrant the title of city. When the Utah Territorial Legislature repealed the act establishing Richville as the county seat on 18 January 1861, however, Tooele was chosen by ballot as the new county seat.²⁷

Subsequent ownership of the mill seems confused, with separate sources reporting what could be conflicting information, although it is possible that both may be somewhat accurate. Ezra Taft Benson reportedly sold his two-thirds share of the mill to Brigham Young in 1860, when he was called north to supervise the Cache Valley settlements. Brigham Young's brother Lorenzo is said to have purchased an interest in the mill in 1858 and built an adobe home across the street from the mill. Lorenzo Young wrote a letter to Brigham Young later, on 23 April 1866, saying Bishop John Rowberry had not yet by agreement turned over the mill; so, although the paperwork for the sale was executed in Salt Lake County, the legal papers were not

recorded in Tooele County until 23 June 1866, after Lorenzo Young had written his letter.²⁸

According to another source, however, Benson acquired sole ownership of the mill in June 1866, tendering more than \$3,000 to Brigham Young for the property.²⁹ It is possible that with the Mormon church's growing troubles with the federal government during the period that this was among the various church properties shielded during the era by individual church leaders to protect property holdings of the church, which were fixed by the federal government at certain limits as part of its anti-polygamy campaign against the Mormon church. In any event, the mill continued in use into the early years of the twentieth century with various subsequent owners. The Benson mill is on the National Register of Historic Places and has been called the most significant structural landmark between Salt Lake and Reno.

The Grantsville Woolen Factory was established at E.T. City after 1867 by various citizens from throughout the Tooele County area with initial money and machinery supplied by Brigham Young. An impressive stone building was constructed in the Benson Mill area and machinery imported. Many citizens invested in the enterprise, which was dedicated at ceremonies on 29 April 1870. For numerous reasons, however, including failure of the dam and water supply, the enterprise never prospered, and the machinery was finally dismantled and shipped to Provo in 1872, dooming the once promising manufacturing enterprise.³⁰

Ezra T. Benson wasn't the only general authority of the LDS church to have an early interest in the growth of Tooele County. In 1860 the Mormon church had allowed Daniel H. Wells (while a member of the church's First Presidency) 3,120 acres with a house, stone wall, boat, and all the improvements in blocks 3 and 4 of the Black Rock Survey on the borders of Salt Lake and Tooele counties.³¹ Brigham Young reportedly also had control of 3,000 acres around Black Rock, although it is possible that this was the land used by Wells.³² Events were soon to transpire, however, that would reduce the dominance of the Mormon church in northern Utah in general and in Tooele County in particular.

Formation of Tooele County

Tooele County was one of the first six counties formed as the result of a convention called by Brigham Young to set up a provisional government in 1849. "Tuilla" County (as it was then spelled) was formalized by the General Assembly of the State of Deseret on 31 January 1850. Utah Territory was established later the same year by Congress, which did not approve the name "Deseret" or the extensive territorial claims of that proposed Mormon state. Nevertheless, the new Utah Territory was still very large—it included virtually all of present-day Utah and Nevada as well as extensive parts of what later became Wyoming and Colorado.

The county's name is unusual and has had various interpreted derivations and meanings. Various spellings of Tooele appear in early writings. John Hudson in his journal of June 1850 wrote: "In the Evening the setting sun illuminated the snow clad summits of the mountains dividing Spring from Tuilla valley and throwing the rest of the landscape into heavy masses of grey and violet colored shadow, this superb effect I endeavored to represent with the feeble aid of black lead [a sketch]." Captain Howard Stansbury on his maps of the same period used the spelling "Tuilla." The change in spelling from "Tuilla" to "Tooele" officially came in March 1852.³³

The original six counties were only roughly delimited—they essentially consisted of their respective valleys. In March 1852 the territorial legislature moved to include the entire territory in the counties, and Tooele County, as it was then spelled, increased in size tremendously, as did most of the other original counties, even though new counties were also created at the time. Tooele County was bordered on the east by Great Salt Lake and Utah counties, and, like its neighbors to the north and south—Desert and Juab counties, respectively—it extended on the west to the California border.³⁴

Utah Territory was gradually reduced in territory over the next decades, and Tooele County also was to lose in stages much of its territory from its progressively changed western boundary. Its first loss, from the northern part of what is now Nevada, came when Humboldt County was created in Utah Territory on 5 January 1856. The western Tooele boundary was moved two degrees of longitude



The Tooele County Courthouse in 1910. (Utah State Historical Society)

farther east. When St. Mary's County was formed east of Humboldt County on the same day, Tooele was reduced another two degrees, or approximately another 100 miles. However, for election purposes both of these counties were attached to Tooele County for the subsequent period of two weeks.

When Shambip County, based principally on Rush Valley, was officially formed on 12 January 1856, Tooele County boundaries were again diminished. At that time the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah redefined its Third Judicial District to include Tooele, Great Salt Lake, Shambip, Saint Mary's, Humboldt, and Carson counties.³⁵

By 1860 Tooele County had 416 people according to the census—a gain of more than 250 from the count nine years before. Each time territorial boundaries were reduced, however, county boundaries also changed. Utah's western border began to be reduced in 1861 when Nevada achieved territorial status. Then, in 1862 and 1866, large strips were annexed to Nevada. Humboldt and St. Mary's

counties became part of Nevada, and Shambip County was dissolved, returning to Tooele County in 1862. It has been suggested that the creation of Shambip County was “little more than a favor” to Luke S. Johnson, a close friend of Brigham Young, and that, upon Johnson’s death, the county’s existence ended.³⁶ A number of other Utah counties were also dissolved, including Desert County north of Tooele and Cedar County, which briefly had existed in the Cedar Valley area bordering Tooele County.

Today, Tooele’s boundary on the west is the Nevada state line at the 114° meridian; on the north, it is bordered by Box Elder County (running into the county’s northeastern corner in the Great Salt Lake); on the south its neighbor is Juab County; and its neighbors to the east are Salt Lake and Utah counties—the county line following the crest of the Oquirrh Mountains. Tooele presently is the state’s second-largest county in terms of area, with 6,923 square miles.³⁷

Early County History

In 1852 the Utah Territorial Legislature provided additional powers to the county probate courts, giving them general civil and criminal jurisdiction, making them almost equal with the district courts. Alfred Lee was elected by the assembly and commissioned by Governor Brigham Young on 7 February 1852 to be probate judge of Tooele County. He set about to organize the county. John Rowberry served as a Tooele County representative in this legislature when it convened in its first session on 22 September 1851.³⁸ The first county seat was approved in 1855 for Richville (also known as Milton), where E.T. Benson had set up a sawmill. Richville was a bit closer to Salt Lake City, but Tooele City’s size and continued growth soon led county residents to vote to house county offices there.

The first session of the Tooele County Court as part of the Utah Territory was held in Tooele City on 1 April 1852.³⁹ The probate courts, although generally controlled by Mormon judges and juries, operated under civil standards, or man-made laws. However, Mormon church courts also operated and were favored by Mormons, who believed that they “elevated the law of God over the law of man.” A church member suing another in the civil probate courts (which increasingly came under the influence and jurisdiction of non-



The Tooele Commercial Company Building in 1910. (Utah State Historical Society)

Mormon, or gentile, federal officials) instead of in the church courts could be seen as guilty of an “actionable offense of unchristian like conduct” in church circles.⁴⁰

One of the first acts of the Assembly of the State of Deseret had been to organize a militia, named the Nauvoo Legion after the Nauvoo, Illinois, church militia. Those over fifty years of age were called “Silver Greys” and those under eighteen were termed “Juvenile Rifles.”⁴¹ Before Tooele had a military district of its own, when troubles arose with local Native Americans, Legion cavalry captain George D. Grant had been called on for help. He came with troops from Salt Lake City to Tooele Valley in February 1851 hoping to put a stop to the frequent raids on pioneer livestock. On his return trip to the capital city, Grant reported on 27 June 1851 that the militia had killed eleven Indians and also had burned up their food storage, including what he claimed were “tons of beef” laid out to dry.⁴²

Earlier, in April 1851, as mentioned earlier, a California-bound

emigrant, Lorenzo D. Custer, who was in the employ of Ezra T. Benson, was killed while attempting to bring in Indian livestock raiders. Many other raids and small skirmishes characterized relations between the groups that year, and there were also isolated problems between Indians and whites in the years that followed; but no major battles were fought in Tooele County, either at this time or during the later periods of the Walker War (1853–54) and the Black Hawk War (1865–72).

The Tooele Military District was formed in 1852 and was number six of the twelve districts organized at that time. Major John Rowberry was the commander over the units. Thomas Lee was the infantry captain. He was described as “a crack shot and in appearance a young man.”⁴³ John Gillespie was captain of the cavalry unit. Battalion musicians in 1865 were John Shields and his brother Robert as fifiers, with William H.H. Sagers as the drummer.⁴⁴ It was reported that the militia “had regular muster days, and, “in connection with that they would go down to Camp Stansbury [now Erda] for a week’s encampment. Here they would have sham battles and participate in all sorts of military maneuvers.”⁴⁵

The years of 1855 and 1856 were a time of famine for the Tooele pioneers. In addition to the loss of crops from drought and grasshoppers, great numbers of cattle died on the ranges during the severe winter of 1855–56. During this time of famine, the pioneers were building another fort in a location about a mile north of their first fort. During February 1856 the people of newly created Shambip County (Luke Johnson’s settlement) in Rush Valley were advised to move to Tooele because of Indian uprisings.

By spring the food supply was depleted and the people dug bulbs and roots of many kinds for food, perhaps gaining some sympathy for and appreciation of the skills of the Native Americans who were able to live upon the land. They also scraped with spoons the sweet substance that collected in the later spring on the leaves of the willow trees. Elizabeth Orr Severe later reported, “The honey dew fell on the grass [in Grantsville] so heavily, that in walking through it . . . stockings would become hard and stiff.” Women would take pails of water into the meadows where the wild hay grew and wash the honey dew

from the stalks in the water. The solution would be boiled down and the remaining substance would be used for beverages.⁴⁶

Women could not hold political office in the county, but they were a most important part of county settlement. Women took their turn in the fields of the settlement digging, hoeing, and planting crops. One history states: "the timber was in the canyons and roads had to be made and trails cut through the thick brush that grew on the way. . . . the women were as busy as the men and took their turn at chopping and digging."⁴⁷ Pioneer women had to be tough and independent, for in many cases they were left to fight the battles of pioneering alone. Sometimes their men were called on church missions or to colonize other areas. Often the Mormon practice of having plural wives made it needful for a woman's family to be self-supporting because the husband could not fully provide for all his families.

Margaret Utley Tolman, wife of Cyrus Tolman, found herself in just such a predicament. It was written that "She never had a home of her own until she had four children. She was left alone much of the time to rear them as best she could." In 1858 when federal troops known as Johnston's Army appeared to be a threat to the Mormons in Utah, Cyrus moved Margaret south from Tooele to Richfield, where she and her four children lived in a dugout, of which it was reported, "It had a crude dirt floor and walls, the roof was covered with poles to support willows, then straw and soil. When it rained, it leaked like a sieve."⁴⁸

When Anna Erickson Stromberg's husband, Charles, went on a church mission in 1884, she had a herd of cows upon which she was dependent to get her living. The going was very hard and she was forced to sell her wedding ring to buy food for her children. A year after her husband left, a diphtheria epidemic took the lives of her three sons within two days; they were all buried in the same coffin. A week later her daughter died of the same disease. Charles Stromberg was called home early because of the tragedy. Anna was in a state of shock, so much so that her sanity was in question. She received a blessing from church patriarch John Smith, however, promising her that she would have a larger family than the one she lost. She bore seven more children—the last being born just before she turned fifty.⁴⁹



The Tooele Commercial Bank in 1910. (Utah State Historical Society)

Elizabeth Griffith Maxwell married Brigham Davis, and she was about to give birth to her eighth child when he was called on a mission. To support her family, Elizabeth kept a small store that provided food and lodging for those traveling on the main road that led to Tooele, Grantsville, and other southern and western towns. Later, from 1908 to 1916, she earned a living as postmistress at Lake Point.⁵⁰

Hannah Catherine Larson England was a talented seamstress and provided for herself by sewing clothes for the living as well as burial clothing for those who had died. She also baked wedding cakes for many of the brides in the community.⁵¹ She would go to the homes of the suffering, easing their pain and offering comfort and help for those who were unable to help themselves, often coming home exhausted and ill herself. Hannah England also supported a husband serving a mission.

Some women were widowed at a young age. Examples were the two wives of George Atkin: Sarah Matilda Utley, mother of nine children, and Emma Johnson, mother of two. George Atkin was a promi-

nent member of the community and Mormon church and a good provider, but he became ill and died at age sixty-two. Sarah then set up a millinery store in the south end of her home to help support her family. Later she established a store on East Vine street. She also kept boarders in her home.

Emma Johnson in her youth had helped her father in the fields and helped her mother weave and spin. Many a time in the fall the entire family would pick peaches for a peach bee. The neighbors would be invited in, and after the peaches were cut, peeled, and put out to dry the room would be cleared out and someone would play the violin, sing, or whistle and all would enjoy a good time dancing. Such work-related events helped provide some diversion and social entertainment to the hardworking people of the county; church meetings and other church auxiliary organizations provided the same along with religious teaching.

When she was quite young, Emma Johnson wanted to go to Salt Lake City and learn the art of dressmaking. Her father greatly opposed her wishes; however, Emma gained the permission of her mother to go and she asked George Atkin, whom she later married, to lend her the money to pay her expenses. In later years Emma became particularly successful as a dressmaker, supporting herself and several others with the use of her sewing needle. She also taught a sewing class for young girls. After six years as a dressmaker Emma's business had so increased that she discontinued dressmaking and began to sell ready-to-wear clothing. Later she moved to the downtown Tooele business center. After she had been a widow for ten years, Emma adopted a baby boy that had been left on her doorstep. She also took in her aged father and invalid mother. Besides caring for those at home, continuing her successful business, and sharing her income with other widows, Emma Johnson kept a beautiful yard and garden and served her community and church in presiding positions.⁵²

Jane Gillette Crosland Dew Bowan was widowed three times in her lifetime. She showed resourcefulness and independence at a very early age. When her father died at Milton (Lake Point), she gathered the materials and made his coffin. From then on she lined and covered many coffins and helped lay the dead to rest. Jane was a success-



Main Street in Tooele, 1939. (Utah State Historical Society)

ful teacher of children in the LDS church Primary organization. She taught the youngsters to be thrifty, using a rhyme: "See a pin and pick it up, All the day you'll have good luck. See a pin and let it lay, Bad luck you'll have all the day." She wove carpets and rugs for people throughout the county, and she also kept a colony of bees and sold honey.⁵³

Naomi Chappell Gillett was the mother of nine children and was widowed at the age of forty-five. Someone once asked her why she hadn't written down her life experiences. She replied,

I've always been too busy. I've always had more work to do than I could compass. I've done everything. I've made bullets, nursed the sick, made candles and put handles in axes, made cloth, and worked in the fields. If there's any work I haven't done, I don't know what it is. But work keeps us young. It's good for young people and it's better for old people.

Before she was married, Naomi worked as a schoolteacher, often receiving from parents of children payment in the form of goods and produce. After her first year of teaching Naomi's payment included



The Tooele Post Office, 1938. (Utah State Historical Society)

two sheep, some wool, corn, wine, and molasses. After some of these items were sold, she bought herself some new clothes.⁵⁴

Other women whose husbands were home also worked to supplement the family income. Jane Brown Bell on first coming to Utah with her husband and two children sold her wedding ring to buy a sack of flour. She also sold matches on the street. The family moved from Salt Lake to Grantsville and then later to the mining town of Ophir, where Jane ran a boarding house and did washing for miners. After moving back to Grantsville, she took in washing and did many other jobs in order to support her family. Bell was a friend to the Indians and the mother of twelve children.⁵⁵

Stories of sacrifice and determination abound. For example, Isabel McPherson Bevan was expecting her first baby and needed money to buy some flannel to make the child a shirt. She picked black currants and carried them to Pine Canyon to sell. With the money she earned she bought the flannel and made the shirt, only to be surprised when the baby turned out to be twins. Fortunately,

someone was kind enough to loan her another baby shirt. Isabel also kept the community yeast jar, and others came to her for fresh yeast for their baking.⁵⁶

Mary Garner De St. Jeor learned the art of straw weaving while she was in England. As a young girl in Utah, Mary helped support her family by weaving straw and making the product into hats.⁵⁷

Barbara Bowen and Emily Warburton were the first telegraph operators in Tooele. Emily Warburton married Tooele pioneer doctor William Bovee Dodds and was the mother of five. For sixteen years she worked with her husband and learned about medicine. She received a medical certificate from the state of Utah after she was widowed, but she never practiced. She also was elected to the office of county recorder and served in that capacity for four years.⁵⁸

Susannah Elizabeth White Dunn helped support her family by sewing and by taking in washing and boarders. She also cooked for up to sixty-five area sheepshearers. At times she would leave home for up to six weeks and go as far as Nampa, Idaho, or Evanston, Wyoming, or Skull Valley to cook for shearers.⁵⁹

As a young girl Hilda Anderson attended dressmaking school in Salt Lake City. She made many of the uniforms for Grantsville's first uniformed pioneer band. She married John A. Erickson in 1882 and she and her husband were called on a mission to the Indians in Ibapah. In 1885 Hilda Erickson went to Salt Lake City and took a course in obstetrics. She then returned to Deep Creek. Her husband owned forty head of milk cows and established a store in Deep Creek. Hilda made butter, salted it down, and sold this rare commodity for a good price. She also cooked for miners, charging twenty-five cents a meal. In 1925 she established a general merchandise store in Grantsville and was the store manager for twenty-one years.

Hilda Erickson had a rich and varied life. She owned a mine, did legal work for farmers and ranchers in the Grantsville area, and delivered more than 200 babies, both white and Indian. She was a professional tailor of suits and uniforms. She practiced as a dentist and served as an officer of a bank. At the time of her death in 1968 she was Utah's oldest citizen, age 108.⁶⁰

An example of pioneer mothers as exemplary homemakers is found in Agnes Templeton Main Love Smith, who came to Utah as a

widow and married widower John B. Smith. They lived in Pine Canyon. She was a very fine seamstress and taught her daughters to knit their own stockings and fine lace. She made excellent tallow candles and soap. Her chief hobby was raising flowers, and for many years she had the only flower garden in Pine Canyon, an example of the efforts of early settlers not only to survive but to beautify the surroundings and make loving homes in the county.⁶¹

Jane Huntington Eastham of Grantsville was an excellent cook and made all kinds of fancy pastries. The local Mormon conference visitors would often come to her place to eat, and she entertained many of the church's visiting general authorities. She planted mulberry trees to help out with the church's unsuccessful silk industry experiment and was president of the local ward Relief Society.⁶²

A post office was first established in Tooele City on 19 October 1852, with John Rowberry as postmaster. Mail routes were soon established weekly between Tooele and Salt Lake City and subsequently into other areas of the county. William O. Mayfield was the first carrier, and bids for mail routes were subsequently bid upon by interested parties. The route between Tooele City and Grantsville was established about 1878. Except for brief periods when the post office was discontinued between October 1859 and March 1861 and again between March 1863 and December 1865, a post office has been functioning in Tooele.⁶³

Tooele City had been one of the first cities in the territory to be incorporated, receiving one of five city charters granted in 1853, even though the legislature designated the smaller settlement of Richville (Milton) as the first county seat. Unfortunately, the records of the Tooele City Council from the time of establishment until 1871 were later lost. Tooele City was voted county seat on 18 January 1861 (some sources say 1857).⁶⁴ In February 1865 bids were submitted to county officers for the building of a county courthouse. Isaac Lee was one of the four men who entered the accepted bid. The men "excavated the foundation and basement and installed cells in case criminals might be apprehended." A two-room building was placed on the foundation and used as an entertainment center; and, when this building was enlarged in 1871, it was also used as the Tooele City Hall and the Tooele County Courthouse and county jail.⁶⁵ (Another

county courthouse was built in Tooele in 1899, and Tooele City built a new city hall in 1941.)

By 1870 Tooele County, though reduced in size, had more than doubled its population of a decade before, growing from 416 to 958 people. Impressive as was this growth in population and civic improvements, the predominantly Mormon residents were beginning to increasingly struggle with a new era brought about by the transcontinental railroad and the coming to the county of mining, industry, and numerous non-Mormon newcomers.

ENDNOTES

1. Joel E. Ricks, *The History of a Valley* (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Publishing Company, 1956), 28; Leland H. Creer, *Activities of Jacob Hamblin in the Region of the Colorado*, Department of Anthropology Paper No. 33 (Salt Lake City: University of Utah, 1958), 2.

2. Orrin P. Miller, *History of Tooele County Vol. II*, 58.

3. *Ibid.*, 52, 53

4. Howard Stansbury, *Exploration of the Valley of the Great Salt Lake* (1852; reprint, Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1988), 118.

5. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 56.

6. *Ibid.*, 71.

7. *Ibid.*

8. According to a list compiled by Loya Beck, in Benson's Company were the Whites (Elizabeth Clegg, Susanna Dunn, Ann Lee, Mary Herron and Joseph White); Richard Warburton, Thomas Atkin, Sr. (sons Tom, Jr., and George); Geo. W. Bryan; Mary Ann Lougy; Thomas Croft; Thomas Foster; Benjamin Clegg; Robert Skelton; and the family of Alfred Lee. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 87–88.

9. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 58–59.

10. Virginia Barrus Johnson, "History of Cyrus Tolman," 1–2.

11. Family Group Sheets of Josiah Call and Cyrus Tolman, LDS Church Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

12. Johnson, "History of Cyrus Tolman," 2; Andrew Jenson, "Tooele, Utah Stake History, 1847–1900," 6, LDS Church Archives.; Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 591–92.

13. Jenson, "Tooele Stake History," 7.

14. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 72.

15. John A. Bevan, "Events in the Early History of Tooele City," 9–10.
16. Jenson, "Tooele Stake History," 16–17.
17. Ibid., 15
18. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 59.
19. *Samuel Lee Family History and Genealogy* (Provo: n.p., 1989), 93.
20. Ibid., 93.
21. Ibid., 68
22. Edward W. Tullidge, *History of Salt Lake City and its Founders* (Salt Lake City: Tullidge, 1886), 95.
23. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 78–79.
24. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 43.
25. Ibid., 44.
26. Ibid., 46–47.
27. *Inventory of County Archives of Utah: Tooele County, No. 23* (Washington, D.C.: Works Progress Administration, 1939), 19–36, 215.
28. Brigham Young Papers, Historical Department, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, F219, Reel 76.
29. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 49.
30. Ibid., 52–56.
31. Whitney, *Popular History of Utah*, 106–7.
32. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 91.
33. Brigham D. Madsen, *A Forty-Niner in Utah*, 179; John W. Van Cott, *Utah Place Names*, 37.
34. James B. Allen, "The Evolution of County Boundaries in Utah," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 23 (Summer 1955): 264–65.
35. See *Inventory of County Archives, Tooele County*; Chad J. Flake and Vaughn P. Stephenson, "Shambip County," *Utah Holiday* (December 1986): 86–88.
36. *Deseret News*, 27 July 1889; Flake and Stephenson, "Shambip County," 88.
37. Rufus Leigh, *500 Place Names*, 96.
38. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 189; Orson F. Whitney, *Popular History of Utah* (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1916), 83.
39. See Jenson, "Tooele Stake History."
40. R. Collin Mangrum, "Furthering the Cause of Zion: An Overview of the Mormon Ecclesiastical Court System," paper presented at the 18th annual meeting of the Mormon Historical Association, Omaha, Nebraska, 6 May 1983.

41. Whitney, *Popular History of Utah*, 57.
42. Alma A. Gardiner, "The Founding and Development of Grantsville, Utah: 1850–1950" (Master's thesis, Brigham Young University, 1982), 25.
43. Bevan, "Events," 8.
44. Beth Lee Park Barney, "The History of the Lee Family during the Colonization of Tooele County," 1; Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 211.
45. Bevan, "Events," 8.
46. Maud S. Bell, "History of Elizabeth Orr Severe," 2; "The De La Mare Family of Utah," 7–10.
47. "Official Tooele City Centennial Program 1949," 5.
48. Maggie Tolman Porter, "Memoirs," 7, 9.
49. Emma Sutton, "History," 3, 4.
50. "History of Elizabeth Griffith Maxwell Davis,"
51. Rebecca Ostler, "History of Sarah Matilda Utley Atkin," 2.
52. Rebecca Ostler, "History of Emma Johnson Atkin," 5–8.
53. Mary Kirk Hansen, "History of Jane Gilette Crosand Dew Bowan,"
54. Dora Allen, "History of Naomi Chappell Gillett," 7, 10, 11.
55. Maud Bell, "History of Jane Brown Bell," 1, 2.
56. Marabelle McCustion, "History of Gertrude Isabelle Parker," 2, 3.
57. Della Berry, "History of Mary Garner De St. Jeor," 1.
58. "History of Emily Warburtons Dods," 2.
59. Effie Dunn, "History of Susannah Elizabeth While Dunn."
60. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 6 January 1968; *Deseret News*, 5 November 1966.
61. Harriet Love Sagers, "History of Agnes Templeton Smith," 1, 2.
62. Matilda R. Clark, "History of Jane Huntington Eastham," 1, 2.
63. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 111–12.
64. See Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 189; and Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 78.
65. Barney, "History of the Lee Family," 5.

CHAPTER 5

Transportation

WHEEL TRACKS AND RAILROAD BEDS

The Roads and Trails of Tooele County

As early as 1850 James Little had petitioned the territorial legislature for permission to run a line of stages from Salt Lake City south, with a branch line to Tooele Valley. The approved route of the stage from Tooele passed through the later towns of Stockton, St. John, Clover (where Matthew Orr was the operator), and Center; it then stopped at Johnny Williams's station in Rush Valley, turning west and arriving at the H.J. Faust ranch before climbing up to Lookout Pass.

Early interstate commerce included the overland mail service. In 1851 mail was carried by a man on horseback leading pack animals, hence the name "Jackass Mail" for the service. Including a route from Salt Lake City to Sacramento, the Jackass Mail also ran north into Idaho and down the Humboldt River. Early mail contractors were Absolom Woodward and George Chorprenning, Jr., who on 5 July 1858 put into service the first stagecoach to carry passengers between Utah and California. The existence of a direct route west to the Carson Valley from Salt Lake City convinced Chorprenning the road would be a natural for a Pacific railroad as well.¹

After surveying the Great Salt Lake in 1850, Captain Howard Stansbury had returned east, mapping a route over the Continental Divide which was later followed by the Union Pacific Railroad.² As noted, Lt. Edward G. Beckwith was looking for a railroad route when he led a survey expedition in 1853–54 around the north ends of the Oquirrh and Stansbury ranges into Skull Valley, passing Granite Peak on the north near present Dugway Proving Ground, then continuing west near what became Canyon Station for the Pony Express in the Deep Creek Mountains, and then into Ibapah.³

The Beckwith route included a steep grade leading from Skull Valley over the Cedar Mountains. Although Beckwith's route in Tooele County was never adopted by the railroad, the route was used by wagon freighters for many years. Freighters using two linked trail wagons and from four to six horses traveled over the 5,800-foot pass. In ascending the steep incline, more horses often had to be hitched up in order to pull the wagons over the pass, and the name bestowed on the crossing became "Six-horse Pass."⁴ Wagons used over the early stage roads to freight goods and supplies often were pulled by ox teams, which were slow but reliable. Mules were also used, because, according to one writer, "they were tough, could endure fatigue, and were as a rule reliable."⁵

George Chorpenning had equipped his mail line in 1858 with twenty new coaches, adding more mules and horses. In his employ was Major Howard Egan, a scout and member of the Mormon militia, the Nauvoo Legion. Egan had driven cattle to California from Utah more than once, scouting at the same time for new and shorter stage routes. Appointed by Chorpenning as superintendent over the established mail line west from Salt Lake City to the Carson Valley, Egan in November 1859 relocated stage stations along a central route, which became called "Egan's Trail."⁶

A rancher in Rush Valley, Enos Stookey, had helped Howard Egan lay the groundwork for the new central route, which entered Tooele County near Five Mile Pass, and three new stations were built about twenty miles apart across Rush Valley's sagebrush-dotted terrain—East Rush Valley, Rush Valley (also called Meadow Creek or Faust), and Point Lookout in the counterslope of the divide between Rush and Skull valleys. Egan's Trail through Rush Valley was identical

with Captain James H. Simpson's route of 1859.⁷ Simpson had come to Utah with Johnston's Army. After the establishment of Camp Floyd in Cedar Valley he was sent in 1859 to locate and survey a wagon route west to California that would be south of the existing Humboldt River route. His party eventually traced a route about forty miles south of the existing route. This route in part went through Rush Valley, Skull Valley, and the Great Salt Lake Desert.

Associated with Howard Egan in the Chorpensing mail service was Henry Jacobs Faust, who had studied medicine in St. Joseph, Missouri, before traveling to the California gold fields. Faust decided to return to his Missouri home and again take up his medical studies; however, on his way east, wintering in Utah, he was converted to Mormonism and married a young Mormon girl, Elsie Ann Akerley. He decided to stay in the West, and, in the employ of Egan, Faust was assigned as station agent at Pleasant Valley, south of the Deep Creek mountain range. Soon after his arrival there in the spring of 1859, after building a cabin he sent for his wife, who came on the first passenger stage that went west from Salt Lake City. In her lonely existence at the station, Elsie Faust once went without seeing another white woman for nine months. As was typical of residences of the time, the floors and roof of her new home were of dirt, "a wagon cover made a carpet, the windows were glazed with a flour sack, the doors were blankets. The table was an end of a wagon; the chair, a block of wood with three legs put in and an ox-bow for a back—the cushion was a badger skin. The bedstead was made of peeled quaking-aspen poles put together with an ax and an auger."⁸

In the summer of 1859 Horace Greeley, editor of one of New York City's most prestigious newspapers, the *New York Tribune*, arrived at the Pleasant Valley Station on a tour of the West. Elsie and Henry Faust, wanting to hear news of the outside world, reportedly "decided to hide all the candles, reserving merely a little stub an inch or so in length." They soon had Greeley engaged in talking, since he was not able to read or study by candlelight. The conversation lasted far into the night and was a treat the Fausts enjoyed remembering for the rest of their lives.⁹

After the sojourn at Pleasant Valley, the Fausts were transferred to the Rush Valley Station, called Meadow Creek by Captain James

Simpson, where weary travelers and their hungry livestock found lush meadows. One meadow was near the later site of Ajax, another was at the ranch. Some California-bound passengers reportedly died of diphtheria at the ranch and were buried in a small cemetery east of the ranch house. Vernon resident Elizabeth Cook was said to have endeavored in vain to nurse them back to health. Meanwhile, freight wagons rolled by the ranch carrying mail, boxes, and trunks for twenty-five cents a pound.

When George Chorprenning's freight company could not raise the money to pay its riders and other expenses, his contract was nullified and awarded to the Pony Express, with all his stations and stock to be taken over with no compensation. The Overland Mail Company later inherited the Pony Express company's framework of stations and made only a few changes in the route required to put stages over the road rather than just horses. Most of the stations were retained. The mail contract was later awarded to the Wells Fargo company.¹⁰

The Pony Express

Many early stage and mail stations were located on traditional Goshute lands. When the Pony Express took over the routes in 1860 they simply used the old mail stations and added a few others. Simpson Springs in the Dugway Valley adjoining Skull Valley was a "home station," where, according to the census of 1860, George Davis was serving as the station keeper. There were some attacks on stages by Indians and by outlaws, including one on 22 March 1863 near Eight-Mile Station in the county in which the stage driver was killed. During the Civil War Colonel Patrick Connor was sent to Utah with his California Volunteers primarily to protect the overland mail. He became noted among the area Native Americans for his ruthlessness, most notably displayed at the Bear River Massacre in 1863 near the Idaho-Utah border; however, near Simpson Springs in 1865 Connor's troops also slaughtered some Goshutes accused of raiding the stage stations in the area. It was said that "little distinction" was made between hostile and peaceful Indians and that Indian women and children were killed by the soldiers.¹¹

The Simpson Springs stage station, which was built by George



Pony Express Station at Faust. (Utah State Historical Society)

Chorpenning, has been restored through the efforts of Tooele County, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials, and Brigham Young University. The springs are thought to be named after Captain James Simpson, although one source claims it was named for a grandfather of Amos Davis.¹² Campgrounds and running water are available at the rock replica of the station, which overlooks a sweeping view of Dugway Valley. The Simpson Springs station was important because of its available water, which was hauled from there to stations as far west as Fish Springs.

J. Foote was listed as station keeper at the Faust (Rush Valley) station, with George Wright and William Fisher as riders. Each station had an overseer, men to tend the stock, and a blacksmith shop for shoeing the horses. The men chosen to attend these stations were courageous and possessed the ability to think and act quickly, since they had to defend the stations, which were “prime targets” for Indian attack, having extra horses in the corrals, hay, and food.¹³ The stations often reverted to stage stations after the demise in 1861 of the short-lived Pony Express.



Pony Express Station at Fish Springs. (Utah State Historical Society)

The regular Pony Express run (twice a week) between Willow Springs and Fish Springs for one nineteen-year-old boy, Samuel Parley Hall, came about when a sixteen-year-old rider lost his courage. According to Hall: "One stormy night this boy's heart failed him, and I offered to take the Express. . . . Next morning, Howard Egan, the sub-agent from the Eastern Division hired me to ride the Pony Express." The line west of Willow Springs "was ridden by many boys and men that I knew. Some of them were: William Henry Jackson, Joseph Perkins, Lafayette Ball, Josiah Taylor, and George Boyd."¹⁴

The last Pony Express and stage station in Utah was at Deep Creek, where Howard Egan had his ranch. This station was well equipped and served other outlying relay stations. Harrison Severe was the stationmaster for a time. Another stationkeeper was Matthew Orr, who sometimes served as a substitute rider; a third was Wilford Hudson.¹⁵

Through the years, various monuments have been placed at various Pony Express and stage stations. As early as August 1935, citizens of Vernon and the Pioneer Trails and Landmarks Association had

erected a monument; and in 1970 the Settlement Canyon Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers and the people of Vernon erected a new marker, as the earlier one commemorating the Faust Station had gradually crumbled. Land for the stone marker was donated by Royal Davis.¹⁶

A recent development was a 11 September 1991 agreement with BLM officials and the Utah Division of the National Pony Express Association to adopt the Pony Express Trail in western Utah "for the purpose of maintaining and improving interpretive and recreational facilities along the Pony Trail."¹⁷ Throughout the years riders from Grantsville and Tooele have participated in periodic Pony Express reenactments. In 1960 the riders who ran the reenactment included descendants of the original riders: Blaine Carr, Howard V. Egan, John Lloyd Egan, John F. Toone, Probert Perkins, and Nord Memmott.

The Overland Mail and Telegraph

George Boyd became the operator of a station ten miles east of Willow Springs, providing hay and wood to other stations on the line to the west. When he purchased the Willow Springs station in 1869 it consisted of a two-room station, which was bigger than most and could furnish overnight accommodations for passengers and riders. Boyd was said to be among a group of hardened men at the beck and call of Brigham Young when troubles arose. Young is said to have referred to this group, which included William Hickman and Orrin Porter Rockwell, both of whom also had interests in the Tooele County area, as "his boys."¹⁸

The Palmer Ranch at the base of Antelope Creek was used as a campsite for freighters. After stopping, they turned to the right about two miles south, taking the road over the Cedar Mountains through White Rock Pass. Rocks at the pass often held water left over from rain or snow showers, and the water could be lifted out with a rope and bucket to water oxen or horses. It was reported that one freighter, believing he would be short of water on the trackless desert, dumped fifty gallons of whiskey on the ground and filled the barrel with water.¹⁹

The Olson family of Vernon ran a store at Simpson Springs for area sheepmen and also hauled meat and produce to Mercur and

Ophir when mines there were booming. During the 1860s, William Jennings, who operated Orr's Ranch in Skull Valley, had a contract with the overland mail line to supply it with 75,000 bushels of grain.²⁰

One historian reported that "about 1878 mail was carried by a team and wagon" between Tooele and Grantsville; passengers also were allowed to ride. When the railroad began to carry mail, carriers picked it up from the nearest station and delivered it to the settlements. The arrival of the mail was greatly anticipated in the isolated settlements of the county.²¹

The overland stagecoach was succeeded from Vernon west over Lookout Pass by a "canvas-covered two-seated buggy with side curtains." Called a "mail stage," it was part of a U.S. government mail service which ran from Fairfield to Simpson Springs at the turn of the twentieth century and was operated by the family of Thomas and Julia Carson Walters. The trip was made several times a week and the mail relayed at Simpson Springs to other drivers; it was then carried through western Juab county to the Nevada gold fields.

The telegraph followed the mail, stage, and Pony Express route. Prior to the Civil War, the Overland Telegraph Company had been formed to extend telegraph poles from Omaha to Salt Lake City, with the Pacific Telegraph Company working east from Carson City to Salt Lake City to extend the telegraph to the Pacific Coast. Mormons saw an opportunity to bring currency to the cash-poor economy and applied for and were granted the contract of supplying and erecting the telegraph poles for over 500 miles of the line. Poles replaced ponies in 1861 on Egan's Trail. Building the telegraph line west of Salt Lake City brought employment to Tooele County residents, as contracts were let to supply labor, poles, and food for laborers. Adam Sharp of Vernon cut and hauled poles from Salt Lake City to Rush Valley, then to the barren stretches to Simpson Springs and Fish Springs, and finally to Deep Creek.²² The line was completed in 1861, and many of the poles used were supplied from the greater Salt Lake area.²³

The telegraph gave work to many and demonstrated "the vitality of Mormon social and economic organization."²⁴ After the transcontinental east-west telegraph line was completed, an effort was made in Utah to build a regional line connecting all Mormon towns. Each

settlement desiring to have a telegraph station was notified "to appoint one or two young men or women and send them to a school of telegraphy." Held in Salt Lake City beginning in 1865, the school was taught by the operator in the Salt Lake office of the transcontinental line.²⁵ Barbara Gowans and Emily Warburton were sent from Tooele to the Salt Lake City school. In the fall of 1871 a telegraph office was opened in Tooele City. Barbara Gowans wrote:

I will never forget the first message I sent. . . . I was very nervous. I tried but all that was received was the address and the signature. The gentleman who sent the telegram, thinking perhaps that we might have been nervous, went to the Western Union Telegraph Office in Salt Lake City. He inquired about the message. It was shown to him and had only the address and signature. He sent the message from there. He was very kind about our mistake and never made any trouble for us because of this grievous error.²⁶

The regional telegraph line had been incorporated as the Deseret Telegraph Company in 1867; it was sold in 1900 to Western Union.²⁷ The telegraph company made use of existing stage stations. In Rush Valley Johnny Williams was the telegraph operator, and this station was in use until 1870. Telegraph stations operated for a time at Dry Canyon and Ophir. David E. Davis of Clover studied telegraphy and in 1869 opened an office at Simpson Springs in Skull Valley. In 1871 he opened a station at Government Creek. He later established a station called Center on his farm in Clover.²⁸

In 1878 the first telephone came to Utah, and by the early 1880s a long-distance line was extended to Tooele County, with a telephone being installed at the Honerine Mine.²⁹ In May 1887 Tooele County appropriated fifty dollars to the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company, and on 11 November 1895 a decision was approved to have a telephone placed in the Tooele County Courthouse. The Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company was granted a franchise to operate a telephone system in the county on 4 December 1905.³⁰

The Bell company and other small competitors worked to establish lines to other Tooele County communities in the early decades of the twentieth century, and lines were gradually completed. There were some difficulties in the large, sparsely populated county. For

example, in 1910 the telephone company refused to build a line to Lake Point because the county had not appropriated sufficient funds for the purpose. Finally, the company agreed to install the line if residents would furnish and install the telephone poles. Over the years service and equipment gradually improved.

On 28 July 1914 the final splice in the transcontinental telephone line was made at Wendover. The line was placed in commercial service the following year. On 5 May 1930 American Telephone and Telegraph Company was granted easements for constructing lines in Tooele County.³¹ In 1942 the first transcontinental all-weather buried telephone cable also was joined at Wendover.

Paved Highways

Roads were gradually improved in Tooele County as elsewhere in the West throughout the late nineteenth century. This linking of farms and communities was especially important to county residents. In fact, Wilson Lund had been appointed county road supervisor back in 1851. By the 1880s county farmers began to fence their properties from the roads, and animal owners were forced to control their animals and take responsibility for them on the roads.³²

With the coming of automobiles to the state and county in the first years of the twentieth century, owners of the new vehicles began increasingly to demand improved roads and county servicing of the roads. In September 1908 the Salt Lake Automobile Association asked the Tooele County Commission about road quality in the county; commissioners subsequently began a major effort to improve county roads to try to entice traffic to the county.³³ With each passing year automobiles became more numerous in and around the county, and county officials endeavored to answer the requests and demands from citizens for more and improved roads.

In the second decade of the twentieth century, the Lincoln Highway was proposed to answer a dream of automobile enthusiasts and business promoters for a road that would be paved from coast to coast. Because a national highway program had not yet been created by the government, the highway was promoted by private business interests. One of the most formidable parts of the proposed highway was the plan to take it across the uninhabited deserts of Tooele



Hauling ore from Ophir to the railroad station at St. John. (Utah State Historical Society)

County along the old Pony Express route. For the most part, the early traveler found this part of the road pretty much unchanged—the rough path followed the terrain without benefit of grading or paving, crossed the usually dry ravines without the assistance of bridges, and, in the process, passed the ruins of some of the long-abandoned Pony Express stations.

In 1915 the route proposed through Tooele County went by way of Garfield, Tooele, Clover, Johnson's Pass, Granite Peak, across the desert to Overland Canyon, and finally to Ibapah. It included a cutoff called Seiberling (named after a Goodyear Rubber and Tire Company executive) which would save forty-eight miles from the route proposed in 1913 which went via Grantsville, Timpie, Iosepa, Fish Springs, Callao, and Ibapah.³⁴

The Tooele County Commission had gone on record in November 1915 as supporting the promotion of the Lincoln Highway through Tooele City and over Johnson's Pass. At the time the estimated cost of putting the road in good condition was \$5,000 to \$6,000.³⁵ A group, including a delegation of leading citizens from Tooele, toured this route over Johnson's Pass and were snowed in at

Orr's Ranch. County officials promised that if the route went as proposed, Tooele County would aid in the needed road improvements and construction. On the downward side of Johnson's Pass a gap known as the Narrows was only wide enough to allow one wagon to pass at a time. Governor William Spry of Utah had stated that the gap was impassable even for a man on horseback, but the intrepid Lincoln Highway Association president drove it with ease despite the snow.³⁶

A contract was made on 21 March 1918 between the Lincoln Highway Association and the state of Utah. Among its provisions, the Lincoln Highway Association advanced "sums of money, aggregating \$125,000.00 for the completion of two sections of road, one between Clover and Orr's Ranch, Utah and one between the north end of Granite Point and Black Point, Tooele County, Utah."³⁷

With the authorized use of state convict labor in November 1918 the Narrows was dynamited, and a highway was constructed over the pass. The convicts camped on the Skull Valley side of the pass. Carl G. Fisher had contributed \$25,000 towards the work, perhaps with the hope that the pass would be renamed for him; but the pass retained the name of Luke S. Johnson, founder of the Clover hamlet.

After the convicts from the Utah State Prison finished Johnsons Pass and moved on west, they reached and forded the north fork of Government Creek in what is now the Ditto Area of Dugway Proving Ground. They built a bridge which is regarded today as the only significant structure of the original Lincoln Highway remaining in the area. The bridge was made of hewn logs, with log supports and rock abutments, and has remained in fairly good condition, mainly because the route soon went into disuse. In the 1930s it was repaired by the Civilian Conservation Corps camp based in Clover Creek. In 1919 a young lieutenant named Dwight D. Eisenhower crossed the bridge with an army truck convoy; later, as president of the United States, he signed into law the 1956 Interstate Highway Act, of great importance to Tooele County as to the rest of the nation.³⁸

Route traffic increased after Johnson's Pass was completed in 1919 in part because it was a shorter route to follow than was the old Pony Express Trail. In the middle of Skull Valley west of Johnson's Pass was Orr's Ranch, where travelers found food, gasoline, bedding,

coal oil, and grain. A post office also was established there. Wagons and increasing numbers of automobiles rolled by on their way west. In 1915 as many as fifty cars daily stopped at the desert oasis. About 1916 an army convoy using the first pneumatic tires stopped there. Famous guests at Orr's Ranch included brothers Orville and Wilber Wright.³⁹

Beyond Orr's Ranch the Lincoln Highway at times was almost impassable. Aviator and war hero Eddie Rickenbacher, making a famous coast to coast trip, was stopped at Fish Springs, just over the Tooele-Juab county line. There motorists sometimes got out of the deep ruts of the road to drive on level sand, only to soon find themselves hopelessly stuck. Resident John Thomas was willing to pull them out with his team of horses at a charge of one dollar a foot. Rickenbacher got stuck and, much to his reported displeasure, he too had to pay.⁴⁰

Continuing on from Fish Springs, the road led to Callao at the western edge of the desert. Like John Thomas, some enterprising locals were not anxious to have the roads improved too noticeably; at a meeting of the Tooele County Commission in August 1920 it was reported that motor cars had been stranded in a sink along the route, and farmers in the area were charging from ten to fifteen dollars to pull travelers out of the mud. Tooele commissioners decided to contact the Juab County Commission about the public relations problem.⁴¹

In 1920 the Tooele County Commission opposed the expenditure of money for the construction of a highway to Wendover and went on record in favor of completing the Lincoln Highway instead.⁴² This was not to be, for other powerful interests in the state wanted the highway to run west from Salt Lake City, where the routes would divide to San Francisco and Los Angeles, not to Ely, Nevada, the dividing point to the route to Los Angeles as the promoters had planned. A scandal of sorts developed as Lincoln Highway officials accused Utah officials of breaking their agreement. However, the powerful monied interests in Salt Lake City won out. In 1925 the Lincoln Highway was abandoned by the state for the Wendover route (called the Victory Highway). When the western desert section was abandoned, Grantsville, instead of Tooele, officially became part of

the interstate highway, which was later referred to as Highway 50, and then as U.S. Highway 40. Concrete markers erected by the Lincoln Highway Association stretched across Tooele's western desert; a few (now dilapidated) markers are still found within the boundaries of Dugway Proving Ground.⁴³

In 1943 the Lincoln Highway route over Johnson's Pass was improved and re-routed southwest through Skull Valley to Dugway Proving Ground, bypassing Orr's Ranch. During the initial phase of building, Dugway Proving Ground vehicles were not permitted to use the Johnson Pass Road, using instead the Lookout Pass route. A second access road to Dugway was surveyed in 1951; it ran north-south through Skull Valley for a distance of about thirty-eight miles.

The interstate highways were not the only interest of county drivers; throughout the early decades of the twentieth century improvements were made on existing roads, and new roads and streets were built between and within many of the towns of Tooele County. For example, the budget for roads jumped from \$4,000 in 1915 to more than \$31,000 by 1918. By 1920 licensing was required for commercial vehicles. Some county voters disapproved of using funds for expensive projects for little-used roads, such as a proposal to gravel the road to Wendover in 1921 and using taxpayer money for the Victory Highway proposal; but over the years residents came to increasingly support road projects. In 1930, for example, Ibapah residents said that they would work on area roads free of charge if the county would furnish the machinery.⁴⁴

During the Great Depression the county appropriated money to hire local unemployed men to build and repair roads in the county, while the federal government did the same through the Civilian Conservation Corps and other agencies. By the end of World War II the county had ceased its involvement with roads through military property, and by 1947 it had sold its horse-drawn plow and road grader. With its vast expanses, Tooele County was both well-suited for and increasingly dependent upon motorized transportation, both for pleasure and work as well as to bring tourists into and through the county. Good roads were also necessary to provide for the ever-increasing use of trucks in the freighting and road transportation industries. The mining industry and the government had already

worked on several road projects, as will be discussed; so too individual communities gradually improved their street systems throughout the county, as will be seen in the discussions of the various communities.

The Interstate Freeway Comes to the County

In November 1956 a designated federal interstate highway system was approved, with 634 miles to be in Utah. Part of the route description was as follows: "From the Utah-Nevada State Line at or near Wendover Via Salt Lake City, to the Utah-Wyoming State Line. . . ." Part of the new Interstate 80 would go directly through Tooele County, from Wendover to Salt Lake City. By June 1959 the first interchange of the interstate highway system in Tooele County had been completed at Lowe.⁴⁵ Other interstate projects and their completion dates included: Lowe to Delle, December 1966; Wendover to Knolls, December 1969; Knolls to Clive, June 1971; Clive to Lowe, October 1971; Delle to Timpie Junction, October 1971; and Timpie Junction to Lake Point, August 1972.⁴⁶

Interchanges had been the subject of Tooele County Commission meetings in November 1963, when a resolution was sent to the governor of Utah protesting the relocation of I-80 from Lake Point around the southernmost part of the Great Salt Lake parallel with the Western Pacific railroad tracks to Timpie; and again in July 1965, when the commission met with state highway officials to advocate building interchanges on the new highway near Solar Salt Company's plant, Timpie, and Lake Point to facilitate major county industries at those places.⁴⁷ County officials thus endeavored to attract and accommodate industrial growth through highway development, and this endeavor has continued. For example, in 1969 Tooele County funded \$243,000 of an \$810,000 thirteen-mile road to a magnesium plant in the county.⁴⁸

In the years since, other road projects have been developed in the county, as roads are truly life-sustaining arterials in the vast semiarid county. How important they are was seen in the flood years of the early 1980s, when part of I-80 had to be raised above floodwaters, and in the mid-1990s, when the governor of the state of Utah attempted to help block plans to place a nuclear-waste repository on

the Skull Valley Goshute Indian Reservation by claiming control over the only road to the reservation, thus blocking any unwanted shipments to the area. This controversy is still on-going, but it illustrates the vital importance of roads to the county and its inhabitants.

Building Tooele County Railroads

The ceremony joining the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific railroad tracks was held at Promontory Point on 10 May 1869. The local junction was located at Ogden rather than Corinne due to efforts of Mormon church leaders. One of Tooele County's earliest experiences with railroad building involved providing railroad ties for the Utah Central Railroad, constructed between Ogden and Salt Lake City between 1868–69. Timbers were cut and hewed in the Oquirrh Mountains in the winter, hauled by sled to “the old Clinton Place” at Lake Point and then joined in huge groups and rafted across the lake to Farmington.⁴⁹ The huge rafts of logs (each about 300 by 16 feet) were then moved by about twenty men with twelve-foot poles along the perimeter of the lake in what was undoubtedly and unwieldy but still effective transportation system. The journey took about three days and nights to complete and the men on the rafts slept and even cooked on the structures.⁵⁰

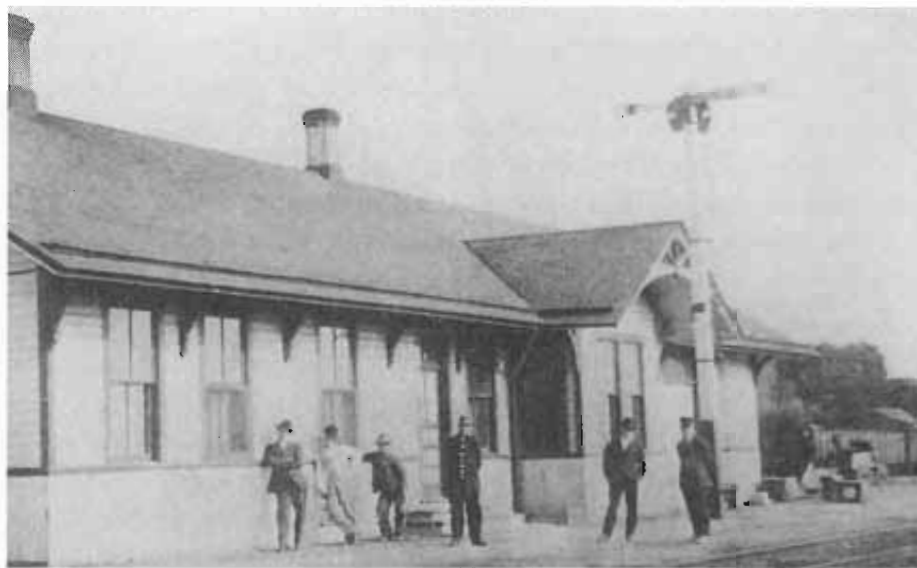
The connecting line between Ogden and Salt Lake City was completed on 10 January 1870. From Salt Lake City the railroad could be extended to areas throughout Utah, including Tooele County. The Utah Nevada Western Railroad connected Lake Point with Salt Lake City by 1874. It was intended to travel through Juab, Millard, and Beaver counties to Nevada mines; but the line was not extended as the company went bankrupt. It was then taken over by the Kimball and Young railroad company, which extended the lines to Bauer. In June 1882 several railroad lines were combined under the auspices of the Union Pacific into a company called the Utah Central Railway System. The Utah Central Railway later was combined with the Utah and Northern Railroad and became part of the Oregon Short Line System in 1889, and of the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad in 1903.⁵¹

In 1902 work was begun to cross the Great Salt Lake with a railroad line—the Lucin Cutoff. The Cutoff is not in Tooele County, but

it parallels the county's northern boundary from the Nevada state line to the lake. The Southern Pacific Railroad by 1904 had finished the completion of a wooden trestle, carrying the railroad right across the middle of the lake. Some 38,000 wooden piles, each 120 feet long, were driven into the lake across an expanse of over twelve miles. The trestle carried Southern Pacific traffic until the present earthfill causeway was completed in 1959. The wooden trestle then continued in use during emergencies for more than a decade.

The Western Pacific Railroad was completed across Tooele County in 1907. The line skirts the south shore of the Great Salt Lake, but during periods of high lake levels the company has been forced to raise its rail bed—first in 1912 and again during the flooding years of 1983–87. During the latter period the railroad bed was raised a total of six feet but remained in continuous operation.⁵² That period saw periods when the Southern Pacific could not use its Lucin Cutoff route; however, for short periods it was accommodated on the Western Pacific Line, which by then had been acquired by Union Pacific.

The Union Pacific Railroad line, which runs through Tooele County, connects to Salt Lake City and is the main line of the eastern division of the Union Pacific. It is part of the former Western Pacific line, which was constructed in 1906–07. Station names or control points on this division west of Salt Lake City include Buena Vista, Terminal, Saltus, Garfield, and Garfield Pit (elevation 4,240 feet), which is the last point in Salt Lake County before the tracks enter Tooele County. At Burmester (4,225 feet) the rails branch out to Marshall and then to Warner (a few miles from Tooele City). Continuing west, one encounters Solar and Ellerbeck, where another branch goes to Flux Dolomite Junction and Dolomite. Farther west are Timpie, Delle, and a branch to Rowley. A spur is located at Marblehead, and along the line west are Low, Aragonite, Clive, Knolls, Barro, Arinosa, Salduro, Silsbee, and Blair Spur, with the westernmost station in Tooele County being Wendover. Some stations such as Burmester attracted other settlers for a short time, but most have had only a few residents or have been served only by railroad workmen for their existence in the more bleak desert reaches of the line. Until the use of creosoted railroad ties became common in the



The railroad station at Stockton. (Utah State Historical Society)

1940s, it was necessary to have numerous on-site railroad employees and stations along the line. This need dropped drastically in the 1940s and many stations were subsequently abandoned as the tracks could be more easily serviced by more mobile crews.

The Western Pacific line in the county was organized by the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in 1905, and the line was finished in 1910. Passenger operation between Salt Lake City and San Francisco began on 22 August 1910.⁵³ At that time, the line had about 121 miles of main track and 13 miles of side tracks. The Western Pacific branch to Warner was completed in November 1917, the steep grade to Tooele City being the reason the station was not placed there.⁵⁴

The Deep Creek Railroad Company was incorporated in October 1916 and built tracks to connect the Gold Hill mining camps with the Western Pacific line at Wendover. Two trains ran on the line each day during the boom period to 1925, gradually declining to one train a week before the line was discontinued on 31 July, 1939.⁵⁵

Especially in the 1930s, some people in the county secured employment as clerks and as conductors, brakemen, or firemen on the railroad line. Most local workers, however, were employed as

track laborers. At Marshall, living quarters were available for a track crew, and a tipple enabled the crew to transfer sugar beets to railroad cars for shipment. Large scoop shovels and strong backs were required to unload coal from the boxcars for Grantsville merchants.⁵⁶

A depot was established at Burmester, and Grantsville residents were dependent on that station for rail transport to Salt Lake City and for Western Union telegraph messages. Morton Salt Company shipped its product daily from the Burmester siding. The station at Knolls was described as "primarily a train order depot used to facilitate the movement of trains." A large wooden water tank was installed at Knolls on a nearby hill and track was laid to haul water up to this elevated point. Sometimes the train crews would leave a tank car on the hill still containing a few feet of water; as one man wrote, "this soon warmed and sure did make a good place to take a bath."⁵⁷ The depot at Wendover was made possible by water made available through the efforts of Grantsville contractor Pratt Matthews, who piped water to the station from Pilot Peak springs twenty-five miles away.

The depot at Salduro served the area potash plant during World War I, when potash was no longer available from Germany. At the Delle depot a water tank with spout was installed, as was also a coal chute. Water was brought from the Delle Ranch at the foot of the Stansbury Mountains fourteen miles to the southeast to service coal-burning steam locomotives. Large shipments of livestock and bulk loads such as salt were shipped from the county on the line, and hard rock mines near Delle also generated a small amount of business for the railroad; however, most revenue, both freight and passenger, came from the livestock industry in Skull Valley.

"Life along the railway was somewhat primitive," according to worker Harry Naylor:

The company furnished living quarters for the section crews in the form of two room frame buildings and a slightly larger building for the section foremen. Rooms were built onto the depot for the Agent and bunk houses for the second and third trick [shift] operators. All these buildings were equipped with beds, mattresses, table and chairs and kerosene lamps. Coal and kerosene were furnished and water was delivered once a week and dumped into red-

wood cisterns alongside the tracks. Some of the bunk houses were also equipped with a liberal supply of bedbugs.⁵⁸

Wendover was a division point on the railroad and also had a roundhouse. Harry Naylor recalled: "The roundhouse was a large semi-circular building with several tracks laid within like the spokes of a wheel. At the front of this was a large turntable with a track on it. Thus, several pieces of rolling stock could be moved into the building for repairs at the same time."⁵⁹

When Harry Naylor worked at Lowe rattlesnakes were a problem:

In the mornings the pesky creatures liked to snuggle up along side the rails to absorb a little of the heat held over from the day before and later in the day they took shelter under an old tie or rock or anything to get out of the sun. . . . Some of us would ride to and from the work site on the push car [a small flat-topped trailer which could be attached to the motorcar] but we were careful not to dangle our legs over the side.⁶⁰

Through the years, Naylor and others in his family worked at various positions on the Western Pacific line. However, with the advent of heavier rails and creosote ties, it was no longer necessary for maintenance people to live along the tracks, and many stations were abandoned.⁶¹

South of Salt Lake City, the route of the railroad through Tooele County is part of the Union Pacific main line, constructed in 1902 as the Oregon Shortline Railroad. The stations or control points along this route are Morris, Erda, Shields, and Warner, which has a Tooele Army Depot spur. Next along the line are Bauer, Stockton, and St. John. Clover follows, at 5,034 feet in elevation, with a belt-line railroad; it is followed by Ajax and then by Faust Station, where the Pony Express Trail crosses the railroad tracks. Pehrson is reached next, then Dunbar and Lofgreen. Boulter at 5,953 feet is the last point in Tooele County.

The Oregon Short Line Railroad under the control of the Union Pacific was comprised of the Salt Lake and Western Railway and the Utah-Nevada Railway, which was incorporated in February 1881 to purchase the Utah Western Railway, which had pushed from Salt Lake City to Bauer in 1883. The Utah-Nevada was originally known



The Tooele Railroad Depot in 1910. (Utah State Historical Society)

as the Salt Lake, Sevier Valley and Pioche Railroad; and it reached its terminus at Lake Point in 1875.⁶²

The Utah-Nevada Railway was intended to continue south from Stockton via Dugway, go on to Deep Creek, and eventually terminate at Bodie, California. Capitalized at \$4.4 million in 1892, it would have passed two miles north of Dugway and headed southwest to Deep Creek. When a right-of-way was sought near Tooele, however, prices asked for the land were too high; consequently, the grading was stopped. Negotiations were unsuccessful, and the railroad was not built. Earlier, in 1881, the Salt Lake Western had planned to extend to Snake Valley via Deep Creek, but those plans were also abandoned.⁶³

Early in 1881 the Union Pacific began to build a line through Tooele, Salt Lake, and Juab counties as part of a direct route to California. This line connected with the Utah Central Railroad at Lehi Junction, then crossed west into Tooele County at Five Mile Pass, and continued south along the west slope of the Thorpe Hills, through Topliff, and over Boulter Summit.⁶⁴



The San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad traveling south from Rush Lake. (George Millward Collection)

In 1900 Senator William Clark of Montana announced his intention of building a railroad from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles “completely independent of the existing Union Pacific lines.”⁶⁵ Clark’s company was called the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad and was incorporated on 21 March 1901.

Believing the old right-of-way of the Oregon Short Line had been abandoned by the Union Pacific at the Utah-Nevada border in southeastern Nevada, Clark’s company began surveys. Union Pacific became alarmed at this competitive threat and asserted its old claim. An agreement was reached on 7 July 1903 whereby the Union Pacific interests acquired a 50 percent interest in the San Pedro, L.A. and Salt Lake Railroad; and this company took over all of the Oregon Short Line properties south of Sandy and west of Salt Lake City.⁶⁶ This allowed the conversion to standard gauge of the old Utah and Nevada line from Salt Lake City to Stockton as well as the extension of the line to Lynndyl, where it joined the San Pedro, L.A. and Salt Lake

Railroad tracks. Finally, after twenty-two years, the end of the line was no longer Stockton. Clark was not bought out by the Union Pacific until 27 April 1921. The new railroad had a main track of nearly 484 miles, with almost 110 miles of side track. Sixty of those miles were in Tooele County, with the first through passenger trains traveling through the county on 2 May 1905.⁶⁷

The railroads dominated the transportation industry from the late nineteenth century through the first decades of the twentieth; however, with the rise of automobile and truck traffic and the improved roads to serve them the railroads began to decline. The Stockton railroad station was moved in the late 1960s because the railroad continued losing freight and passenger business to trucks and automobiles. As one historian wrote: the depot had been a wonder to the children of the tiny town, with "the quietness inside its walls broken only by the 'click-click' of the telegraph instrument. The station-master, a pencil stuck behind his ear, a green 'visor' shading his eyes and wearing black 'sleeve-protectors,' the wide depot seats with their iron arm rests and the pot-bellied stove all led up to instant fascination."⁶⁸

The natural dam gravel bar separating Rush and Tooele valleys and created by ancient Lake Bonneville had been an obstacle in 1902 to the extension of the tracks from Bauer to Stockton. To cut through this bar, a steam shovel was brought from the Mississippi River, the first of its kind to the West, and a blacksmith shop was put into operation on the site. The cut was one-half mile long, 150 feet wide, and 121 feet deep.⁶⁹

The short line railroad which departed from the St. John Station to Ophir (a distance of nine miles) was incorporated on 5 March 1912 for \$150,000 and was dissolved on 15 January 1938. A railway line brought ore from nearby Mercur three miles south to the Manning mill, then extended down the canyon to Fairfield to connect with the larger rail network of the Union Pacific.⁷⁰

A branch line, consisting of about six miles of main track and one mile of side track from the Warner Station to the International Smelting and Refining operation was built in 1909. It was owned and operated by the smelter. One writer remarked: "The coming of the smelter and its railway called the Tooele Valley Railroad was to have



Laying track for the Deep Creek Railroad at Gold Hill in 1917. (Utah State Historical Society)

as much impact on this little valley as did the coming of the pioneers themselves.”⁷¹ The station was at 35 North Broadway, and it is now the home of the Tooele Railroad Museum. Ironically this line was used to carry scrap iron when the International Smelting and Refining Company dismantled its buildings from 1972 to 1975.⁷² A spur line out to the tunnel which connected the Tooele side of the Oquirrh Mountains to the Bingham side was in operation for ten years.

Not everyone was sad when the end came for the Tooele Valley Railroad on 26 August 1982. Wrote one: “Those who lived along Vine Street weren’t sorry to see the old steam engine go. The cinders created havoc with fresh hung laundry, gardens, rooftops and complexions. They filled the air, rained on housetops, rolled off roofs.”⁷³ According to employee Ernest Weyland, four men were killed during the operation of the railroad. Before the tracks were removed, however, the company’s 1910 locomotive was ceremoniously escorted on the rails from its city park cement display pad to a resting site near the company’s depot. J. Earl Tate, ninety-two years old, was part of the caravan; he was one of the railroad’s first employees. He was accompanied by Donald Lee, who had held the position of superintendent for forty years.

During the building of the Deep Creek Railroad, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Western Pacific, which on 20 October 1916 first connected Wendover with Gold Hill, a physician, Dr. Joseph Peck, hired to care for the men building the track, wrote:

shortly after the last snow storm passed, a flash flood caused thirty-five washouts of the track in fifteen miles. There was water everywhere, none of which was fit to use in any way because of the salt. The next strip of construction was to be along the base of Dutch Mountain, as we had to get some altitude to reach Gold Hill, which was about a thousand feet above the elevation of the salt flats. Like the cloudbursts in summer, the chinooks in winter made the water pour off that old bare mountain like water off a tin roof.⁷⁴

In July 1939 the Interstate Commerce Commission authorized the abandonment of this branch.⁷⁵ Another railroad scheme to haul out local gold also ended in abandonment of the rails.

The St. John Station was closed on 18 October 1986 and burned down in December of the same year. All operations of the St. John station were transferred to the Warner Station.⁷⁶

The railroads have long been important economically to Tooele County—a fact which remains true at the present time. In 1992, for example, Tooele County received a total of \$749,050 in property taxes from the railroads. Other economic values of the railroads to the county have related to the operations of government installations such as the Tooele Army Depot, which utilizes railroad spurs from both the Union Pacific and the former Western Pacific.

ENDNOTES

1. John Townley, *The Pony Express Guidebook* (Sparks, NV.: Great Basin Studies Center, 1945), 4–6.

2. Ezra C. Knowlton, *History of Highway Development in Utah* (Salt Lake City: Utah State Road Commission, 1959), 35.

3. Froiseth's Sectional and Mineral Map of Utah, 2nd ed., 1878, Utah State Historical Society Library.

4. Ouida Blanthorn, "Dugway Footpaths and Wheeltracks," *Desert Sampler*, September 1974.

5. Levi Edgar Young, *The Founding of Utah* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1923), 378.

6. Townley, *Pony Express Guidebook*, 4–7; Ralph L. McBride, “Utah Mail Service Before the Coming of the Railroad” (Master’s thesis, Brigham Young University, 1957), 97; Ronald R. Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections* (Salt Lake City: n.p., 1984), 45–48.

7. Ouida Blanthorn, “Rush Valley’s Past,” *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 22 September 1967.

8. *The People of Vernon, A Compilation of Life Stories* (Tooele, UT: Transcript-Bulletin Press, 1983), 171–78.

9. *Ibid.*, 174.

10. Townley, *Pony Express Guidebook*, 13–14.

11. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 98; Ouida Blanthorn, “Trails Through History,” *Desert Sampler*, 22 November 1974; Smart, *Old Utah Trails*, 119.

12. *People of Vernon*, 116.

13. Kate B. Carter, *Utah and the Pony Express* (Salt Lake City: Utah Printing Co., 1960), 14.

14. Samuel Parley Hall, “History of Samuel Parley Hall,” 2–3.

15. Carter, *Utah and the Pony Express*, 64.

16. *Salt Lake Tribune*, 11 May 1969; *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 7 July 1970, 5 February 1991.

17. “BLM-NPEA Agreement signed,” *Pony Express Gazette*, 3 April 1992, 6.

18. Hope A. Hilton, *Wild Bill Hickman and the Mormon Frontier* (Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1988), 31; Minutes, Tooele County Historical Society, 14 October 1992.

19. Wallace Severe, “Sharing the Past,” (1956), 7.

20. *The People of Vernon*, 472–73; Young, *The Founding of Utah*, 385.

21. Mildred Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 115.

22. *The People of Vernon*, 26.

23. Kate B. Carter, *The Story of Telegraphy* (Salt Lake City: Utah Printing Co., 1961), 9.

24. Leonard J. Arrington, *Great Basin Kingdom* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1958), 230–31.

25. *Ibid.*, 228–29; Ouida Blanthorn, “When the Wires Sang,” *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 16 February 1965.

26. Carter, *Story of Telegraphy*, 53, 54.

27. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 99.

28. Ouida Blanthorn et al., *History of Clover* (Grantsville, UT:

Transcript-Bulletin, 1956), 18. The Center station was closed in 1884 when Western Union abandoned its old California line.

29. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 108.

30. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 257–59.

31. Ibid., 25832.

Ibid., 259.

33. Ibid., 260.

34. Henry B. Joy, *The Lincoln Highway* (New York: Dodd, Mead and Company), 175.

35. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 21.

36. Ibid., 175.

37. Joy, *Lincoln Highway*, 285.

38. “Two DPG Sites Nominated for Historical Honors,” *Desert Sampler*, 22 November 1974.

39. Danny Orr, interview, Grantsville, August 1960. See also *History of Clover*, 32.

40. See “Dugway Desert Tour,” Dugway Proving Ground brochure, 1981.

41. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 260.

42. Ibid.

43. Joy, *Lincoln Highway*, 185–91; Minutes, Tooele County Historical Society, 18 February 1987.

44. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 260–61.

45. Knowlton, *History of Highway Development*, 579–626.

46. State of Utah Department of Transportation to Ouida Blanthorn, 17 March 1993.

47. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 261–62.

48. Ibid., 262.

49. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 66.

50. Morgan, *Great Salt Lake*, 295–97.

51. Leonard J. Arrington, *Great Basin Kingdom* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1958), 260–64, 283–89.

52. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 398.

53. David F. Johnson, “The History and Economics of Utah Railroads” (Master’s thesis, University of Utah, 1947), 68.

54. Ibid., 69; Minutes, Tooele County Historical Society, 10 October 1990.

55. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 347.

56. Harry Naylor, "The Western Pacific Railroad in Tooele County" (undated), 1.
57. Ibid., 2, 4.
58. Ibid, 3.
59. Ibid., 7.
60. Ibid., 6.
61. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 345.
62. Philip F. Notarianni, *The Tintic Mining District* (Eureka, UT: Tintic Historical Society, 1992), 59; Hubert H. Bancroft *History of Utah* (San Francisco: History Company, 1899), 758.
63. See Johnson, "History and Economics of Utah Railroads."
64. Notarianni, *Tintic Mining District*, 59.
65. Isaac F. Marcossos, *Anaconda* (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1957), 82–83.
66. Johnson, "History and Economics of Utah Railroads," 44.
67. Frank Wright, "The Race to Bullfrog," Nevada (July-August 1992: 29–33.
68. *Brief History of Stockton, Utah* (Tooele, UT: Stockton Bicentennial History Committee, 1976), 33.
69. Minutes, Tooele County Historical Society, 8 April 1992; Orrin P. Miller, ed., *Mining, Smelting and Railroading in Tooele County* (Salt Lake City: Tooele County Historical Society, 1986), 133.
70. Johnson, "History and Economics of Utah Railroads," 45; Beth Kay Harris and Frank C. Robertson, *Boom Towns of the Great Basin* (Denver, CO: Alan Swallow, 1962), 111.
71. Margaret Van Noy, "Don Lee," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 20 May 1982.
72. Miller, *Mining, Smelting*, 118.
73. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 443.
74. Johnson, "History and Economics of Utah Railroads," 69; Joseph H. Peck, *What Next Dr. Peck?* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1959), 56.
75. Johnson, "History and Economics of Utah Railroads," 69.
76. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 17 December 1968.

CHAPTER 6

EARLY MINING AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

Early Salt Mining

It is to be assumed that for at least hundreds of years Native Americans had collected salt from the vicinity of the Great Salt Lake, and it is known that John C. Fremont tested the salinity of the lake by evaporating water to determine the amount of salts it contained. The early settlers to the region soon took advantage of the lake's salt deposits. Pioneers in the commercial production of salt from the Great Salt Lake from as early as 1850 included Charley White, Joseph Griffith, and William F. Moss.¹ The salt was harvested by hand using rakes and shovels from evaporation ponds or from along beaches of the lake. Other methods included heating the saltwater in large kettles, leaving the salt behind—a hot, cumbersome, but effective process.

Dale Morgan reported that in the early days of settlement, there were many producers of salt around the eastern and southern shores of the Great Salt Lake, most evaporating the brine to get the salt. More bitter salts were left behind with the common table salt, sodium chloride, but although methods were devised to help purify the salt,



Inland Crystal Salt Company, interior rock salt presses in 1919. (Utah State Historical Society)

the early producers rejected the notion of extra work and continued with their processes. This meant that their salt was priced very low on the market after the arrival of competition with the transcontinental railroad.²

By 1873 the fledgling salt industry on the Great Salt Lake met new challenges associated with the unique character of the lake. Having no outlet, and varying in elevation over a twenty-foot range, the lake changes markedly in its salinity, from well over 20 percent to as low as 8 percent, depending upon its levels and associated inflow of fresh water. In the early 1870s, when the lake reached a high of over 4212 feet above sea level and with the salinity at 15 percent, production costs rose and competition was felt from eastern salt suppliers, who now utilized the newly completed transcontinental railroad to import cheaper and higher-quality salt to the region.³

Fortunately for local salt producers, however, a new market for salt was found with the discovery of silver in Montana. A better



Sacking room of the Inland Crystal Salt Company in 1919. (Utah State Historical Society)

reduction process for silver ore created a demand for large quantities of salt, leading to the development of new production and refining methods. New techniques were developed to construct more sturdy dikes near the lake, and pumps at the lake replaced the earlier method of trapping water behind the dikes during high winds.⁴

The leading company in the lake's salt production was the Inland Salt Company in Salt Lake County, although there were competitors and other manufacturers along the lake's shore, including some in Tooele County. By 1888 Inland had developed a process which removed undesirable minerals from the brine and produced a product which was 99 percent sodium chloride. Inland Salt had the financial backing of leaders of the LDS church, and that support enabled it to survive market changes and the depression of 1893. Although some smaller companies continued to supply lower-quality salt for the silver industry, Inland became the leader in producing high-quality salt. Most of the small, lower-quality producers either did not sur-

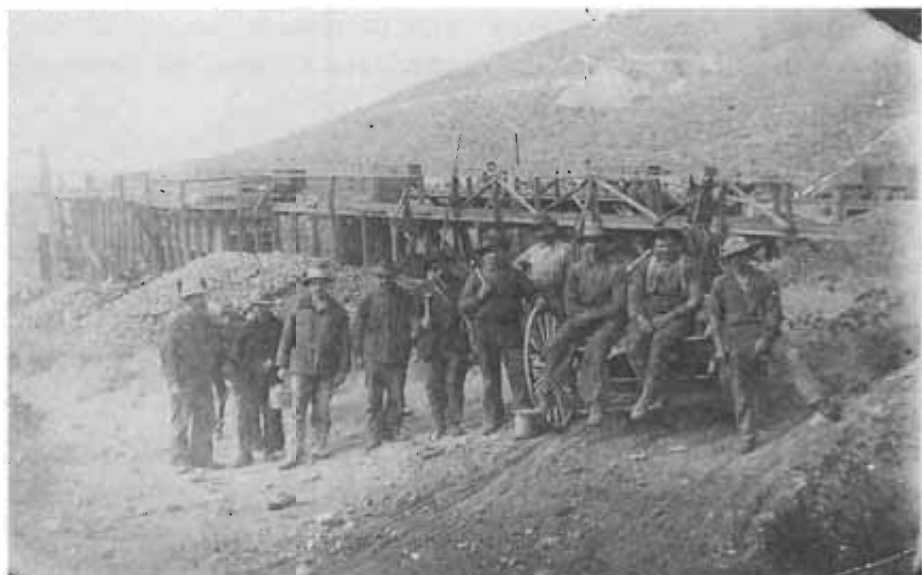
vive long or were taken over by larger producers.⁵ Inland Salt later became Inland Crystal Salt Company, Royal Crystal Salt Company, and still later Morton Salt.

Mining for Metals

From the time of their first arrival, the Mormons in Utah had little interest in prospecting for precious metals, and Brigham Young actively worked to dissuade his followers from seeking mineral wealth. As one historian has written, however, "since every Mormon community needed coal for heating, iron for tools, and lead ammunition, . . . almost from the first the Mormons mined on a small scale as part of their effort to develop a self-sufficient economy."⁶

Pioneer mining efforts in Tooele County were primarily the result of stimulus by non-Mormons, beginning in 1862 when volunteer troops from California under Colonel Patrick Connor, many of them former gold miners, sent to guard the Overland Mail routes and also to keep an eye on the Mormons, filed mining claims in Rush Valley. As the commander of the volunteers, notwithstanding his army commission, Colonel Patrick E. Connor was said to have "founded and virtually owned the [mining] town of Stockton," the first important gentile settlement in Utah. Connor wrote the regulations for the West Mining District, the first in Utah, formed in 1863 at Archibald Gardner's mill on the Jordan River. Up to that time, laws had simply been established as they were needed by local groups of miners.⁷ A year later the West Mining District was divided, with the western slopes of the Oquirrh Mountains becoming the Rush Valley District. Over 500 mining claims had been located in the Rush Valley District by the fall of 1865.

On 23 August 1870 the Rush Valley District was divided three ways, with the north part becoming the Tooele City District and the south end becoming the Ophir District. Between the two, the Rush Valley (or Stockton) Mining District, as it was then designated, was about seven miles square. Some of the mines in the Rush Valley District were the Aurora, Jasper, Commanche Chief, Mountain Gem, Pride of Utah, Pilot Knob, Pleasant Hill, Golconda, Swallow Lode, Lady Connor, Abraham's Daughter, and Little Soldier.⁸



Miners at Stockton. (Utah State Historical Society)

Rush Valley Mining District

The first mine discovered in the Rush Valley Mining District was Colonel Connor's Honerine Mine, a name still used to indicate the central area of the district and the tunnel later connected from the Bauer plant. In the Stockton area, Connor arranged to have erected a smelter called the Pioneer, which in 1864 was used in an unsuccessful attempt to separate the gold and silver from the lead in the ore.⁹ For a period of time after Connor and his troops were mustered out of the service on 30 April 1866 many of the soldiers departed and there was little mining or smelting in Stockton, the town that grew around the early mining activities.

When the transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869, however, area mining ventures increased.¹⁰ A Tooele man, Eli B. Kelsey, induced foreign and eastern capitalists to invest in Tooele's mines and smelters. Besides Connor's Pioneer Smelter, before 1873 the Monheim, John, Waterman, Smith, Jack, Carson and Bozo, and Chicago smelters also were built in the district.¹¹ By 1889 some mines had reached the depth of 660 feet, encountering the local water table; but, it was found that by pumping the water mining could continue.

A drain tunnel built in 1901 by the Honerine Mining Company to remove mine water irrigated an orchard of 19,000 trees planted near the entrance to the Honerine Mine tunnel.¹²

In 1906 the Honerine Mine was sold to the Bullion Coalition and the area became known as Bauer, named after a company official. Near the portal to the Honerine, the new owners built a large gravity concentration mill, which was discontinued in 1922 due to water and metalurgical problems. In 1922 Combined Metals company took over the mill from the Bullion Coalition, purchasing the orchard and mine to get more water rights. When the Bluestone and Honerine sections of the mine started mining operations below the tunnel level and the water flow from the mine was found to be ample for the mill, the company, finding the orchard unprofitable, pulled it up in 1938.¹³

In the thirty-odd years of mining before the turn of the century, the group of mines above the 600-foot level produced over 250,000 tons of ore. The successive name changes of the associated mining center from Terminal to Buhl to Bauer did not prevent the ultimate closing of the mines, however. The farm, orchard, and mine are now gone—operations ceased in 1983.¹⁴

Early Charcoal and Lime Kilns

Charcoal kilns were built in various locations of the county beginning in the late 1860s with the development of smelters. The charcoal would burn hotter than regular wood and was necessary in the smelting of metals. Near Tooele most of the wood for the charcoal was taken from Pine and Dry canyons. Archibald Shields helped develop the industry, and the Stockton kilns were built by rock mason James Hammond. John and William Barker were early charcoal makers in the county.¹⁵

Lime and brick kilns were built for domestic purposes; the lime for plastering and whitewashing structures and the brick to provide a higher quality building material than the sun-baked adobes that were common well into the 1860s. Early adobes in Tooele were made by Carl Eric Lindhom and Lars Nilsson, who would make as many as 5,000 bricks during the hotter summer months, mixing the mud with their feet. The first prominent brick kiln in the city was owned by

William Isgreen, who used a horse-drawn apparatus to mix the clay and then fired it in his kiln using pine logs as the heat source.¹⁶

The “Tooele Republic”

Tooele County had experienced a doubling of its population between 1860 and 1870 to some 2,177 people. Mining growth brought another doubling in the next ten years—this time to 4,497 people. With the coming of many miners to the county in the 1870s, political activity increased when a new political party—the Liberal party—was formed in Utah to attempt to counter the dominant influence of the Mormon church. Almost all Mormon settlers belonged to the People’s party, so the Liberal party became the home of non-Mormons and disaffected members of that church. With its increasingly large numbers of non-Mormons, a struggle for political power in Tooele County began, which was in part fueled by a water controversy as the non-Mormon newcomers were increasingly frustrated in their attempts to secure precious water in Settlement Canyon from the various Mormon groups that had claimed it.¹⁷

In 1874 mining interests in the county now claimed a “measure of political representation” and met with twelve leading citizens of the People’s party to discuss the matter.¹⁸ At this meeting it was agreed to run a Liberal party nominee for sheriff on a general ticket. However, prominent members of the People’s party outside the county took issue with the decision and forced the name of the Liberal candidate for sheriff off the ballot. The Liberals were angered at what they considered a betrayal, and it was claimed that they decided to take control of the elections, including stuffing ballot boxes, with miners even coming over the mountains from Bingham to vote. Although there were many voting irregularities, anti-Mormon federal judge James B. McKean declared the Liberal party candidates victorious.

Subsequently, when the Liberals came to seat their new probate judge, Lawrence A. Brown, county probate judge John Rowberry did not surrender the office, asking the county’s Mormon selectmen if they considered Brown to have a legitimate claim. The selectmen (commissioners) replied no, and Brown left for Salt Lake City to appeal to federal authorities, with Rowberry and others also going to

plead their case. In the meantime, a U.S. deputy marshal, with some of the Liberals, physically took possession of the Tooele County Recorder's Office. However, when the Liberals later were absent temporarily, People's party members reclaimed possession of the courthouse and hid the records.

Tempers flared and hostilities and physical violence threatened to engulf the county until Brigham Young counseled his followers to allow the Liberals to claim electoral victory. Eventually the Liberal party took control of almost all county offices in what became known to some as the Tooele Republic; but good government did not seem to result from the change. It was later reported that the new officials boarded "at the best hotel, keep fine horses and carriages, sport flashy jewelry and indulge in billiard ad libitum."¹⁹ The county's scrip fell in value (some claim by as much as 90 percent) and the county treasury went from a surplus to indebtedness, although some funds were expended on building the county courthouse.

After a tightening of voting and voter registration laws and zealous efforts by the People's party, at the next election in 1878 the Mormons swept back into power. After litigation by the Liberal party in protest, the Tooele Republic officially came to an end with the court's announcement on 26 March 1879 that the People's party had carried all county offices by a "landslide majority."²⁰ Mormons still outnumbered non-Mormons in the county and were generally better organized; therefore, like those in much of the rest of Utah, non-Mormons in Tooele County would have to wait until the coming of statehood and the establishment of the national Democratic and Republican political parties in the state to achieve any measure of political power.

During the 1880s, Tooele County actually lost population, dropping from 4,497 to 3,700 people by 1890. The 1890s saw another boom in county population, however, the number of county residents almost doubling—to 7,361—at the turn of the century as mining, ranching, and railroad development brought people to the county.²¹

Ophir Mining District

Shelby Alfred Lineback, a soldier discharged from the army at Camp Floyd in Cedar Valley in 1861, is believed to have been the first



Ophir in 1894. (Utah State Historical Society)

white man to settle in Ophir, which later became a booming mining town. A deep basin boxed in by steep walls, once a natural grazing area for horses, bears his name—Lineback Hollow.

East Canyon, one of the canyons on the western flanks of the Oquirrh which empties into Rush Valley, was named by the soldiers of Colonel Connor. Indians who roamed that area gathering pine nuts had picked up pieces of metal and made them into bullets. They

also reportedly displayed trinkets which the soldiers viewed that were made from precious metals found in the canyon. This induced soldiers to explore the area and establish mining claims. The first mine location by the soldiers in the Ophir District was the Silveropolis Mine, claimed on 23 August 1870.²²

A search of mining records in the Tooele County Recorder's Office reveals that Heber C. Kimball, Harrison Severe, and W.R. Judd, all Mormons with ranching interests in the Grantsville vicinity, were involved in the Antelope Mine in the Ophir Mining District, which they had located in 1871.²³

Particularly important in the Ophir Mining District were the discoveries of very rich "horn," or chloride, silver ores. William Barbee found horn silver on Silverdo Hill, where the Silveropolis, Chloride Point, Shamrock, and other claims were located. The Mountain Lion, Liver Chief, Mountain Tiger, Rockwell, and other claims were made on nearby Lion Hill.²⁴ From the Shamrock Mine came the richest deposit of horn silver in the West—\$27,000 per ton.²⁵

The Treasure Hill mines, located near the head of a steep canyon known as Dry Canyon, were at 8,000 feet in elevation. Treasure Hill was the location where the first ore discovery was made in 1865 by Connor's soldiers. The total value of ore produced from mines in the Ophir-Rush Valley area between 1870 and 1927 was more than \$43 million.²⁶

In the 1880s Ophir boasted numerous businesses, including a hotel, general store, saloon, drug store, and livery stable. In 1871 the Community Methodist Church had been established in town with more than 100 members.²⁷ A fire station and numerous other homes and businesses and even a city hall could be found in the town by the turn of the century, but the town gradually declined as mining activity dwindled in the twentieth century.

The completion of a railroad spur—the Clark Railroad—from the San Pedro, L.A. and Salt Lake Railway built from the St. John Station to the mines in Ophir Canyon was such a momentous occasion that William A. Clark, who owned the Ophir Hill Mine and was instrumental in building the branch, celebrated with other Ophir residents, proclaiming 1 August 1912 as Railroad Day. The *Utah Mining Review* reported on 30 December 1912 that the successful past year



The Hidden Treasure Outcrop at Ophir. (Utah State Historical Society)

in the Ophir mines was the result of the completion of the Clark Railroad.

To transport ore from the mines located on the steep grades of Dry and Soldier canyons, wagons were required for "the perilous journey" to bring the ore to the shipping point at Stockton. Joe Meli's teamsters in the mid-1920s "were operating five wagons which required fifteen teams of horses, five teamsters, a full-time blacksmith to repair the wagons and to shoe the horses. . . . Each teamster was responsible for the maintenance of his assigned harness, although stockboys fed, watered and brushed and horses."²⁸ Throughout the decade of the 1930s and into the 1940s the Treasure Hill Mine Company continued development of the property, shipping some 1,167 tons of ore from their claims.²⁹

Tooele City Mining District

The committee appointed to draft the by-laws of the Tooele City Mining District included E.S. Foote, H.S. Gowans, Henry Barrow, and Isaac Lee. They met on 8 August 1870 and voted Richard

Warburton as secretary and Foote as chairman; they then proceeded to establish the boundaries of the district.³⁰

The recorder of the Tooele City District was to be chosen from among the miners of the district to "record all Notices of Location claims whether for mining or for other purposes." He was to be paid three dollars for each claim and allowed "traveling fees to examine work on claims" at the rate of ten cents per mile. The by-laws stipulated that claims "shall not exceed 200 feet in length and 100 feet in width, and the location "shall be made by posting a notice on a stake or blazed tree surrounded by a mound of stone. . . ." ³¹ Also, labor of equivalent value to three dollars was to be performed on each claim within three months from the time of location to hold the claim good for one year.

One claim located in the Tooele City District in the 1930s was in Settlement Canyon. A shift boss at a Bingham mine, Otto Parsons, found outcrops in Parsons Canyon similar to the Bingham Canyon formations. With little money available during the Great Depression, Parsons easily found fifteen men willing to work for stock. The ore was shoveled into the mine cars and dumped into a bin, going down a gravity tramway to a bin at the bottom. Progress was slow, and a year passed before the ore was shipped. Brothers Frank and Willard Atkin, who had grubstaked the men, owed money for groceries.³² When the ore was finally shipped, however, the assays showed no net return after the smelter and shipping charges. The mine closed down, but Otto Parsons refused to budge from his cabin, insisting high-grade ore was still there. His eyesight gradually failed until finally he had to be carried away bodily from his beloved mine.³³

North Tintic Mining District

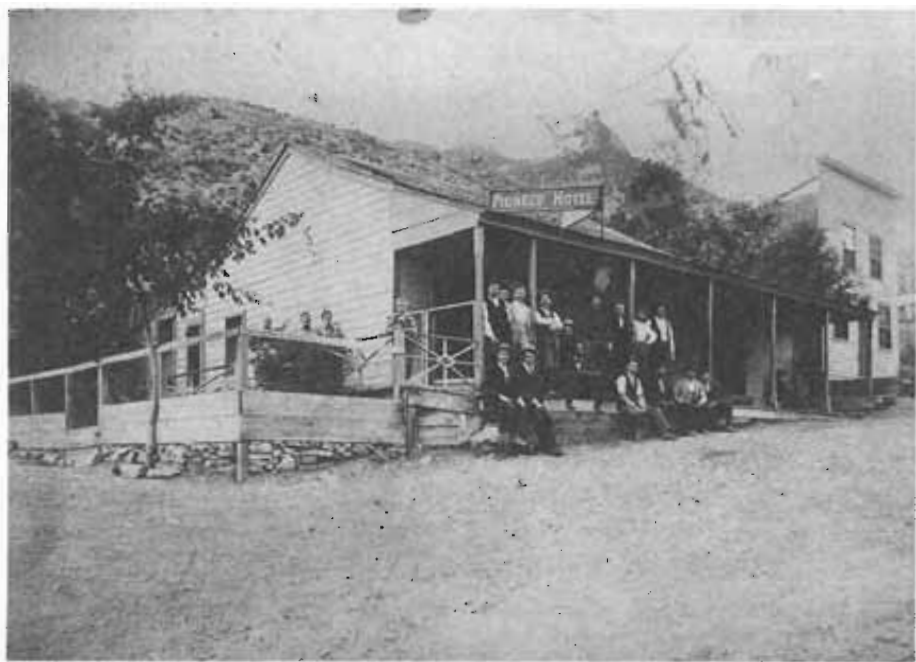
A spur of the Tintic Range dwindles northward from a high point for almost six miles, until only a low range of hills that forms the connection between the Oquirrh and Tintic mountains separates Rush and Cedar valleys. By traveling from the south on Highway 36 four miles from the Juab-Tooele county line, bypassing Black Rock Canyon, and then entering Barlow Canyon, the mining town of Scranton can be reached. It was named for Scranton, Pennsylvania, the hometown of the owners of the mine.



The Buckhorn Mine Boarding House at Ophir in 1903. (Utah State Historical Society)

The town of Scranton was home to the Scranton Mining and Smelting Company and was reached by the Salt Lake and Western Railway. Miners were at work driving a long tunnel in October 1914, and a new company called the South Scranton was organized.³⁴ Scranton was part of the North Tintic Mining District, which was organized in 1902 and produced silver, lead, and zinc during its peak three years of operation. The town had an assay office, bunkhouses, a boarding house, and homes for the miners.³⁵ Scranton also produced tungsten during World War I. The mineral was so scarce that it was sent by insured parcel post from Lofgreen, a station on the Union Pacific line at the Boulter Pass summit.³⁶

In 1901 Herman Lofgreen and his bride, Orra, had come on the railroad to settle in Rush Valley. From Fairfield the train crossed over Five Mile Pass and headed south through Topliff, Rush Valley Switch, Del Monte, Doremus, and, finally, the junction at Boulter. The Lofgreens settled near the Boulter divide, which became a station along the new railroad tracks being laid. The couple sold some of



The Pioneer Hotel in Ophir. (Utah State Historical Society)

their water rights to the railroad and were rewarded by having the station named Lofgreen.³⁷

The quarry town of Topliff is six miles north of Scranton, near the old railroad bed which once ran from Lehi Junction to Boulter. A water tank and depot were a mile east from the rails, and the area's limestone quarries were reached by a spur. The American and U.S. smelting companies and the Lehi Sugar Company (which owned a quarry) were all interested in lime for their operations.³⁸

Operations at Topliff began on the Fourth of July 1904, when black powder was used to blow the face off the mountain to the east. Julius Hall of Vernon, who worked at the mine, became an expert with explosives; he also helped to load lime into the railroad cars for shipment to the Murray Smelter. The general store in Vernon was operated by the Fredickson family, which hauled salt, coal, and other store items from Topliff.³⁹

A year after the quarries shut down in 1936, the rails were pulled up at Topliff and as far back as Five Mile Pass. Despite the abandon-

ment of the area, one woman, Sophia Carson, refused to leave her desert home at Topliff. She was described as a "colorful character, [and] a very good shot." She kept guns loaded to protect herself. When sheep trespassed, she shot them. Very unhappy with those who came out to gather up the ties, rails, and wire of the old railroad, she was said to have shot at them, too.⁴⁰

Many of the people in Tooele County furnished charcoal for the area's mines. Archibald Shields built kilns from homemade brick, taking four to five days to complete one burning for the finished product. Peder Jorgensen and his new bride heard of the demand for charcoal and came to Rush Valley to make their home. Their house south of Vernon was dug in the side of a hill, its sides and front partly built up with cedar posts. The roof was covered with cedar boughs and dirt. One stormy day Jorgensen and his wife, Christina, walked over to Petersburg (Benmore), where they found a nice cabin. The roof was covered with willows and a layer of straw topped with dirt. Christina was excited and said, "Here I'll live until I die, if you'll only buy it." Jorgensen bought the cabin for a span of mules valued at fifty dollars.⁴¹

Clifton Mining District

Two of the three organized mining districts in the Deep Creek Mountains are located in Tooele County: Willow Springs and Gold Hill-South Clifton. The Deep Creek Mountains in the western part of Tooele County bustled with mining activity at an early date, and in 1869 the Gold Hill Mining District was established.⁴² James H. Faust, a mail agent at one time in Pleasant Valley on the west side of the Deep Creek Mountains, predicted that the area would prosper, and in the later years of his life he spent most of his time there.⁴³ Poor roads in the area made mining difficult until the end of the nineteenth century, however. With the construction of a spur of the Western Pacific Railroad from Wendover in 1917, further mining took place.

Clifton arose on the Clifton Flats, a triangular mesa on top of the Clifton Range about five miles southeast of the mining camp town of Gold Hill. The Overland Trail reached the flats from the salt desert to the east via Overland Canyon and left it by another dry wash for the

Nevada mines.⁴⁴ With an area of about 72 square miles, the Clifton Mining District later included the Gold Hill mines. The Cane Springs Mine west of the town of Gold Hill produced andalusite, bornite, chalcocite, covellite, diopside, garnet, gold moybedite, pyrite, specularite, and tourmaline. Three miles south of the town of Clifton, the Climax Mine produced arsenopyrite, galena, pyrite, and sphalerite.⁴⁵

North of Clifton, Rupert Anderson recorded his mine, which he called the Iron Duke, stating it contained gold, silver, copper, and lead.” In January 1894 George A. Henry located a mine two miles northeast from the town, which he named the Peculiar. On the ridge east of the Barney Ruby Gulch, 2.5 miles from Clifton, Elizabeth Brown claimed the Joe Mine; and her transaction was recorded by Brigham H. Young, who was the mining district’s deputy recorder and a nephew of Mormon leader Brigham Young. Brigham H. and his brother Oliver remained the caretakers at Clifton after everyone else had traveled north to better diggings.⁴⁶ Oliver would “walk to Gold Hill and ship little piles of gold by mail and then buy hundreds of dollars in groceries,” which he stocked in the cupboards of Brigham’s empty cabin after the latter’s death. This cabin remained intact for a century, until hunters set fire to it.⁴⁷ Clifton’s mines produced high-grade ore, but most of the ore bodies were shallow and soon Clifton began to fade.⁴⁸

Wilma Kearney from Ibapah lived in Gold Hill for eighteen years and served as postmistress for nine of them. Another postmaster, Jacques J. Gerster, with his wife, Ada, furnished their house in a grand manner and over the years entertained notables including Herbert Hoover, Senator Reed Smoot, and Governor George Dern. Smoot was one of the financiers of the Deep Creek Railroad. When the post office at Gold Hill closed, the building was moved twenty miles to the southwest to Ibapah and became the Rao Bateman home.⁴⁹

In 1976 Tooele County Surveyor Donald Rosenberg interviewed a member of a prominent Gold Hill family—the grandson of Colonel John F. Woodman. The Colonel had built a crude smelter in 1865, and in 1885 he imported machinery from France for another smelter. According to Cecil Woodman, who was still living in Gold Hill at the time of the interview, one way to ship the gold was to lock it up in metal balls (which sometimes contained thousands of dol-



Ophir. (Utah State Historical Society)

lars in gold), with the only key to unlock the treasure at a Salt Lake City bank. It was rumored that seventeen of these balls turned up missing during one shipping operation and were never found.⁵⁰

In 1917 Gold Hill boasted an impressive business section which included a Ford automobile agency, a two-story hotel, a pharmacy (run by John and Edna Cook), a lumber company, various retail stores, and even two newspapers, the *Gold Hill News* and the *Gold Hill Standard*. According to one account, "There were no saloons in Gold Hill at any time in its history, but there were one or two houses of ill repute."⁵¹ Gold Hill was a stopping place for tourists crossing the desert on the Lincoln Highway. During World War I, arsenic was mined in the area. The product was used to help save the cotton crop in the South from boll weevil infestation. Tungsten became important in World War II, and the Yellow Hammer Mine in the district produced the material until 1955.⁵² This district has been Utah's prime producer of tungsten.

Between 500 and 1,500 people lived in Gold Hill in the early 1920s, and a sign claims that there were 3,000 inhabitants at one

time. Today about ten homes, including some summer residences, now constitute the old town.

Surrounding mining districts in the Gold Hill area, although not all were in Tooele County, were the Spring Creek, Johnson, and Fish Springs districts. The coming of the railroad gave the mines a boost, and the Gold Hill mines became famous in western mining circles. The Rube Mine, a one-man operation, shipped about \$10,000 in gold each year. When Leffler Palmer finally leased the mine out, however, it failed to produce gold after 1933.⁵³

Willow Springs District

Gold mining developed in the eastern foothills of the Deep Creek Mountains as a result of the boom at Gold Hill, which was just a few miles northwest of Willow Springs. Callao in Juab County became the center point for much of the activity that took place there and in other surrounding mining camps.⁵⁴ The Willow Springs Mining District was formed on 21 May 1891. The boundaries basically were north to Overland Canyon, south to Red Canyon, west to the summit of the mountains, and east to Boyd Station.⁵⁵

G.W. Tripp was the district's deputy recorder in 1892 when the Burr Trail Mine in Pole Canyon and the Ricklean Mine in Dry Canyon were recorded. Other mines in the district were the Knutsford, the Ulster Farmer Lode (near Riley Canyon), the Lura Lode on the eastern slopes on the Deep Creek Range, and the Daisy Mine, south of the old Overland road and 1.5 miles north of the North Pass wagon road. The Hosp placer claim was located upon a bed of petroleum and other hydrocarbons. The Bull Elephant Mine was recorded in Dry Canyon in 1896, and John St. Jeor and Alex Spiers were listed as locators. Other mines in the district were the Lucky Strike, White Horse, Eclipse, Monarch, and Silver Issue.⁵⁶

Erickson Mining District

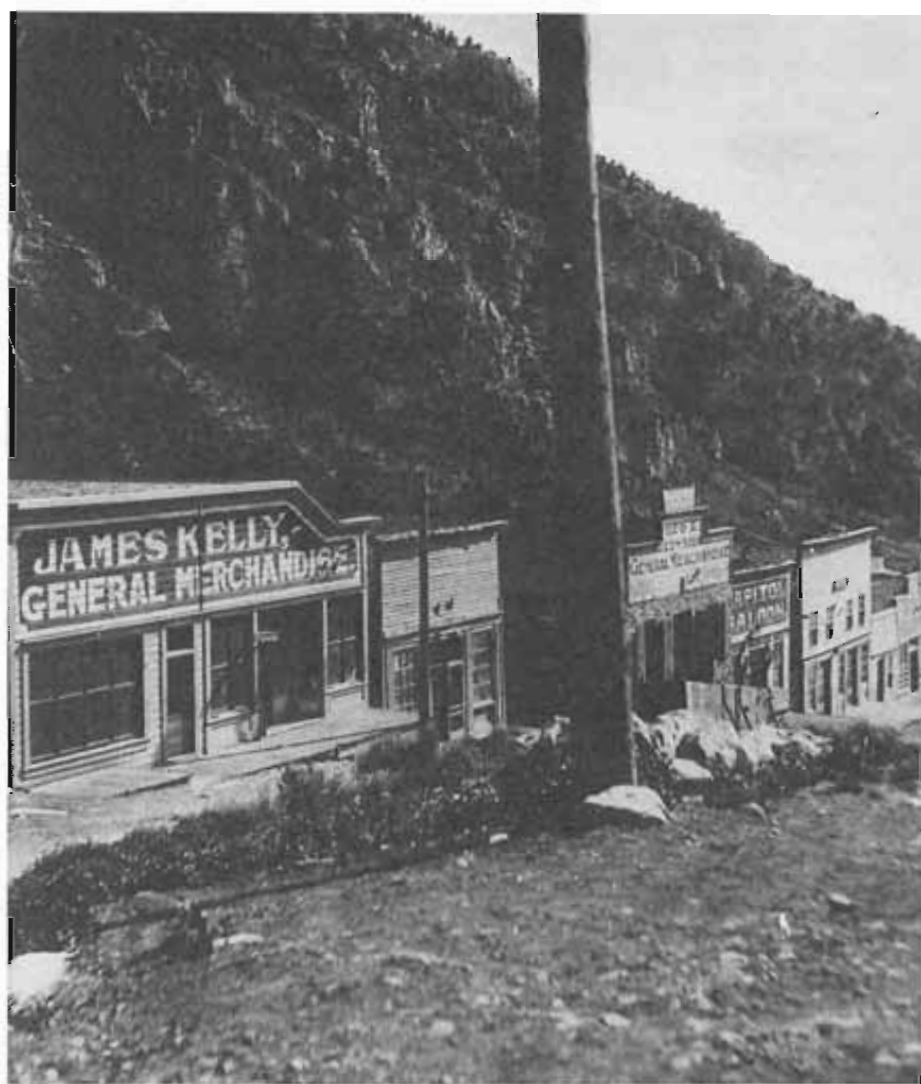
Originally called the Cottonwood Mining District of Tooele County, the Erickson (also spelled Ereksen) Mining District was established on 30 January 1894 at the ranch of brothers Ted and Norman Erickson in the pass connecting the Sheepprock and Simpson mountains near the Tooele-Juab county border.⁵⁷

In 1894 a spring of water on the east side of Death Canyon and one-half mile northeast from the Live Oak Mine was filed on; it was known as the Morgan Spring Claim. Cabins were built at Death Canyon; and a store, saloon, and company boarding house were built at the Indian Springs silver mines. Charles Anderson of Vernon was part-owner of the O.K. Silver Mine, "a rich and busy operation" which at one time had three shifts of workers. Mining magnates David Keith and Thomas Kearns of Salt Lake City were partners in the mine, which was in the Simpson Mountains. The Hilltop and Eutonia mining companies were also active in the district. The Black Hawk Mine was located on the west side of Indian Springs, one-fourth of a mile south of the Lost Cannon Mine. In Oak Brush Canyon the Copper Jack, New Utah, and Flying Dutchman mines were found. Orrin Porter Rockwell and his brother Horace were the locators of the Big Elephant Mine; it was halfway between the head of Death Canyon and the Mammoth Mine.⁵⁸ In August 1892 district recorder C.S. Foote listed a mill site at Willow Springs in Death Canyon. This claim was known as the Antelope and was near the Virginia Mine and spring.⁵⁹ Lead and zinc have been taken from the Tintic-Delaware (Free Coinage) and Dutch Peak mines in the Erickson District.

Mining Districts in the Sheeprock Mountains

Mining activities in the Sheeprock Mountains began in the early 1870s. Three mining districts were formed in the Sheeprock Mountains: Hercules, Columbia, and Blue Bell. In the Hercules District, on Vernon Creek and two miles north of the Bennion cabin, was located the Blue Jay Mine. The Yellow Boy Mine was four miles east of Vernon and one mile south of Goshen Pass. Gold and silver were mined there in 1895. The Lion Lode was found near the mouth of Government Canyon and eight miles southwest of Vernon.⁶⁰ David Sharp of Vernon was deputy recorder for the Hercules District; for a time he lived in Harker Canyon working in his mine and assaying samples of the ore.⁶¹

A very productive mine high in the Sheeprocks was the Hilltop Mine; and owners Albert and Jacobus Ekker staked other claims across the granite face of the Sheeprocks. On the north contact of the



Ophir. (Utah State Historical Society)

granite was found lead and silver; copper was found across the south contact; beryllium was in the granite itself.⁶²

The Columbia Mining District, located on the north slope, was organized in 1871 or 1872 in the Sheeprocks; it featured a belt that extended a distance of about six miles from southeast to northwest. The mineral veins cut the belt nearly at right angles. The mines contained galena, carbonate, and oxide ores. Among the mines in the dis-

trict were the Champion (lead, silver), the Hall (carbonates and ochre), the Washington (ochreous ores), and the Smith Boren Mine (lead and some silver). Ore from this mine was taken to Stockton; it brought a profit even though it cost twelve dollars per ton to haul.⁶³ The Sharp Mine in Harker Canyon began mining lead, silver, and zinc in 1880.⁶⁴ The New Sultana Mine, located northwest of the Sharp Mine, began operating in 1912.

The Blue Bell District contained mines north of Little Valley and in Vernon and Iron canyons. The Sunshine Mine was located by George Wright in Iron Canyon; the Minnie Larson was south of the Benson cabin. The Blue Bell Lode adjoined the Ajax claim one mile north of the old Bennion cabin. Dutch Canyon was home to the Twilite Lode and Brown Mountain Claim. Albert Brown was the recorder of the district in 1896.⁶⁵ Oscar #1 Mine was at the mouth of Vernon Canyon, and the Oley Brown Mine was on the east side of Vernon Canyon.⁶⁶ Lead and zinc have been extracted from the Black Hawk and Morgan mines in the Blue Bell District; copper fluorite has been mined from the Silver Shield (Flying Dutchman) and the Copper Jack mines.

Point Look Out Mining District

The boundaries of the Point Look Out Mining District extended three miles east and five miles west from the summit of the Onaqui Mountain, eight miles north and six miles south from Look Out Pass. This district was organized on 25 May 1896. The Gold Bug Mine was located on 26 April 1896 by D.N. Murdock and A.M. Murdock one-half mile from Lookout Station.⁶⁷

Shambip Mining District

At a meeting in St. John on 11 July 1870 a motion was made that by-laws be drawn up for a new mining district to be called Shambip, the boundaries of which would begin at the schoolhouse, continuing north to the summit of the dividing ridge of the Grantsville Pass, extending west across the mountains between Rush and Skull Valleys, and south following the base of the Skull Valley side to a point east of Point Lookout Station, then continuing east to a point east of old Faust Station.⁶⁸

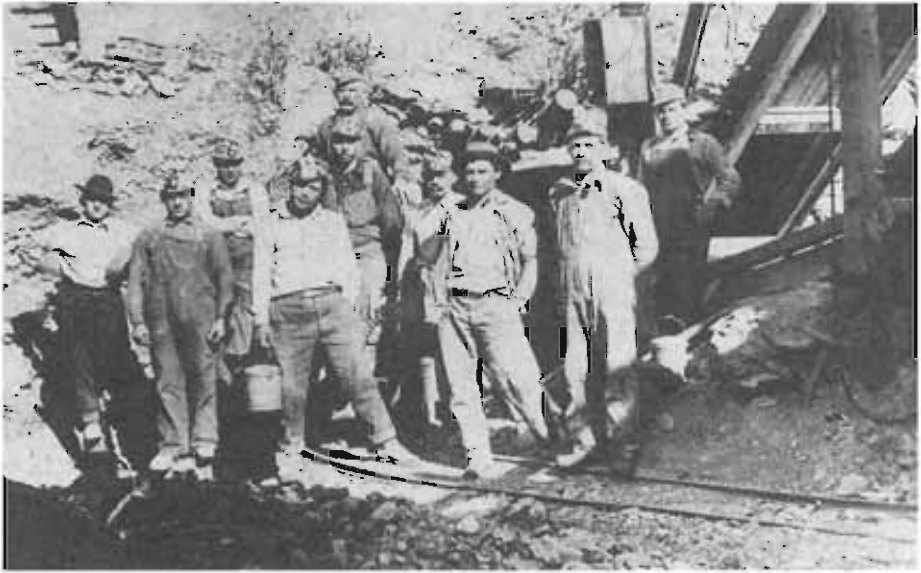
One mile south of Johnson's Pass one claim, the Yellow Monster, soon featured a large yellow dump and a tunnel of twenty-five feet in quartzite. Alexander Wallace filed on the spring in Sarvis Berry Canyon for mining, milling, agriculture, and a mill site in 1896; Edward J. Arthur was the recorder at the time. Two mines were located in Chokecherry Canyon: the Gold Bug and the Wedge of Gold. The Brady Mine was located one-half mile from Russell's Spring (now Willow Springs) on the north side of the road leading to Scribner's Ranch in Skull Valley.⁶⁹

Dugway Mining District

The Dugway Range is composed of sedimentary rocks ascending on the western flank to quartzites and on the east flank to coarse crystalline gray limestones. The mines were located at elevations of 125 feet below the shoreline of ancient Lake Bonneville. The first mine was discovered deep in the range by George and Charles Clark on their way to Ophir from Nevada mines in 1868–69. They called their find the Silver King. Angus Cannon shipped some of the finest lead ore in the state from mines known as the Rattler Group in the Dugway Mountains.⁷⁰

With the discovery of silver in the Dugway Mountains in 1870, a camp sprang up with seven tent saloons; however, the only water for the area had to be caught in the rocks and barrels when it rained, so whiskey was not always valued above water. Dave Green of Clover hauled water to the mountains from a county well near the present Ditto headquarters of Dugway Proving Grounds and did not come back empty-handed, loading up his wagon with ore, which he then transported over long, bumpy roads to the railroad. Distances in the desert county were so great that it was not profitable to haul ore to the railroad, so a smelter was erected in Smelter Canyon. The smelter proved unsuccessful, however, partly due to lack of water, so the ore was stacked up and piled at the Silver King Mine dump. Few know today about Bullionville in Smelter Canyon, partly because the north end of the range is off-limits, as it is part of Dugway Proving Ground.⁷¹

Had the railroad which Thomas Murray envisioned in 1891 materialized, great wealth perhaps could have come from the Dugway



Miners in front of a mine at Ophir about 1917. (Utah State Historical Society)

Mountains. As it was, in order to get to his mines at Dugway from Salt Lake City, Angus Cannon usually took a team and buggy from the Stockton terminus, traveling along the old Pony Express road, through a small settlement (incidentally known as Cannon), and along Faust Creek, arriving the next day at the mountain. On horseback he then would inspect his mines—the Lehi Gypsy, Mary, Carbinet, Rattler, Blue Rock, Ensign, and Good Luck. In the early stages of his mining development, he worked at his new mines surveying, reinforcing shafts, or installing water pumps.⁷²

The Silver King claim was owned by the Mills Piedmont Company, Dan Egan, and others.⁷³ According to Hiram Severe, Egan always waited until evening to walk in off the desert from his mine carrying a keg for water. The Severs made their home in Skull Valley and had just completed their log cabin with its dirt floor and dirt roof in 1900, when, on a “notion,” they decided to hook up their wagon and prepare a grub box for a trip to Dugway. They piled some hay into the wagon and were off. The next day they found water for their horses at a mine shaft, where miners bargained with them to bring lumber from Skull Valley to build a cabin, as trees were scarce

in the area. The miners were willing to pay well for having a cabin built.⁷⁴

The Lundeen brothers also walked in from their Dugway mining claims at night. They had eight claims and together with G. Larignino owned the Pendant Mining Company. Four miles away from the Bullion Smelter, the Peterson brothers claimed a copper ore mine shaft.⁷⁵

Free Coinage Mining District

Miners met at the Free Coinage Mining Camp in Timpie Spring Canyon on 28 May 1895 to form the Free Coinage Mining District, with boundaries "Commencing at the Timpey Spring and running thence southerly along the easterly slope of the 'Onequi Mountains' to the north side of the mouth of North-Willow canon, thence westerly in a straight line to 'Burnt Spring' in Skull Valley—thence northerly to 'Big Spring'—thence easterly to 'Timpey Spring' or place of beginning."⁷⁶ Edward Bird was the elected recorder; John T. Flinders was the deputy recorder.

During 1896 the Free Coinage Mining Company erected buildings at the Humbug Mine and also sank an incline shaft. In June 1899 the Humbug Stansbury Mining Company began operating the Humbug, Free Coinage, Hasty, and Brilliant mining claims.⁷⁷

The Blue Bird Mine was located in Magpie Canyon in November 1895; the Climax Mine in Mining Canyon was claimed in February 1896; the Lakeside, one-half mile east of Miner's Canyon, was located in 1866 by Robert M. Shields and Charles McKellar; and the Excelsior, six miles west of Grantsville, was north of Lime Kiln Spring.⁷⁸ Star of Hope, Mountain Lyon (located by John Orr), Little Santaped in Timpie Canyon, and Moon Light, located by John Orr and Issac Arbon, were other area mining claims.

Silver Island and Lakeside Mining Districts

Limited mining activities have occurred in the Silver Island Mountains. In 1872 the Silver Islet Mining District, located in the southern part of the mountains, was organized. Little mining activity occurred, however, from the district's organization to the turn of the twentieth century. During the first decade of this century, limited

mining has occurred, producing approximately \$90,000 worth of lead, gold, silver, and copper. Most of the mining activity has been confined to the northern portion of the mountain range in Box Elder County.⁷⁹

Little mining activity has occurred in the Lakeside Mountains, although the Lakeside Mountain Mining District was organized in 1871, with some mining activities occurring between the years 1871 and 1874. The Lakeside Mountains are partly in Tooele County; they cover a total distance of thirty miles, with the southern segment in the county. Some mines were located in that area.

Newfoundland is in Box Elder County, but its mining district was organized by miners from Grantsville and Stockton. John Quincy Knowlton owned one area mine, which contained a rich vein of silver, and he received many generous offers for it. However, he felt he should keep it, so he mortgaged his ranch in Skull Valley to finance its development and operation. Unfortunately, "the rich vein of ore gave out and as a result he lost everything."⁸⁰

Gold Miners' Trail

The mining history of Tooele County would not be complete without telling of the Gold Miners' Trail. This was a walking trail which took ten hours to travel but still was faster than the stage, which had to go around the Oquirrh Mountain Range. The trail began in the Bingham mine area, crossed the dugway to Butterfield Pass, then came around Kelsey Peak to Mercur by way of Jacob's City and Ophir.⁸¹

Mercur

The Camp Floyd Mining District, although in an area sparsely settled by Mormon pioneers, was unusually prosperous.⁸² In 1858, U.S. Army troops, under the command of Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston, constructed army quarters at Camp Floyd in Cedar Valley. Due to the Civil War, the post was abandoned by 1862; however, some former soldiers remained in the area and prospected for precious metals. A small discovery of silver ore was made and formed the start of the Camp Floyd Mining District. It is reported that this discovery occurred at Ophir on the western side of the Oquirrh

Mountains. From those early days to the 1970s, Ophir itself was to become a major silver producer.

By the 1870s a silver discovery was made at Lewiston, and a Captain Shaw built a small mill at the present site of Mercur. The first recorded silver claim was made by one L. Greeley on 20 April 1870. Profits were marginal, forcing a suspension of operations in about 1872. Then, however, a rich strike was made, with several other strikes following. By 1873 many prospectors were scouring the Mercur hills. The town of Lewiston became a major mining camp, with saloons, gambling houses, and dance halls. Unfortunately, the excitement quickly died, as the new claims proved to consist of only small pockets of valuable minerals. The town, which had grown to about 1,500 by 1880, became almost a ghost town, with one house occupied by Moses Manning, who remained to work on his claims and those of others. Placer mining at Lewiston was a failure, as the valuable particles were not heavy enough to separate by gravity from other deposits. In fact, the silver and the gold particles (discovered later) were microscopic in size. Milling activities failed; losses generally exceeded profits.

The year 1879 was the birth of the town of Mercur. On 30 April 1879 a Bavarian immigrant, Arie Pinedo, discovered mineralization that was rich in cinnabar, a sulfide of mercury. Pinedo named the area Mercur, from the German word for the element mercury. Pinedo abandoned his claim after he failed to extract commercial amounts of mercury; however, other area prospectors remained active, seeking both gold and silver. The major gold discovery came in 1883. This impetus caused a group of promoters to secure an option on Pinedo's former claim for \$10,000, and they in turn sold it to John Dern, E.H. Airis, G.S. Peyton, and Hal W. Brown, who then formed the Mercur Gold Mining and Milling Company.

The first mill was built at Manning, about three miles south of Mercur. This location was chosen for its water supply, as little or no water could be found in Mercur itself. However, the owners soon discovered the futility of trying to recover gold at a profit from Mercur ores.

Before the turn of the century, in a metallurgical laboratory in Denver, Colorado, an Australian by the name of William Orr was



Mercur during its heyday as a mining town about 1900. (Utah State Historical Society)

demonstrating a gold-recovery method using cyanide (the McArthur-Forrest cyanide process). G.S. Peyton was made aware of the process and raised enough money to ship a carload of Mercur ore to Denver for testing. The results were very positive and seemed to justify the construction of a cyanide plant in Manning, the first of its kind in the United States. The plant enjoyed successive enlargements: from being able to process less than 100 tons per day to 350 tons per day—all in the year 1893. The new process was very simple. The ore from Mercur was transported by team and wagon about five miles from Mercur to Manning, where it was crushed and put into tanks. A solution of sodium cyanide was percolated through the ore, dissolving the gold. The gold solution was then treated with zinc dust, which precipitated the gold. The sludge was then fired in a furnace to recover the gold.

In 1895 a Captain DeLaMar bought the Golden Gate camp adjoining the Mercur Mine. In 1899 DeLaMar's interests were combined with the Mercur Gold Mining and Milling Company to form the Consolidated Mercur Gold Mines Company. From that point on,

all of the ore from the Mercur and Golden Gate mines was treated at the new mill. Electric power was brought in to run the mill and was obtained from a hydroelectric plant in Provo Canyon, some forty-three miles distant. The transmission line was built by L.L. Nunn and was operated by the Telluride Power Company. It was the first extended high-voltage line in the world and operated at 44,000 volts. With the introduction of power and the railroad, Mercur had become a thriving city of about 2,500 inhabitants.

Mercur was a prosperous and bustling town in the late nineteenth century, featuring numerous businesses and even a newspaper, the *Mercur Miner*. In 1935 the *Salt Lake Tribune-Telegram* published an article that featured glimpses of life at Mercur from 1893 to 1897. It included the following extracts:

Mrs. Scarborough had decided to raise the price of meals from 25 cents to 50 cents. Eph Mulliner has found it necessary to discard the old, two-horse stage and replace it with a four-horse coach. . . . The stage brought in eleven passengers Wednesday, and three more, who couldn't be squeezed into the stage, came in by other conveyances. . . . Mercur is a first-class amusement town, and one of the first buildings put up after the town gave evidence of permanence was the opera house . . . capable of seating 300 persons. . . . The most frequent use to which it is put is for dances. . . . The opera house saloon has card and wine rooms.

Businesses advertised in the article included Mrs. Mary Andres, milliner; Pickle and Berkman, painters and paper hangers; the Mercur Furniture Company; Mercury Cemetery Association; Charles Peterson, tailor; P.J. Bothun, watchmaker; the Mercur Produce and Meat Company; the Mercur Commercial Company (miner's supplies); the Mercur Bar; the Silver Club Saloon; William Bracken, freighter (also a county commissioner and member of the city council). It reported that Dr. A.L. Inglesby came to the area from the Omaha Dental College and "has so fully established his reputation as a skillful operator that Mercur has dropped out of the circuit of the traveling dentist."

Generally, life was considered good at Mercur. The community was close-knit, yet there was a good ethnic and religious mix of

people, helping foster considerable tolerance. The people of Mercur had many of the advantages of a larger city; in fact, by the census of 1900 the town had 2,351 inhabitants, although by 1910 the number had shrunk to less than half that—1,047. Like much connected with mining reminiscences, estimates of the town's size have been greatly inflated, to as high as 12,000 people, during its golden age.⁸³

The commercial life of Mercur was considerably upset by a major fire on 26 June 1902. William Waterfall was then among the volunteer firemen. He reported on the experience:

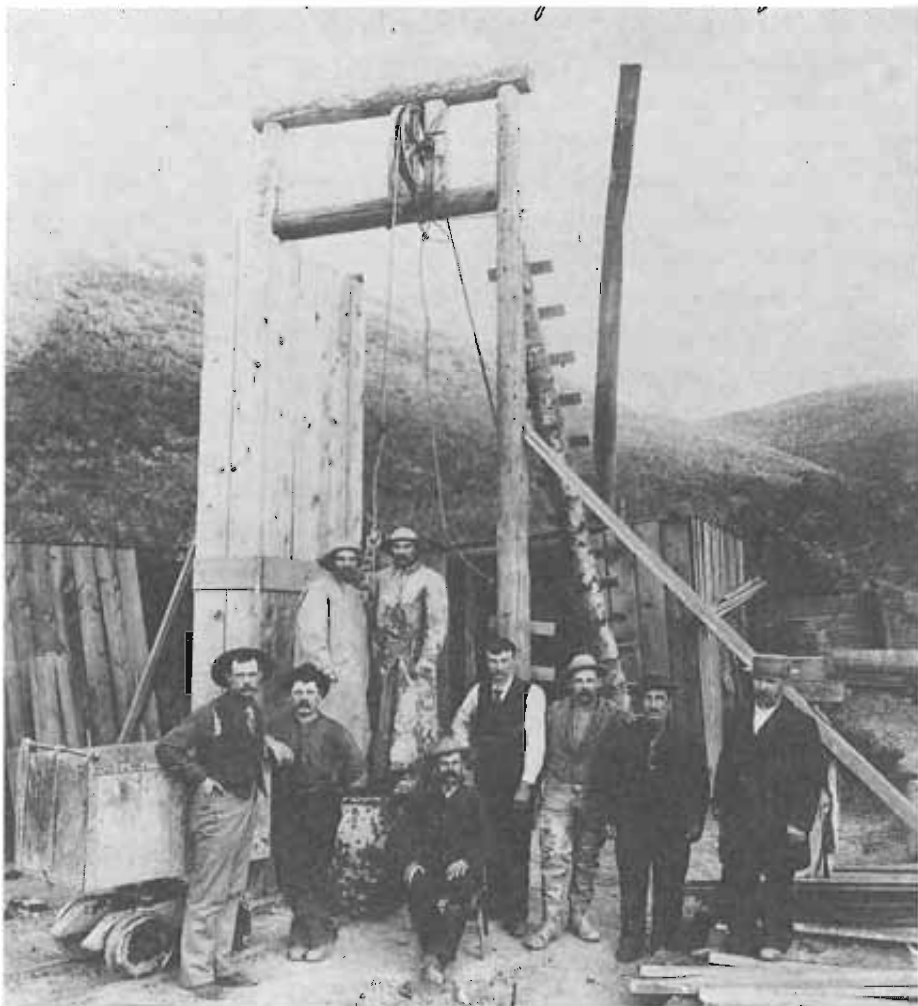
From outside the hoist house I could see the flames coming through the roof of the Preble Building. I blew the fire signal and phoned the mine, telling them to turn out as the town was doomed. By the time I reached town, 1,200 feet below the hoist house, the fire was beyond control. By 12 o'clock every business house in town was gone.

Fortunately, most of the town's houses and the mill were untouched; however, the commercial area was destroyed and never fully rebuilt. The mill continued to operate until 1913, as the mine gradually became unprofitable. The last skip of ore was hoisted on 30 March 1913.

One of the most prominent people of the 1893 to 1913 era of Mercur was George H. Dern, general manager of the Consolidated Company. He later became governor of Utah and U.S. Secretary of War. Daniel C. Jackling was the builder of the Golden Gate Mill. Jackling later moved from Mercur to Bingham on the Salt Lake City side of the Oquirrh Mountains, where he developed the open-cut method of mining that revolutionized the mining world.

By 1917 Mercur had become a ghost town and would remain so for many years. However, on 21 September 1933 an article in the *Salt Lake Tribune* headlined "Manning Mill Ready to Go" read:

The management of the new, 600-ton cyanide mill at Manning in the Mercur District expects to be ready within a few days to take advantage of the soaring price of gold as measured in currency. Installation of equipment, which has been in progress for several months, is practically finished. Treatment is to begin on approxi-



Miners at the Cannon Mine at Mercur in 1895. (Utah State Historical Society)

mately 600,000 tons of tailings in the old Consolidated Mercur dumps and custom ore.

The article went on to say that the builders of the plant were W.F. Snyder and Sons of Salt Lake, along with Glenn Bothwell, previous operator of the Sacramento Mine at Mercur some twenty-four years previous. Bothwell died of a heart attack in 1935, but his son Floyd continued to operate the Manning mill and mining operation

through a company formed by his four brothers and sisters. In 1937 the plant was moved to Mercur, where it was enlarged.

During this period, the town never grew to its former size; however, it boasted a few homes, churches, stores, and also a library and jail. By 1942 the mine and plant were shut down by the Federal Mine Closure Act. Mercur again became a virtual ghost town and was to remain so for many years.

Exploration activities were intermittent at Mercur. In 1968 Newmont Mining Company commenced an eleven-month drilling and trenching program covering Marion Hill and the Sacramento area. Newmont terminated their exploration agreement in late 1968. Getty Oil Company established a modest drilling program from 1973 to 1978, totalling about 200 holes. Metallurgical testing of samples from this drilling was done by the U.S. Bureau of Mines and others. The conclusion drawn from this work was that there appeared to be sufficient ore reserves to justify further test work to determine the feasibility of establishing a mine.

The previous mining activities from the late 1800s through 1913 had been underground, leaving considerable areas of gold-bearing mineralization surrounding old shafts and tunnels. Mining areas also had been backfilled with gold-bearing materials, which were then deemed waste. Although reserves established of this material averaged only about 0.12 ounces per ton, gold prices in 1980 made this material valuable ore.

The ownership of claims at Mercur was very complicated and remained so until the Getty Oil Company began to acquire area land in the early 1970s. Gold Standard, a small mining company in Salt Lake City, also had acquired land at Mercur. The two companies entered into a joint venture agreement, and by 1980 Getty Oil Company had established major control of the land at Mercur.

In 1980 Getty Oil Company established a district office at Salt Lake City, and by 1981 preliminary test work was begun. F.D. Wicks, Senior Mineral Engineer for the Getty Mining Company, was appointed project manager to investigate the feasibility of building a mine and mill complex at Mercur. He supervised a test program that tested samples from a new drill program at Mercur, and he concluded that Mercur's ores could be economically treated.



Mercur after the disastrous fire of 26 June 1902. (Utah State Historical Society)

On 8 July 1981 approval was given to proceed with the first phase of construction at Mercur, which was basically land and road preparation and preliminary piping. Getty's management required Wicks to present the project economics again to them in February 1982 to ensure that developments were as originally presented. They were basically worried about the gold price, which during this period was widely fluctuating, having dropped from nearly \$450 an ounce to less than \$350.

By February 1982 the company was ready to build the plant, and by April 1983 the plant was ready to commission. Mining had commenced in late 1982, and sufficient ore was accumulated for the start of operations. From that date on, Mercur met all expectations for both the mine and mill.

Change again came to Mercur in 1984 when the Getty Oil Company merged with Texaco. Texaco decided that it wanted to divest all its non-oil and gas interests. In July 1984 it sold the Mercur

Mine to the American Barrick Resources Corporation for \$40 million. Frank Wicks, who had retired after the merger, was asked to return to Mercur and again manage the operation.

Mercur's life probably will again soon be over, as all economical ore as we know it today will be removed and reserves depleted. However, possible improvements in technology always leave the possibility that Mercur will yet be home to other mining developments.

Perhaps the most influential of the mining developments was the building of the International Smelter near Tooele City, which will be discussed in another chapter. The mining and smelting activities associated with the Oquirrh Mountains also have fostered a cultural wealth for the county. The Savich, Poulas, Jankovitch, Buzinis, and numerous other immigrant families of various nationalities have provided the muscle and sweat to wrench from both sides of the Oquirrhs the valuable wealth the range has been reluctant to yield.

ENDNOTES

1. J. Wallace Gwynn, ed., *Great Salt Lake: A Scientific, Historical and Economic Overview*, 204.

2. Dale Morgan, *The Great Salt Lake*, Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1973, 387–88.

3. Ibid.

4. Orrin P. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, Vol. 2, 144.

5. Gwynn, *Great Salt Lake*, 205.

6. John S. McCormick, "Silver in the Beehive State," *Beehive History* 16 (1990): 7.

7. Anna Viola Lewis, "The Development of Mining in Utah" (Master's thesis, University of Utah, 1941), 52–119; William Mackinnon, review of *Glory Hunter* by Brigham Madsen, *Utah Historical Quarterly* 61 (Winter 1993): 95–97.

8. Lewis, "Development of Mining," 105.

9. Orrin P. Miller, *Mining, Smelting and Railroading in Tooele County*, 5–15.

10. Leonard J. Arrington, "Abundance from the Earth," 204–5.

11. Ibid., 205; Miller, *Mining, Smelting and Railroading*, 1. After Kelsey came to Tooele in the 1860s, he became active in community affairs. The 5,000 grape vines he planted gave rise to the name of Tooele's Vine Street.

See Ouida Blanthorn, "Trees for Beauty," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 5 November 1985.

12. Miller, *Mining, Smelting and Railroading*, 16.
13. *Ibid.*, 20, 55.
14. *Ibid.*, 2, 22.
15. Mildred Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 50–51.
16. *Ibid.*, 52.
17. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 86–87.
18. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 190. Remarks by George Tripp, Minutes, Tooele County Historical Society, 9 December 1992.
19. "History of John Shields, (b. 3 Apr. 1805)," year 1874, 1877.
20. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 190–95.
21. Allan Kent Powell, ed., *Utah History Encyclopedia*, 432.
22. *Ibid.*, 376.
23. Book B, 1871, Ophir Mining District, Tooele County Recorder's Office, Tooele, Utah.
24. Arrington, "Abundance from the Earth," 208.
25. Minutes, Tooele County Historical Society, 18 June 1986.
26. W.C. Dunham and F.H. Gunnell, "Report of Inves. 4181: Lead and Zinc Deposits of the Treasure Hill Mines," 1948, 2, Tooele County Recorder's Office.
27. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 380–81.
28. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 538.
29. Dunham and Gunnell, "Report 4181," 2.
30. Book of Location, Tooele City Mining District, 1870, Tooele County Recorder's Office.
31. *Ibid.*
32. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 415–16.
33. *Ibid.*; *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 13 March 1986.
34. *Salt Lake Mining Review*, 15 October 1914.
35. Stephen L. Carr, *The Historical Guide to Utah Ghost Towns* (Salt Lake City: Western Epics, 1972), 33.
36. *The People of Vernon* (Tooele: Transcript-Bulletin Press, 1983), 341.
37. *Ibid.*, 340.
38. Carr, *Historical Guide to Utah Ghost Towns*, 33.
39. *People of Vernon*, 338, 342, 509.
40. *Ibid.*, 342; Stephen L. Carr, *Utah's Ghost Rails* (Salt Lake City: Western Epics, 1989), 125.

41. *People of Vernon*, 295; Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 50.
42. T.B. Nolan, *The Gold Hill Mining District, Utah*, U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper no. 177 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Geological Survey, 1935), 118; and B.S. Butler et al., *The Ore Deposits of Utah*, United States Geological Survey Professional Paper no. 111 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Geological Survey, 1920), 146.
43. *People of Vernon*, 173.
44. Donald J. Rosenberg, "Gold Hill," 2.
45. Dale Stevens, *Great Salt Lake Desert*, E-10, E-11; George Thompson, *Utah's Ghost Towns and Lost Treasures* (Salt Lake City: Dream Garden Press, 1982), 167–68.
46. Book Y, 40, Book J, 15, Clifton Mining District, Tooele County Recorder's Office.
47. Ronald R. Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections*, 311.
48. Thompson, *Utah's Ghost Towns*, 168.
49. Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections*, 207, 229, 312.
50. Minutes, Tooele County Historical Society, 13 June 1990.
51. Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections*, 323; *Deseret News*, 15 September 1989.
52. Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections*, 319–22.
53. *Ibid.*, 311.
54. Stevens, *Great Salt Lake Desert*, M4.
55. Willow Springs Mining District, vol. 1, 1–4, Tooele County Recorder's Office.
56. *Ibid.*, 9, 18–19, 26–27, 31; Willow Springs Mining District, vol. 2, 130.
57. Book A, 47, Erickson Mining District, Tooele County Recorder's Office; *People of Vernon*, 163.
58. Book A, Erickson Mining District, 4–5, 19, 23; Thompson, *Some Dreams Die*, 160; *People of Vernon*, 10.
59. Book A, Erickson Mining District, 4.
60. Book A, Hercules Mining District, Recorder's Office, Tooele County.
61. *People of Vernon*, 261, 433.
62. *Ibid.*, 165.
63. Robert W. Sloan, ed., *Gazeteer* (Salt Lake City: Herald Printing Co., 1884), 85.
64. Robert E. Cohenour, *Sheeprock Mountains*, 115.

65. Book A, Blue Bell Mining District, 22, 29, 30, 32, 51, 118, 119, Tooele County Recorder's Office.

66. Ibid., 11819.

67. Book A, Point Look Out Mining District, 30, Tooele County Recorder's Office.

68. Shambip Mining District, vol. II, Tooele County Recorder's Office.

69. Ibid.

70. *Salt Lake Mining Review*, 30 November 1916; Ouida Blanthorn, "Mines Discovered in Dugway Mountains," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 1 October 1992.

71. Blanthorn, "Mines Discovered"; Thompson, *Some Dreams Die*, 162; Ouida Blanthorn, "Dugway Footpaths and Wheel Tracks," *Deseret Sampler*, 13 September 1974.

72. Blanthorn, "Mines Discovered."

73. *Salt Lake Mining Review*, 30 November 1916.

74. Ibid.

75. Ibid.

76. Book A, Free Coinage Mining District, 1–5, Tooele County Recorder's Office.

77. *Salt Lake Mining Review*, 15 June 1899.

78. Book A, Free Coinage Mining District, 63, 158, 160.

79. See Frederick E. Schaeffer et al., *Guidebook to the Geology of Utah*; and B.S. Butler et al., *The Ore Deposits of Utah* (Washington, D.C., 1920), 486–88.

80. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 406.

81. Minutes, Tooele County Historical Society, 10 October 1990.

82. Information on Mercur presented by Frank Wicks, General Manager of the Barrick Gold Mine in Mercur, at the 10 June 1992 meeting of the Tooele County Historical Society. One of the best summaries of the history of the Mercur Mining District was written in 1938 by W.J. Franklin, Manager of Snyder Mines Inc., and Virgil Miller, Associate Metallurgist, U.S. Bureau of Mines. Much of the credit for this summary is given to Charles E. Bartlett, mill superintendent for Snyder Mines.

83. Allan Kent Powell, ed. *Utah History Encyclopedia*, 436; Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 135.

CHAPTER 7

SOCIETY, CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND RELIGION

Bathing Resorts

The first white visitors to the Great Salt Lake were impressed with the size of the saline mountain sea as well as the unique experience of bathing in its waters. Other impressions taken away from the lake by those nineteenth-century visitors were varied. After a visit to the lake's shores, early Mormon leader Heber C. Kimball described his experience as being comparable to an ocean visit. Most were fascinated by their ability to float so easily and many felt they received a therapeutic effect from salt bathing. Horace Greeley thought bathing in the lake's waters was "delightful." Sir Richard Burton found the buoyant water and salt accumulating on his body after a swim to be a novelty. Journalist Fitzhugh Ludlow found the water "exhilarating."¹ But others were less impressed because of the smells and the lack of sandy beaches at most lakeside areas. Tooele County essentially had the only sandy beaches that could be easily reached for pleasure excursions, lakeshore areas to the east and north of the lake being more muddy and marshy.

The area at Black Rock at the edge of Tooele County attracted the



Garfield Beach Resort. (Utah State Historical Society)

first great Mormon summer celebration—a two-day excursion which practically left Salt Lake City deserted on 4 July 1851. Celebrating the seventy-fifth birthday of the United States, a huge parade made its way to the lake to enjoy festivities of picnicking, bathing, programs, singing, and oratory. Festivities lasted deep into the night, with the revelers returning to Salt Lake City by the next afternoon.

In 1860 the Mormon church allowed Daniel H. Wells (a member of the LDS church's First Presidency and at one time mayor of Salt Lake City) to acquire blocks 3 and 4 in the Black Rock Plat on the south shores of the Great Salt Lake in Tooele County. The area contained 3,120 acres, and Wells built a rock house surrounded by a stone wall, similar to his home in Salt Lake City. Wells sold the Tooele acreage and home (later demolished) in May 1864 to Brigham Young.²

Utah's first "Pleasure Park" was developed on the lake's east side near Farmington in 1870 by John W. Young, a son of Brigham Young. However, with the completion of the first leg of the Salt Lake and Pioche Railroad (later the Utah Western Railway) to Lake Point in

1875, easy access to the lake's south shore was achieved. Known also as Clinton's Landing, a resort built by Dr. Jeter Clinton was already developing in connection with a steamboat stop in Tooele County, just south of the Oquirrh point of the mountain.³

Dr. Jeter Clinton had built his "Lake House" by 1871 and in 1874 had replaced it with a three-storied stone hotel on a small hill just above the beach.⁴ The resort also consisted of a lunch stand, restaurant, bathhouses, a railroad station, and a pier landing to the dance pavilion. The resort, later renamed "The Short Branch," a take-off on the New York watering hole "The Long Branch," was described in an 1876 *Deseret News* account:

There are the extensive water and mountain views, and the refreshing, moist and cool breezes from the lake, the steamer and rowboat rides upon the waters, the bracing baths in the same, and the general calmness and quietude of the locality, all of which combine to render it an attractive and beautiful place to while away a few hours, days or weeks as the case may be, in the pursuit of recreative pleasures and renewed health.⁵

The first Mormon "Old Folks Sociable" for Salt Lake City area folks was held at Clinton Beach on 14 May 1875 with refreshments, dancing, singing, and excursions on the lake. Charles R. Savage was given credit for the idea of a free excursion to the lake to honor "aged people." Clinton Beach became well known all over the Utah Territory. One hundred bathhouses later were erected along with a boardwalk and bowery. By 1878 the site featured a long pier to the water's edge built by Clinton. (In the mid-1980s Black Rock itself was almost submerged when the Great Salt Lake reached its highest recorded level in history—only the very top of the rock jutting out. The restrooms, picnic tables, and beach itself were covered with water.)⁶

At Clinton's dock the steamboat *City of Corinne* was anchored for pleasure excursions on the lake. The 150-foot paddlewheel steamer had been built shortly after 1869 by a group of Corinne residents to transport ore and cargo (including ore from the Rush Valley mines) north to a smelter built by entrepreneurs of that gentile city on the banks of the Bear River near the transcontinental railroad tracks.



Sail boat at Garfield Beach Resort. (Utah State Historical Society)

Corinne at the time was hoping to become the capital of the territory and was the center of non-Mormon interests in the state. Unfortunately, the steamboat could not successfully navigate the Jordan and Bear rivers to pick up or deliver the cargoes its owners had hoped to transport. It was able to negotiate the Great Salt Lake and dock at Black Rock, so, after plans were abandoned to use it for industrial transport, it was decided to use it for pleasure trips on the lake.

The beach area at Black Rock became a favorite early recreational spot of Salt Lake City and Tooele residents, competing for the recreational trade with Clinton's resort. Black Rock Resort later became of a larger Garfield Beach (renamed when General—and later U.S. president—James A. Garfield visited the area). The new resort was backed by the Utah & Nevada Railroad and the captain of the City of Corinne, Captain Thomas Douris, whose boat also was rechristened the *Garfield* in honor of the visiting general. The new resort took the steamboat excursions from Clinton after absorbing a smaller competitor at Black Rock. By the mid-1880s Clinton's resort succumbed to the competition.⁷

Clinton Beach also suffered the same fate that other developments along the lake's shore experienced: as the waters receded with

drier years, everything was left high and dry. The highest recorded level of the Great Salt Lake, with the exception of 1986, was achieved in 1873. Clinton sold his interests to two developers, William Glassman and a Mr. Lynch, who announced the planning of Garfield City, Salt Lake Beach, and Stansbury Beach in the adjacent area to the Lake Point development. However, recreational emphasis was shifting northeastward along the south shore to Garfield Beach and Black Rock. Even with an attempt to bring in a herd of buffalo and call it "Buffalo Park," the development failed. A few cabins were built, however, and about 5,000 trees were planted. Six artesian wells were drilled and were said to produce three kinds of water, all healthful drinks. The few buffalo which survived the importation from Manitoba were eventually transported to Antelope Island.⁸ Clinton's home still stands at Lake Point.

Had fire in 1904 not destroyed the Garfield Beach resort and the old steamer, the resort conceivably could have survived the competition of the "Lady of the lake"—Saltair, although from its beginning Saltair enjoyed remarkable success. Saltair was built in 1893 in Salt Lake County along the edge of the lake in response to the need for a first-class resort, and it attracted national attention. With the additional attraction of its amusement park, many Tooele County residents enjoyed the accessibility of the resort, only about a thirty-minute drive from Tooele City.

Succeeding years saw various plans for resorts in many different areas of the lake including some plans for the south shores of the lake in Tooele County; but none were developed to fruition. Even the most successful resort, Saltair, had a turbulent history, including destruction, rebuilding, and subsequent destruction, as the hopes and dreams of developers were eventually dashed. In 150 years of Utah's territorial and state history, the recreation potential of the lake has been considered for all kinds of activities and developments. Recreation and tourist development on the lake's south shore has been "here today, but gone tomorrow." Dreams for realizing the shoreline's potential have ended after only a few decades of success or have been terminated sometime between conception and birth—almost always by the lake's fluctuation. Developers with vision, aware of the successes achieved on the shorelines of water bodies around



A junior band in Mercur in the early 1900s. (Utah State Historical Society)

the world, will most likely continue to consider the Great Salt Lake's potential. However, they will have to be more clever than their historical counterparts if their successes are to be more than transitory.

Other Recreational Activities

The citizens of Tooele City had seen the need of providing local recreational facilities and in 1876 erected a social hall, which was used for theatrical performances, dances, schools, and other community events.⁹

In December 1898 Johnson Hall was built in Grantsville, its main attraction being a dance floor on the second story. (The building can be viewed today on Grantsville's Main Street.)¹⁰ In July 1899 Grantsville officials, recognizing local recreational needs, set aside fifteen acres for the town's first park. The Pavillion, as it was called, was a popular place for city and church celebrations, later becoming home to the Tooele County stock show in 1974.

Music was an important part of social life in early Tooele County, a time when people relied on local musicians instead of outside entertainment. Among the instruments used in the communities of the county were the violin, flute, trumpet, bugle, drum, melodeon, and accordian. The ability to play the piano was considered a mark of breeding, culture, and wealth. It has been claimed that the

Mormons were the first church members in the West to “make use of band and stringed instruments in their worship. They encouraged dancing and making a joyful noise unto the Lord.”¹¹

A number of interesting music groups performed at county dances and celebrations. Grantsville had a fine brass band, conducted for thirty years by James Ratcliffe. Early-day brass bands were important to communities, bringing a festive air and a display of civic pride and spirit to any occasion, and to be a member, especially of a uniformed band, was a great desire of many young locals of different communities. A fife and drum band was organized in Tooele under the direction of Robert Meiklejohn.¹² Ebenezer Beesley was quite likely the best-trained musician Tooele could boast; he came to the area in 1856, and, after leaving Tooele, became the conductor of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.¹³

In 1890 dance and serenade music was furnished by the Rush Valley Kids led by Ivor Ajax. The Vernon String Band composed of the talented Cood brothers played for Vernon residents on Christmas Day 1897. The Grantsville Opera House, completed in 1900, hosted many musical events; it was considered one of the finest of its size in the West. The opera house in Mercur was capable of seating 300 and had a “good sized stage and several sets of scenery.”

Dramas were extremely popular into the 1920s, and dramatic clubs were formed in Tooele and Grantsville. Theatrical presentations, variety shows, and dramas were staged by clubs and by various other church and social groups as well as traveling touring companies.¹⁴

Holidays came to be increasingly celebrated over the decades, with Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day becoming ever more popular as celebrations. The Fourth of July and Utah Pioneer Day on 24 July had long been perhaps the most popular events of the year in the early towns of the county. Being summer festivals, with weather generally more favorable and chores less pressing at the time, they evolved to become even more elaborate, usually featuring parades, speeches, games, competitions, and abundant picnic baskets filled with food and beverages.

Athletic competitions became popular in the late nineteenth century, with most area towns, like other communities throughout Utah,



A parade in Ophir. (Utah State Historical Society)

fielding their own baseball teams. Town teams played each other at holiday times in the summer, and league play was soon organized. Merchants and mines would support various teams, often providing uniforms and transportation to games. In the twentieth century the tradition continued and was soon augmented by the rise of the high school sports of football, basketball, and baseball—the local teams being cheered on by a broad spectrum of their communities and those in the surrounding area.

Law and Order

Tooele County certainly had its share of crime and troubles in the early days (as throughout its history). Miners of the early days could be a rough crowd, and the mix of Mormons and non-Mormons as well as various ethnic groups led to some mutual bad feelings among the various groups. Still, most folks tended to be law abiding as they endeavored to improve their own prospects and build up their communities.

Human passions always have led to crimes. Garfield Beach gained some notoriety as the scene of a fatal shooting on 12 July 1889



A makeshift band in front of the Mercur City Hall. (Utah State Historical Society)

involving a lover's triangle among wealthy socialites. Tooele County Sheriff John C. DeLaMare killed one of the three, who was resisting arrest for causing a public disturbance. Then, as now, much of the public eagerly devoured scandalous news about their more famous contemporaries.

Another incident involving Sheriff DeLaMare occurred the following September, when he made an arrest for horse stealing. A gang of men in the Salt Lake Valley had been stealing horses since July 1889 and were hiding them in a barn near the Denver and Rio Grande Depot in Salt Lake City. By the time Salt Lake City law enforcement officer Andrew Burt arrived at the barn, however, "the birds had flown, taking with them fourteen head of horses."¹⁵ Burt received word that four men driving about thirty head of horses had passed through the fields south of Grantsville; he was soon on the trail with a posse. At Tooele, the posse was joined by Sheriff DeLaMare and three deputies. After a long and complicated search, the officers cap-



A Mercur saloon about 1895. (Utah State Historical Society)

tured the outlaws and recovered the horses. Burt and DeLaMare traveled 750 miles in the pursuit.¹⁶

Earlier in time, another unlawful incident had ended in tragedy. It occurred at the Spencer-Little Ranch on Rush Lake, where wild hay was growing. Howard Spencer, a young man working on his uncle's ranch near the government reserve line in the northern part of Rush Valley. On the evening of 22 March 1859 he was requested by Camp Floyd soldiers, specifically Sergeant Ralph Pike, to remove the cattle grazing in the area, so the soldiers could cut the wild hay. Spencer said the animals would not be moved until morning, as it was too dark. Pike struck Spencer over the head with a gun, severely injuring him.¹⁷ Spencer was carried into a house, blessed by Luke Johnson, and sent to Salt Lake City, some forty-five miles distant, for further treatment.

Spencer never entirely regained his former health; however, he recovered sufficiently to seek revenge. In August 1859 Pike and some fellow soldiers were walking on the streets of Salt Lake City when



Tooele's Roma Bar about 1916. (Ouida Blanthorn Collection)

Spencer met him and asked, "Are you Sergeant Pike?" When Pike answered in the affirmative, Spencer shot and killed him.

From the time federal soldiers from Johnston's Army were stationed at Camp Floyd in Cedar Valley in 1858 relations had not generally been cordial between the military and Mormon civilian residents of Rush Valley. The Clover settlers depended on the native meadow hay for the winter, and in the summer of 1859, after the Spencer incident, Rush Valley residents called a mass meeting and sent two representatives to visit the commanding officer, Colonel Albert S. Johnston, at his headquarters in Cedar Valley. In their presence, Johnston dictated a letter to the soldiers with orders to leave the hay they had cut and immediately return to camp with their tools and wagons.¹⁸

Some relations between the military and civilians ended happily. Some of the soldiers in Johnston's Army stayed and married local girls after they were mustered out of the service. For example, Lewis Strasburg married Mary Armstrong in 1859 and became a livestock man in Rush Valley, a justice of the peace, a Tooele County commissioner, and later mayor of Tooele.¹⁹



The Tooele Fire Department. (Utah State Historical Society)

Fire Departments

A fire department was late getting organized in Tooele, fires in the early days being fought by concerned citizens in the vicinity of a blaze. Fire-fighting equipment was purchased by about the 1890s, and during that period the Tooele City Water Company also installed five fire hydrants in the town. By 1894 the city council purchased new hose and equipment and built a shed to house it. Volunteers still fought the area's fires. No major fires of large areas of town occurred in Tooele City in the early years, although Mercur was twice devastated—in 1896 and 1902. There were, doubtless, many individual house and business fires. It is not known when the Tooele Fire Department of paid professional firefighters was first organized; however, by 1919 the county government had authorized that those fighting forest fires in the county be paid seventy-five cents per hour. That same year, the county donated sixteen dollars to Tooele City to purchase a fire siren.²⁰

Business and Community Activities

The first hotel in the area was known as the Foote House. It was



The Mercur Fire Department in front of the new Mercur City Hall and Fire Station, 4 July 1903. (Utah State Historical Society)

built and operated by Erastus S. Foote in 1872 in downtown Tooele. Freighters and travelers through the area used that and other lodgings, as it could still be a two-day trip to Salt Lake City if heavy freight was being transported. Other lodging facilities soon were established in Tooele, Grantsville, and other area communities, augmenting the old stage stations established on the Pony Express and Overland Mail routes some years before. By 1890 Tooele City had more than 1,000 inhabitants and boasted all the businesses of a thriving city of the era. Growth continued rapidly in the following years, and by the count of the 1910 census there were 2,753 people in the town, the number growing to 3,602 by 1920.

The Strand Theater, built by H.H. Johnson, began to serve the community in the 1920s. Ruth Bennion remembered the first time she saw a picture show at the Strand, when she came with her mother from Vernon. The picture was silent, but Johnson's wife sang between the features on the show.²¹ In the 1920s other retail enterprises in

Tooele City included the White Lily Bakery, Atkin Coal, Vowles Market, Droubay Meat, Tate-Hicks Furniture, Parker-Warner Lumber, Gordon Furniture, Ajax Variety, Hanks and Evans Confectionary, and Barton Truck Lines. The Tooele Mercantile Company, which was begun in 1905 by John A. Lindberg, was going strong and would expand to a new store in 1925. By the 1970s it was the oldest surviving business in Tooele.²²

The Transcript-Bulletin Publishing Company was founded in 1894 and is the oldest continuous business in the county. The *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin* circulation has grown to more than 2,500. It began as the *Tooele Transcript*, and was preceded from 1892 to 1894 by the *Tooele County Times*. The *Transcript* was run for many years by James Dunn and then by his daughter Martha (who finally sold her interest in the paper in 1924 to her brother Alex). In 1923 the *Transcript* bought a local paper known as the *Tooele Bulletin* which had started in 1914 and featured free distribution. The first issue of the combined paper, the *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin* was on 4 December 1923. Alex Dunn published and edited the paper until his death in 1964. He was succeeded by his son Joel, who ran the paper until he was called to preside over an LDS church mission. Other family members continue to manage the paper and run the company.²³

After the Tooele County Bank failed in the 1930s, Lionel Olsen opened up a bank under the name of the First National Bank (it later became affiliated with First Security Bank). The Grantsville Deseret Bank was liquidated in 1931; but, after the federal government established military installations in Tooele County in the 1940s, the accelerated growth these installations brought led to four banks and a credit union soon being established in the county. Additional retail stores, a taxi cab service, and recreational and social outlets including pool halls and lounges came into existence.²⁴ The county is currently also served by branches of other major state and regional banks. Among the long-lived businesses in the county, Lawrence Floral was founded in 1928 and Caldwell Drug in 1938.

The influx of non-Mormon newcomers to the federal facilities helped to further distinguish the county from other rural Utah counties that had remained predominantly Mormon in population.

Businesses and churches that were rare or nonexistent in much of Utah could be found in increasingly diverse Tooele County, which already had been more diverse than most counties due to its earlier mining activities.

William Cecil Tate wrote concerning his buying of the Hank and Evans confectionary in 1940, "It was just the beginning of the Tooele Army Depot and all speculation was that it would be a very large one. There were also rumors of two other government agencies coming to Tooele County—the Deseret Chemical and Dugway Proving Ground. This would mean a large increase in population and business."²⁵ Bevan Hardware, founded in the 1930s, found such a demand for toys in Tooele that its basement was remodeled to make room for a toyland at Christmas time.²⁶

Still, county businesses did face some hardships as well as a great deal of competition. The relatively small size of Tooele City's and Grantsville's business districts compared to those of other Utah communities of similar size is due in part to the proximity of Salt Lake City, which is only thirty miles distant. With no mountain passes to negotiate and modern roads and automobiles providing a comfortable ride, many residents over the years have tended to take quick trips into the larger city instead of shopping at home. Prices could be lower and selection greater in Salt Lake City; however, locals were cautioned as far back as October 1923 not to purchase solely due to the price of an item. The local paper at that time lamented: "Because the local merchant is not in the habit of charging excessive prices, you may at times be able to get the same article for a little less money, but the quality will invariably be reduced in proportion to the price. The local merchant cannot afford to sell 'cheap' stuff. His customers would not tolerate it."²⁷

Enterprising individuals could find a ready market for some goods in Tooele if they could provide convenience for their customers. For example, because farm machinery was very scarce in the region during World War II, Grover Higley scouted surrounding states for farm equipment for sale and brought it back to Grantsville to sell to Tooele County farmers. The Barton Truck Line initiated service to the Tooele Army Depot in 1947 and then began to furnish

transportation to the Ogden Arsenal and other military installations to the north.²⁸

Despite the fact that Tooele County in recent years has been used by many residents as a bedroom community for Salt Lake City and many people leave the county to shop, some county businesses thrive and many residents actually value the relative quiet of the county's communities. One merchant cheerfully reported, "we've got all the advantages . . . [we are only] 30 minutes from the airport, and [have] all the cultural facilities . . . [found] in Salt Lake City. . . . We don't have the smog, or the traffic, or the crime rate."²⁹

Additional business came to the county in 1989 with the construction of a large Wal-Mart retail store—the biggest store in the county.³⁰ However, another era of retail business came to an end when the Cornet store closed its doors on Tooele's Main Street after fifty-six years of operation.³¹ After Wal-Mart opened, other closures included Christensen's, Coast-to-Coast, and J.C. Penney stores, the latter of which had been in the county since the 1920s.

Historical Museums

The Benson gristmill is at the entrance to Tooele Valley and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It is being restored by Tooele County. The seven-acre site was given to the county by Terracor, the company building the nearby Stansbury Park development. The site contains a log cabin, which once rested under Adobe Rock, a blacksmith shop, and various pieces of pioneer farming equipment. The mill is open from May to September. Jack Smith of Grantsville has chaired the volunteer committee which has worked from 1984 to the present on the restoration of the mill.

In Grantsville, at the Donner-Reed Museum, artifacts left by the Donner-Reed party can be seen along with Indian and pioneer relics. This museum is operated by the Daughters of Utah Pioneers.

The Tooele County Railroad Museum is located in Tooele. A steam engine and several cabooses are located on the grounds. The museum's artifacts relate not only to railroading but also to the mining and smelting industries. The Tooele County Courthouse was built in 1867, a few years after Tooele became the county seat. It was also used as the Tooele city hall until 1941. The city hall houses a

Daughters of Utah Pioneers museum, and a log cabin built in 1855 stands nearby.

The Bonneville Museum in Wendover features historic cars and exhibits telling about the Bonneville Salt Flats and its racing history.

Historic homes are found throughout the county. They include: in Clover, a twelve-room home which the David E. Davis family moved into in September 1885; in Vernon, the John C. Sharp home; in Grantsville, the John T. Rich home and the Victorian house of Alex Johnson; and, in Tooele, the Peter Clegg home on East Vine Street.

Three 100-year-old cabins were removed from Rush Valley in the 1980s to be restored by Nancy Long for her tourist park at the Gardner old mill in the Salt Lake Valley. A two-story cabin of hewn logs was donated by Orson Johnson, a great-grandson of early Mormon apostle and Tooele County resident Luke S. Johnson. It was built by Swen Erickson of Grantsville. Another cabin—the Hamilton Orr house—was donated by Clifford Carson. The Ahlstrom family of St. John donated the third cabin.

New Town and Tooele County's Immigrant Heritage

Providing a visible link between the past and the present is the area in the northeastern section of Tooele City called New Town. The “town” today reflects the values and lifestyles of non-Mormon newcomers from villages in Europe. What remains of New Town is a physical heritage, a commercial core of a business district dating from the time of Tooele County's mining period and first years of industrialization.

When Anaconda Copper Company built its International Smelting and Refining Company smelter operation at the base of the Oquirrh Mountains in 1910, a large work force, which could not be obtained locally, was necessary for the operation. Mormon leaders from the time of Brigham Young had counseled the Latter-day Saint people to farm and live off the land, avoiding if possible other occupations, particularly those involving large numbers of non-Mormons, or gentiles, as they were then called. This even further reduced the available work force in the county. The smelting company then recruited workers from Europe, taking advantage of the desire of many to emigrate to America. Also, many men came to



Playing "Bollie" in Mercur during the first decade of the Twentieth Century. (Utah State Historical Society)

America hoping to make a lot of money in a short time and then return to their homes in Europe.

Many of the Yugoslavian and other eastern European emigrants had worked in agriculture in their homelands, and crop failures had motivated the emigration of some in hopes of a better life in America. Many continued west in search of work, finally finding it in the rugged mines and industries of the developing frontier. In the western United States the immigrants had to assume a new life as industrial workers, where, as one writer expressed it, "the dangers . . . were much more swift in their realization than had been true of the dangers of subsistence agriculture."³² In their new industrial environment, the immigrants were drawn together by national ties and by their common plight, while also being segregated by race- and class-conscious established residents. They thus began to depend increasingly upon many of their traditions, which assumed added significance in their new environment.³³



The Anthony DeMichele Home in Tooele's Newtown, 1916. (Ouida Blanthorn Collection)

During the initial years of migration in the late 1800s and early 1900s, single males often came alone to America, usually leaving their sweethearts or their wives and children behind, and often intending to return to their homeland after they had accumulated savings in the United States. With the development of the local smelter and increased mining activity in Tooele County, however, life became more secure and fellow workers and countrymen made it more pleasant to remain; thus, many men sent for their wives and began raising their families in Tooele. Despite their lower status in the eyes of many U.S. citizens, mining and mill workers often were financially better off than were educated men in their home countries.³⁴

Once in Tooele, the new non-Mormon immigrants were labeled "foreigners" by the old-time residents. The east side of Tooele became the home of the newcomers and was called New Town.³⁵ There was a great deal of discrimination in the first years. Each group generally stayed to its own section of town, and the various ethnic groups also tended to congregate together. There were numbers of people of Irish descent, Italians, Greeks, and Austrians (as the mix of people later

known as Yugoslavians were called at the time, being part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire) living in the community of New Town in addition to those of many other nationalities. They worked hard in difficult conditions in order to prove themselves. Many residents of New Town worked to become United States citizens, and most learned to speak, read, and write a new language. They were proud and independent. Neighbors would help one another build houses or other projects, and a sense of community resulted.

Some homes were built by the Anaconda Company in 1908 to house workers who came from Montana. Broadway, also called Greek Street, became the business district of New Town. An elementary school was built at 250 North Broadway, called the Plat C School. Many of its students could not speak English when they started school.

Dr. Joseph A. Phipps built a hospital and doctor's office at the corner of Utah Avenue and Broadway. He was the first physician for the International Smelting and Refining Company at Tooele. Many people often did not have money to pay Dr. Phipps in cash for his services, instead giving him food and labor in payment. He opened the first hospital in a home in 1908, and in 1910 he established the Tooele General Hospital, which operated until an economic downturn in 1921, when he moved his hospital work to Salt Lake City, transporting his patients to and from hospitals there. During the fifty-one years of his residence, Dr. Phipps was always a liberal giver to charity organizations. He later received the first Tooele County Chamber of Commerce distinguished service award for his fifty years of service to the people of Tooele County.

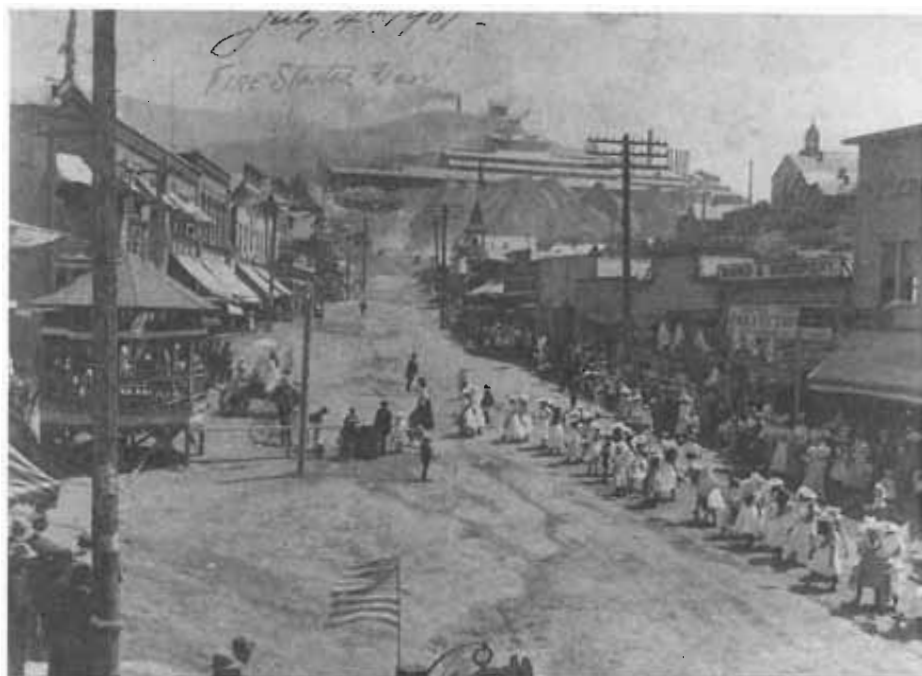
Across the street from the hospital was an opera house, and there were many boarding houses and apartment houses in Tooele serving the single miners and smelter workers. The Kostello family owned and operated a store with apartments on the second floor. Among the other establishments, Mike Elich had a grocery and butcher shop, and the Bezick family had a bar and a boarding house. In 1910 Steve Jankovich built a grocery store and a large boarding house. Many families also housed boarders in their homes. Women cooked on wood stoves, which also heated their homes. Clothes were washed by hand and dried on clotheslines, where they often would freeze dur-

ing winter months. Cinders from the railroad steam engines regularly fell on the clothes. Housewives worked hard, and most had large families. Most families raised a few chickens, cows, and pigs to supplement their income and diet.

Among the many local businesses, John Hodak had a grocery store, as did John and Katie Pezel and Mrs. Frank (Mary) Hoffman. Mike and Matilda Buneta had a blacksmith business. A gas station was built by Gus Marzelos, called Gassy Gus. Tooele Home Town Bakery was built in 1920 and was operated for years by George Mantas; his daughter Dorothy Manusakis then ran the store. Tom Buzianis was owner and manager of a dairy. The Karaplis family had a bar and beer distribution business. Another store was built by the Karabatas family at 77 North Broadway. A coffee house with a pool hall was run by John Karabatsos. Two car dealerships were established in Tooele by Greek immigrants—George Mantes and the Paulos family. Bill Gochis had a taxi stand and bar. George Karavatis was a shoemaker. These are only a few of the many businesses established by the new immigrants and their descendants; there was a variety of activity in the town of Tooele, including dance halls.

The smelter management was helpful to the young men who wanted to go to college; many were able to work weekends and summers at the smelter. Many doors were opened to the immigrant workers when their children started to play high school sports. George Melinkovich went to Notre Dame, where he received All-American honors for his football ability. Other notable local athletes included Dan Savich, Mike Stipac, and Frank Ronkovich. Although there was much conflict between the various ethnic and religious groups through the years, as time went by, people began to show greater tolerance and respect for one another.

Religion in some ways was a big dividing force in the community, but in other ways it helped bring people together. A Catholic church was built in Tooele in 1910, and various priests helped bring the community together, including establishing sports programs involving boys and girls. Fathers Kennedy and Marceau are among those fondly remembered for their efforts. Most Slovenes and Croats were Roman Catholics; Serbs generally were Serbian Orthodox but attended liturgies in the Greek Orthodox church. For many years, Greek Orthodox



A Fourth of July Parade in Mercur in 1901. (Utah State Historical Society)

believers attended church services in Salt Lake City. Many of the first immigrants would go to Salt Lake City to get married in the churches there. Some Greeks attended the Methodist church in town because there was no Greek Orthodox church in the county. A Mormon chapel was used for the funeral of one Greek Orthodox man killed in World War II.

After 1900, Slavs, Serbs, and Croatians, along with Italians and Greeks, dominated the labor ranks in the mines of Tooele County. The Slavic people were less conspicuous than the darker Greeks in the predominantly white Utah society.³⁶ Greek men seeking work were at the mercy of sometimes unscrupulous labor agents in Utah who sent workers to five areas, one of which was the Tooele smelter, receiving exorbitant compensation for their services.³⁷ Mercur had a large settlement of Italians.

Ethnic bonds, which united people in the old country, continued. For example, godfathers provided a strong bond among Serbians and Croatians, assuring parents that their children would be protected if

they died, as the godfather was responsible for the children's education, health, and welfare if anything happened to the parents.³⁸

Gradually, intermarriage among all the groups blurred cultural distinctions and helped reduce ethnic tensions.³⁹ Subsequent generations have grown up speaking English, further blurring differences and leading to mutual tolerance, respect, and even wholehearted acceptance among many in the county. As families matured and new educational and employment opportunities developed, much of the tension existing between the immigrant groups and between them and the descendants of early Mormon settlers, caused by their religious differences, also has been reduced.⁴⁰ More than most areas of Utah, Tooele County has been an area of cultural and ethnic variety and the growth of mutual acceptance and respect.

Most of the smelter workers were classified as whites by the census takers, and, like most Utah counties, Tooele County has been overwhelmingly white through most of its history. For example, of the 14,636 residents counted in the 1950 census, only 240 were considered non-whites. There were twenty-six blacks in the county in 1950, along with seventy citizens of Japanese and Chinese heritage and 126 Native Americans.⁴¹ Still, if Native Americans are not included in the classification, Tooele County has had a greater number of non-white citizens than virtually every Utah county outside the urban Wasatch Front. This in great part has been due to the presence of the federal defense industry installations in the county since World War II.

Some Mexicans and Mexican-Americans had come to Utah after World War I to work on the railroads. Spanish-speaking people also came in numbers to Tooele from the Southwest during the World War II period with the need for war-related labor in the newly established defense industry bases in the county. Later, in 1949, buses were sent to Taos, New Mexico, to bring recruited Mexican-Americans to work at the Tooele Army Depot and Deseret Chemical Depot. Other Spanish-speaking people traveled to Utah in search of better working conditions; some found employment with the army in Tooele County. Although some of those recruited from New Mexico soon went back, others stayed, brought their families with them, and established roots in Tooele.⁴²

The Spanish community has steadily grown in number to about 3,000 citizens in the county. Their assimilation in Tooele County was not always easy. The school system has played an important role in the assimilation process. Also, farsighted and tolerant individuals have led out in trying to achieve racial and social harmony. For example, Jose Trujillo in recent years has helped many Anglos and Hispanics sit down together in meetings and forums. With his help and the opening of dialogue between peoples critical issues were dealt with and problems solved. Hispanic peoples have maintained some of their traditions, and their varied activities reflect their growing importance and presence in the county.

Lorraine Pannunzio interviewed a number of county residents in 1993 and 1994. Excerpts from some of those interviews help provide an understanding of what it was like to be an immigrant in Tooele County.⁴³

Fyreno Cerroni's father arrived in the United States from Italy. He traveled across the country, stopping in Colorado, where he worked laying track from Warner Station up to the International Smelter in Tooele, where he moved in 1910 when it was still being built. He met an Italian woman who had also recently immigrated to Tooele County and they were married in Tooele in 1911.

The couple attempted to homestead in Idaho for a few years but later returned to Tooele with six children, including Fyreno. The children went to Plat C School and then to Central Elementary School. Fyreno and other children played around the railroad depot, and a local clergyman helped organize baseball and basketball games for the boys. They also played around town and climbed in Middle Canyon. They would hop on the train and ride up to the smelter and watch the workers. The depot was their hangout. As a child Fyreno and other New Town children had some friends in Old Town; but most of the Old Town children would call them names, and fights would result. Once the New Town children began to attend school in Old Town, things started to ease up.

Fyreno went to a CCC camp in 1934 during the Depression in order to help his family financially. While there he learned to build roads, run a bulldozer, and drive trucks. In 1936 he went to work at the International Smelter, and in 1962 he began work at the Tooele



A public gathering in downtown Mercur. (Utah State Historical Society)

Army Depot. Fyreno really liked Tooele; early businesses he remembered included bars, pool halls, and bakeries. George Mantas delivered his produce with a truck from house to house. Produce was also delivered by a one-horse wagon. Dances were held in the St. Marguerite's building.

James T. Gochis was the son of Trifon J. and Angelina K. Gochis. His father came west in 1912 and started working as a timber foreman in a Bingham Canyon mine. He later worked at the International Smelter. In 1914 Trifon Gochis went back to Greece to marry. None of the early immigrants married out of their culture and hardly any married outside of their religion. The couple then returned to Tooele. James Gochis reported that his father had a hard time with the English language; the only way he could communicate in a grocery store was to pick up the item and show the clerk what he wanted.

Most immigrants wanted to keep their ethnic identity and customs intact, and so they spoke their native language in their homes. Locals also helped the children to learn to read and write Greek and

other languages. This practice continued through the second generation. The workers had no labor union in those first years; in fact, it was the mid-1930s before a union was established for the smelter workers. The smelter provided almost all the work for the immigrants, except for a few owners or employees of local businesses that served the neighborhoods.

From his childhood Gochis remembered that for recreation the children played basketball on the platform at the back of the railroad depot. They also played other games, including card games at night. They would go over to the depot and pick up coal that had fallen off trains and take it home. The Greek men had a softball team and on Sundays they would go to the top of the hill by the reservoir and play. Harry Carapolis had an annual picnic for New Town residents. During World War II many families sent sons into the armed forces; some were killed in action, including Frank Hervat, William Karabatsos, and Ward Gamble. John Hervat was on the Bataan Death March.

Adeline (Della) M. Orlando was born in the United States in 1903. Her father and mother were married in a town in the mountains of central Italy, where they lived for several years and had three children. He then emigrated and, after several moves, went to Murray, Utah, to work in the smelter there. He wasn't able to rent a room from local Mormons, so he and a friend bought a tent and lived in it all winter. He later built a duplex and sent for his wife in 1902. Three more children, including Della, were born in the United States.

Della went to school until the seventh grade. Her father had a grocery store, selling everything from food to coal oil. Della would help him peddle vegetables and took care of his accounts for him. She also helped in the store. She met a lot of fellows that way, including her future husband. She wasn't allowed to date, but the two would sneak out and meet. They were married at the courthouse in Salt Lake City. The couple lived in Murray for about eight years after they were married. They then moved to Tooele, where her husband got a job at the smelter. They bought a house that was basically a shack and later added on to it.

Della hated Tooele when she first arrived. In Murray the couple used to go to Salt Lake City for street dances, vaudeville shows, and

other entertainment, and they had water toilets. In Tooele at the time there were dirt roads, no garbage pick up, and only outside toilets. Conditions gradually improved and growth brought more entertainment and social opportunities. World War II also helped bring great changes, opening job opportunities for women, including for Della Orlando, who worked for the government for many years following the war.

Children of immigrant families growing up in the county in the first decades of the twentieth century generally have fond memories of the period. Though some living conditions were harsh and money often scarce, there was a rich sense of community that enriched all the inhabitants. Tensions did exist between them and the Mormon inhabitants of the county, and some immigrant children recalled that the other students threw rocks at them and called them names. They also remember that Tooele was really a booming town when they were young. There was a bank, hospital, grocery stores, boarding houses, a variety store, and even an opera house (theater) in New Town. Their legs were their transportation, but they would occasionally catch a train to go to the “big city”—Salt Lake City or Eureka.

The main street of Tooele, Broadway, was at first just a dirt road. Power poles ran down the middle of the road, which was sprayed with water to keep the dust down. The first fire station in New Town featured a railroad handcar fire engine. A passenger train ran from Old Town, with a stop at New Town, then on to the smelter, taking men to work. Horse races and rodeos as well as baseball provided entertainment. Families visited each other in the evenings, and children played outside games.

Many families made their own wine, and it has been reported that a lot of bootlegging went on during the prohibition years of the 1920s and early 1930s. Some families had big outside ovens used for baking bread, pizza, and pastries. Most of the families raised pigs or other farm animals for their own use. Celebrating name days on saints days was important, and they would often feature a party or a picnic.

Old-time residents remember baking bread in the coal stoves and making their country’s special pastries, or slaughtering a pig, then smoking hams, making sausage, and rendering lard. They speak of

washing clothes on a washboard and ironing with an iron heated on the stove. They believe they lived during a good era. They worked hard, then spent evenings playing cards, making candy, playing sports and games, and dancing.

Immigrants to the county endeavored to keep their ethnic traditions. They had whole-day wedding ceremonies, for example, and were very family oriented. Sunday was a special day when big meals were cooked and families visited. Holidays also were special times; Easter was an important holiday. People generally were satisfied with what they had because their friends and neighbors had about the same.

Few of the early immigrants were sufficiently educated to enter professions; but many of the succeeding generations have become well educated and have entered various professions. Many of the old-timers, however, also feel that the sense of community has been somewhat lost as the younger generations have adopted more general American lifeways.

Religion

The early history of the Catholic church in Tooele County was centered in the mining camps of Stockton, Mercur, and Ophir—also located a few miles south of Tooele. Father Edward Kelley visited the town of Stockton in 1866, when he was en route to Camp Floyd. The first known Mass in Tooele County was celebrated on 19 October 1871 when Father Patrick Walsh visited Stockton. After that, services occasionally were held in Stockton when a priest was available.

At Ophir, once the best-known and most prosperous mining town in the county, Mass was held monthly between 1874 and 1878. Father (later Bishop) Lawrence Scanlan came to Mercur as early as 1873; but church services there were intermittent until 1894, when he arranged regular services in the town. In 1898 Father A.V. Keenan appealed to the residents for funds to build a church in Mercur. The resulting church, constructed and blessed in 1899, was destroyed by fire three years later. A new church was then built and blessed in 1904.

The construction of smelters around the turn of the century brought growth to the county, and many of the smelter employees



The dedication of St. Marguerite's Parish Church in Tooele on 20 November 1910. (Utah State Historical Society)

were Catholics. They requested that Mass be held regularly in Tooele, and Bishop Scanlan arranged a monthly Mass for them in 1910, priests occasionally coming from Ophir. St. Marguerite's Parish Church was built that same year on a plot of ground located on Utah Avenue in Tooele. The church was dedicated by Bishop Scanlan on 20 November 1910. Its bell, which called the people of Tooele to the dedicatory service, was the same bell which had rung forty years before to summon Catholics in Salt Lake City to the church of St. Mary Magdalene, the first Catholic church in Utah Territory.

From 1910 to 1913 the parish was served by visiting priests from Salt Lake City. Father J.A. Homan was appointed first resident priest in 1913; he was followed by a succession of pastors. As the years passed and the community grew, the small church constructed of plywood continued to serve the people of St. Marguerite's Parish. However, when the church building eventually needed major repair, the costs proved greater than the building was worth. So, in 1959,

under the guidance of Father Charles Freegard, a group of parishioners purchased a 6.5-acre plot of ground at the corner of Seventh Street and Vine in Tooele.⁴⁴ Plans were drawn up for a church to accommodate the growing parish and for facilities for a parochial school. However, the \$400,000 loan obtained for the project was exhausted when the work was only 40 percent complete. Construction was halted and the partial structure, commonly referred to as the "Roman Ruins," stood unfinished for thirteen years.

St. Marguerite's Parish also grew in part due to the opening of Tooele Army Depot and other industries in the county, which brought more Catholics into the area. Parishioners crowded into the small church each Sunday, praying that the construction of a new church would soon become possible. On 6 November 1972 Father John J. Sullivan, who was named pastor 1 April 1970, and the parish council members voted unanimously to conduct a drive to raise funds to build a parish center.⁴⁵

The partially completed construction was dismantled, and on 23 August 1973 work began on a new parish center that would consist of a chapel, a gymnasium, five classrooms for religious education, and a recreation hall with adjoining kitchen, restrooms, and showers. The rectory would be built west of the church building.

Bishop Joseph Lennox Federal officiated at a special ceremony at the laying of the cornerstone of the parish center on 25 March 1974. The names of the people who contributed to the project were placed in a copper box behind the cornerstone. The bell from the old church was installed in the tower of the new building—thus, since 1910 this historic bell has rung out in Tooele. On 30 May 1976 Father John J. Sullivan celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination at the parish social center.

As early as 1944 women in religious orders ministered to the people of the parish. Our Lady of Victory missionary sisters came from their convent in Salt Lake City to Tooele between the years of 1944 and 1953, and again between 1983 and 1985. The Sisters of the Holy Family established a convent in Tooele in 1953 and served there through 1987. Since 1990 Franciscan Sister of the Atonement Marianne Rohrer has served as pastoral associate at St. Marguerite's.

In January 1981 a pre-school for young children was opened in

the building previously used as a convent. A year later a kindergarten class was begun by Principal Janet Barbiero. In 1994 there were four teachers, seven pre-school classes, and one kindergarten class at the facility.

Father John J. Sullivan, the first native of Tooele to be ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood, served St. Marguerite's until July 1983. During his tenure three men of the parish were ordained as permanent deacons: Max Flaim, James Garcia, and William Januszewski. After Father Sullivan's transfer to St. Ann's in Salt Lake City, Father Joseph T. Fitzgerald was named pastor, effective July 1982. Both of these priests have since been elevated to the rank of Monsignor. With the help of Deacon Max Flaim and his wife, Mary, Father Fitzgerald provided religious instruction, baptismal and marriage instruction, and Mass for the people of Vernon, thirty-five miles south of Tooele.

Mass was also celebrated and religious education taught in Grantsville. A need for assistance to the many Catholic families in Wendover also was recognized. Many were from Mexico, who came to the area to work at the burgeoning new casinos on the Nevada side of the state line and spoke little or no English. Sisters Martha Amezcua and Denise Dean traveled to Wendover on a biweekly basis helping to provide for the peoples' spiritual needs. Occasionally a priest came to offer Mass there.

In 1984 St. Marguerite's Parish was administered by Father Gerald Dezurick, a Benedictine priest. Father Reyes G. Rodriguez was appointed pastor in July 1985. In addition to his work in Tooele, he offered Sunday Masses in English and in Spanish each week in the convention center of the State Line Casino and Hotel in Wendover. To provide for further care of the people of Wendover, Dominican sisters Jeanne Burg and Janet Ackerman took up residence in a trailer on the Utah side of Wendover in July 1986.

Father Michael J. Winterer, who had served the parish for two years beginning in 1963, was assigned to St. Marguerite's in 1987. He helped complete plans for and began construction of San Felipe Church (a mission of St. Marguerite Parish) in Wendover. The dedication of the new church took place on 29 May 1988. Father Winterer subsequently traveled to Wendover every Sunday to celebrate Mass

in English and Spanish. He was succeeded by Father Richard W. Bauer and in 1989 by Father Gerald P. Lynch. The present pastor, Wayne T. Epperly, became the second native of St. Marguerite's to be ordained a priest; Bishop William Weigand ordained him on October 1983 into the Order of the Holy Ghost Fathers. Clarence Sandoval, also of the parish, was ordained on 21 August 1987 as a diocesan priest; another native son, Kenneth Vialpando, became a diocesan priest on 2 August 1991.

As the population of St. Marguerite's Parish continues to grow, plans are being drawn up to add a kitchen, establish a new entrance to the church, add offices to the rectory, and elevate the altar in the church.

When ministers of Protestant denominations first came to Utah, they cooperatively divided the territory into districts served by the different denominations, and Tooele was assigned to the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Methodist church came to Tooele in 1871 and to Eureka in 1891. Reverend Erastus Smith was appointed to the missionary field, and he organized the first local Sunday School. To advance education in the county, the Tooele Academy was organized by the Methodist church with thirteen pupils on 7 September 1871, and a frame church was built in December 1873 on property at 53 East Vine Street donated by a Mrs. Bonelli. Later, with the increasing industrialization of Tooele County, a larger church was needed. Property was acquired on First North, where a parsonage was built. On 14 October 1928 a new church was erected; after it was paid for, it was dedicated on 10 February 1946.⁴⁶

The Methodist church was a leader in helping improve the quality of education for children throughout the county, as will be discussed elsewhere. The resulting improvement in the quality of education offered in the county helped bridge gaps between Mormons and the newcomers of the Protestant faith. Many pastors served in Tooele. Ministers of the Methodist church in Corinne were also assigned variously to Ogden, Tooele, and the Jordan Valley after the decline of Corinne. A congregation had been formed in Ophir a year after the establishment of the Tooele Methodist church; and meetinghouses were built in Stockton and Grantsville in 1886. The work in the mining towns advanced under the direction of C.A.

Edwards. In 1901, 100 people were enrolled in Sunday Schools in those towns and Edwards also served as a nurse to men injured in the mines. According to a historian of the church, "his work so impressed Capt. DeLaMare [owner of the Mercur mill] that he sent Edwards a check for \$1,000."⁴⁷

Mining towns could be tough places to preach and they could also test the minister's faith. G.L. Marvin, for example, assigned to Mercur, reportedly "stayed three months before absconding with the missionary fund allotted him."⁴⁸

The Baptist church first offered local worship services in Tooele County in 1952 in the home of the Rev. Odell Whitten, the first Baptist pastor to the county. The congregation soon moved its meeting place to Edgemount and then to its present location on South Main Street in Tooele. The church has branched into four missions serving Delta, Grantsville, Magna, and Wendover. The Grantsville mission later became a church of its own.⁴⁹

On 5 November 1898 a Masonic lodge was formed in Mercur. It was a rebirth of the Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 205 of Camp Floyd, with Daniel C. Jackling as its first Worshipful Master. (Jackling in 1903 organized the Utah Copper Company, the forerunner of Kennecott Copper Corporation.) After a fire in 1902 destroyed the lodge hall, Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 11 moved to Tooele. In 1972 a Masonic temple was completed in Tooele.⁵⁰

Although there are a greater percentage of non-Mormons in Tooele than there are in most counties in Utah, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints still is the dominant religious faith in the county, as has been the case throughout the county's history and is noted in many of the chapters of this work. A list of local LDS church leaders and history of the various Mormon wards and stakes created in the county is too exhaustive for the present work; however, a brief summary includes the facts that the Tooele LDS Stake was first organized on 24 June 1877. One of the early stake presidents, Heber J. Grant, later became president of the Mormon church. Through the years various stakes were organized and local wards and branches created, divided, and, in a few cases, dissolved. At present there are five LDS stakes listed in the Tooele phone book along with numerous wards. Over the course of time local Mormons have worked



The Grantsville LDS Church. (Utah State Historical Society)

among themselves and also with non-Mormons to develop the county in virtually all of its economic and social arenas.

A list of churches currently in the county includes the Spanish Baptist Mission (Wendover); Independent Baptist Church; First Baptist Church of Tooele; Tooele United Methodist Church; First Baptist Church (Grantsville); Assemblies of God; First Lutheran Church; Church of Christ; Christian Faith Church; Faith Christian Fellowship; The Potter's House; St. Marguerite's Catholic Church in Tooele and Mission San Felipe in Wendover; St. Barnabas Episcopal Church; Jehovah's Witnesses; and many LDS stakes and associated wards.

Recreation, Events and Society in Tooele County Today

The oldest continuous annual event in Tooele County is the Grantsville Old Folks' Sociable, which was begun in 1884. In September the Tooele Gem and Mineral Show attracts many.⁵¹ In 1984 Elliot Clark initiated the first county production of Handel's *Messiah*. The regional chorus performs the work yearly in December



The Odd Fellows, a fraternal organization, at Stockton. (Courtesy Zettie Garcia)

at Tooele and Grantsville. In February 1986 the Tooele County Arts Festival was initiated; it continues at present as a three-day event featuring visual artists and entertainment arts.⁵²

A Tooele County complex built at 400 North 400 West in Tooele was the home of the Tooele County Fair through 1998. Music, the selection of royalty, agricultural exhibits, team roping, horse pulling, and a demolition derby are all part of the entertainment each August. The Bit and Spur Riding Club, organized in 1945, hosts the annual Fourth of July Rodeo and also hosts 4-H shows, high school rodeos, and horse shows throughout the year.⁵³

Horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, four-wheeling, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing are popular activities with many county residents. In the desert areas of the county the traveler is rewarded with beautiful sights. For example, south of Grantsville the South Willow road winds west through the Wasatch-Cache National Forest to the Deseret Peak Wilderness Area, where hiking

trails can be found.⁵⁴ At Danger Cave State Park near Wendover a 54-mile graded loop road circles the Silver Island Mountains and provides opportunities to explore historic trails as well as offering excellent views of the Bonneville Salt Flats.⁵⁵

In Settlement Canyon's Legion Park the Utah Elks Association has undertaken construction of a special-use camping facility called Camp Wapiti for children with medical disabilities.⁵⁶

Campgrounds in Tooele County include those at the Vernon Reservoir; at the Clover campground halfway up Johnson's Pass; and at White Pine in Middle Canyon (accessible for vehicles). The Simpson Springs picnic/campground area is open throughout the year. The Knolls off-road-vehicle (ORV) area of 38,000 acres of sand dunes, hillsides, and mud flats borders an air force bombing range six miles south of Interstate 80. Unimproved camping areas in Skull Valley include Lone Rock, Horseshoe Spring Knoll, and White Rocks. Another unimproved area, but one popular for picnicking and wind-surfing, is Rush Lake, home or migratory resting place of a wide variety of wetland bird species.⁵⁷ One also can view shorebirds, waterfowl, and wading birds at the Timpie Springs waterfowl area. Also in Rush Valley, one often can view bald eagles, golden eagles, and rough-legged hawks in the Vernon area.⁵⁸

Near Dugway are geode beds, found on the western side of the Dugway Mountain Range. Wrote one enthusiast, "The round stones, some as large as a grapefruit, have a cavity lined with inward-growing crystals. Once cut in half the geodes offer a hidden kaleidoscope of colors and designs."⁵⁹ Rock hounds find the county's mountain and desert reaches an unending source of delight. Returning to Tooele Valley, the South Willow Campgrounds can accommodate trucks towing horse trailers. The Mack Canyon Trail starts in South Willow Canyon at Medina Flats, then heads north to North Willow Canyon, proceeding north through Davenport, Baker, and West canyons, with a trailhead in each canyon. Camping facilities are also available at the Grantsville Reservoir, which has a covered gazebo.⁶⁰

Civic organizations presently in Tooele County are numerous, catering to the interests and needs of many county residents. They include the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, with chapters in Grantsville and Tooele; Tooele Lions Club; Tooele Business and Professional Women's

Club; Tooele Wildlife Federation, Tooele Bit and Spur Club; Civic League; Moose Lodge; Eagles Lodge; Kiwanis Club; Tooele County Historical Society; Farm Bureau; American Legion; Daughters of Utah Pioneers; Sons of Utah Pioneers; Grantsville Garden Club and City Beautification League; Masons; and Grantsville and Tooele senior citizens groups.

Movies filmed locally are a fairly recent development. In 1991 parts of Tooele and areas of Middle Canyon were the stage for a motion picture starring Mickey Rooney called *The Legend of Wolf Mountain*. This was the second film shot entirely on location in the county, the other being entitled *Little Heroes*. A portion of a television miniseries of Stephen King's *The Stand* was shot at the Tooele Valley Medical Center in 1993. Numerous commercials also have been filmed in the county, especially in the desert and Great Salt Lake areas. Hopes are high for continued economic growth in the county of this popular industry.⁶¹

Tooele City grew from about 5,000 inhabitants in 1940 to 7,269 by the end of that decade with the influx of military and defense workers. By 1960 the city had grown to 9,133, and it expanded rapidly during that decade to 12,539 by 1970. Growth continued at a slower pace in the 1970s, reaching 14,335 by 1980. The economic problems of that era led to a decrease in the city's population by 1990—to 13,887; but growth has resumed in the 1990s as the county has participated in the economic boom of Utah, particularly along the Wasatch Front, for which Tooele County communities are rapidly becoming bedroom communities. Tooele City itself, however, as the center of Tooele commerce, is expected to remain strong commercially, taking advantage of the area's growth and increasing prosperity.

ENDNOTES

1. Dale Morgan, *The Great Salt Lake*, 348–51.
2. Douglas Tobler and Nelson Wadsworth, *History of Mormons in Photo and Texts* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1989), 170; Ouida Blanthorn, "Resorts Have Dotted Tooele's Southern Shores," *Tooele Bulletin*, 25 July 1985; Ouida Blanthorn, "The Many Owners of Black Rock," *Tooele Transcript*, 5 June 1990.
3. Mildred Mercer, ed., *History of Tooele County*, 147–48.

4. Colleen Garrard et al. *Lake Point Through the Years* (n.p., 1986), 73.
5. Quoted in Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 151–52.
6. *Deseret News*, 1–2 April 1987.
7. Morgan, *Great Salt Lake*, 354–59.
8. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 152–53
9. *Ibid.*, 136.
10. Alma A. Gardiner, “The Founding and Development of Grantsville Utah 1850–1950” (Master’s thesis, Brigham Young University, 1982), 145, 300.
11. Ruth Anderson, “Music on the Move,” *Overland Journal* 5 (Spring 1987): 30.
12. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 122, 243–44.
13. Official Tooele County Centennial Program 1849–1949 (Tooele City: July 15–17, 1949), 7.
14. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 135–38, 246, 330, 356, 364.
15. *Salt Lake Herald*, 27 September 1889, 28 September 1889.
16. See the *Salt Lake Herald*, 2 October 1889, 3 October 1889.
17. John Bevan, “Events in the Early History of Tooele City,” 31, 32; Orson F. Whitney, *Popular History of Utah*, 162–63.
18. Blanthorn et al., *History of Clover*, 7.
19. Audrey M. Godfrey, “The Contribution of Johnston’s Army Soldiers Who Stayed in Utah,” Utah State Historical Society 41st Annual Meeting, 16 July 1993.
20. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 204–6; Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 253.
21. Ruth Bennion, interview with Orrin Miller, 1989.
22. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 198.
23. *Ibid.*, 209–11.
24. *Ibid.*, 207, 550.
25. *Ibid.*, 578.
26. See *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 24 December 1992.
27. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 3 October 1923.
28. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 196, 348, 459.
29. *Ibid.*, 597.
30. *Deseret News*, 2 May 1990.
31. David Bern, “Cornet Closes Doors,” *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 18 February 1993.

32. Helen Z. Papanikolas, *The Peoples of Utah* (Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society, 1976), 365.

33. *Ibid.*, 368.

34. Helen Z. Papanikolas, "Toil and Rage in a New Land," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 38 (Spring 1970): 139.

35. Much of the information on Newtown was originally prepared as an essay for this book by Jean Mogus and Helen Penok.

36. Papanikolas, "Toil and Rage," 142–43.

37. *Ibid.*, 115, 116.

38. Papanikolas, *Peoples of Utah*, 369.

39. *Ibid.*, 309–10.

40. *Ibid.*, 485.

41. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population: 1950, Part 44, Utah* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Commerce, 1952), tables 47, 48.

42. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 537.

43. Interviews include Rose Kochevar and Albina Buttrey, 3 September 1994; Francis Ausick, 10 September 1993; Anthony "Red" Del Papa, 21 February 1994; Gus Karabatsos, 21 February 1994; Fyreno Cerroni, 24 March 1994; James T. Gochis, 3 January 1994; Josephine Mastronardi, 7 March 1994; and Adeline M. Orlando 3 March 1994.

44. See "St. Marguerite's Parish Celebrates 75th Anniversary," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 29 October 1985. The author is indebted to Lyle Colbath's *History of St. Marguerite's Parish*, and the *Intermountain Catholic* (diocesan newspaper).

45. "St. Marguerite's Parish Celebrates 75th Anniversary," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 31 October 1985.

46. *The United Methodist Church, The First Century of the Methodist Church in Utah* (n.p., 1970), 6.

47. *Ibid.*, 84.

48. *Ibid.*, 85.

49. "Baptist Church Celebrates 40 years," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 13 August 1992.

50. "Masonic Roots Run Deep," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 6 September 1984.

51. *Tooele County 1993 Visitors' Guide and Business Directory*, (Tooele: Tooele County Chamber of Commerce, 1993), 24–25.

52. *Ibid.*

53. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 1 July 1993.

54. *Tooele County 1993 Visitor's Guide*, 22.55. 1 *Ibid.*

56. Myron Lee, "Canyons Chosen for Improvement by Tooele Co.," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 12 November 1992.
57. *Deseret News*, 16 May 1993, *Salt Lake Tribune*, 16 May 1993.
58. Jim Cole, *Utah Wildlife Viewing Guide* (Helena, MT: Falcon Press, 1990), 40–41.
59. Ray Grass, "More to Do in Utah," *Deseret News*, 24 May 1993.
60. Mary Ruth Hammond, "Improvements Made at Grantsville Reservoir," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 29 July 1993.
61. See *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 3 December 1992.

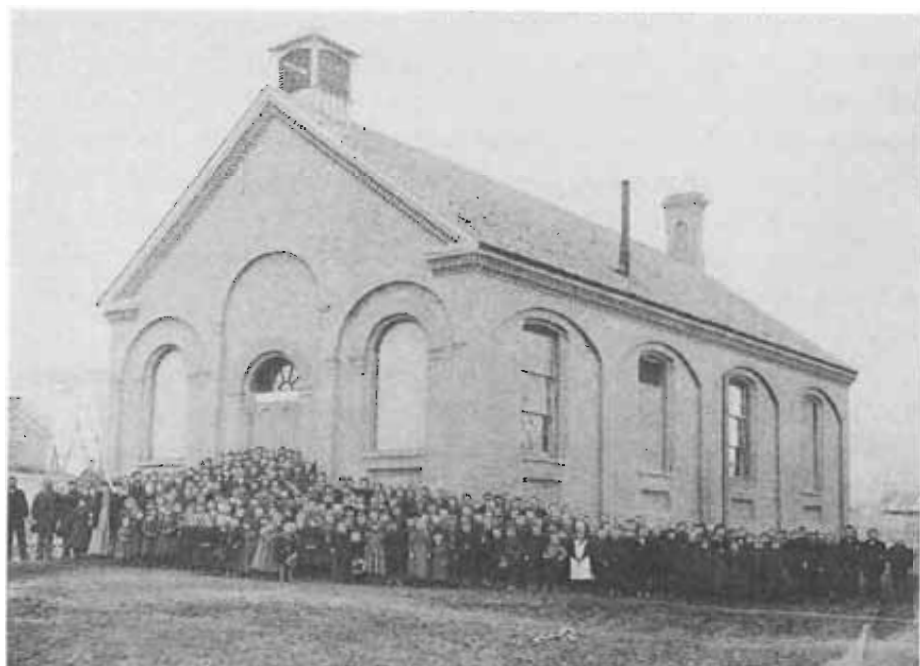
CHAPTER 8

EDUCATION AND MEDICAL CARE

Schools of Tooele County

Education has been important in the county since the early years of settlement.¹ A small log building was built in Tooele in 1850 for use for church services and school classes. This building was moved into the first fort, and was later moved in 1854 to the new townsite near the former settlement. William B. Adams and his wife, Mary Tuttle, were the first schoolteachers. The combination church and schoolhouse was replaced by a larger adobe structure about 1860.²

In the early years of settlement school supplies were almost nonexistent and classes were often held on an irregular basis. Tuition was usually paid in produce, and more than one child in a family could attend school if tuition for one was paid—the children taking turns attending classes. Teachers were hard to find due to the poor remuneration and the other necessities of establishing settlements. Nevertheless, on 3 July 1852, John Rowberry, Peter Maughan, and George Bryan were appointed schoolteacher examiners for the county. E.M. Green was elected the first Tooele County Superintendent of Schools on 6 March 1860.³



The Tooele Opera House when it was used as a school building. (Utah State Historical Society)

In 1867 there were two schools in Tooele City, with some 200 schoolchildren enrolled. By 1869 there were three schools; one, taught by a Miss E. Foote, was exclusively for girls. Other teachers that year were an E. Bowen and Charles Herman.

As non-Mormons arrived in Utah Territory, they increasingly complained about the educational system, including the low attendance, the short school year, the poorly trained teachers, and Mormon scripture being used in the schools to teach reading, spelling, and grammar. Non-Mormons soon set out to organize schools, the first being opened in Salt Lake City. By 1894, forty-two schools had been established in Utah. In Tooele, a Methodist grade school and seminary school was established and operated from 1871 until 1875. In Grantsville a Methodist grade school was organized in 1883; after being discontinued, it was reorganized in 1894. A Methodist grade school commenced in 1883 in Ophir and another school began in Mercur in 1894.⁴ The schools generally were quite good and certainly improved the quality of education in the county.

In small towns like Tooele, people became acquainted with the Methodist workers. This personal acquaintance and the obvious good accomplishments by the schools helped keep the conflict between Mormons and Methodists in the field of education at a minimum.⁵ Conflicts between the two groups continued over theological differences, however, such as the Mormon practice of plural marriage; to combat this was one of the main reasons for the Methodist presence in the county and the Protestant missionary drive throughout the territory.

Throughout Utah more than 50,000 children, including Mormons, obtained some schooling from the Utah mission schools. The Methodist schools, however, were not intended to be permanent; they were only to be used until an adequate public educational system could be established. After a public school law was passed in 1890, both Mormons and non-Mormons generally cooperatively worked together to develop a good public school system.⁶

The Methodist church opened a school called the Tooele Academy in 1871; its enrollment initially was thirteen students, with Erastus Smith as the teacher. This school closed between 1875 and 1880 but then reopened. A number of teachers taught there over the years.

In 1872 a small official schoolhouse was built; it was one of many locations (including a saloon building) where classes were held in Tooele. The original Central School for elementary students was built in 1893. It was a two-story brick structure, built at a cost of \$20,000. It was replaced by a new building in 1929, which, in turn, was replaced in the fall of 1994.

In the late 1910s an elementary school called the Plat C School was built on the east side of town, in what is known as New Town. The school was built to accommodate the educational needs of the children of workers at the Tooele smelter. The town was effectively segregated at that period between the New Town immigrant families and the Old Town residents. The Plat C School was remembered fondly by many of the newcomers and continued in use until the new Central Elementary School was built in 1929.

The Tooele County School District was organized on 24 May 1915, replacing the earlier system of several different school districts

(essentially, one for each town) in the county. The school district officials worked to improve facilities, consolidate where necessary, and establish uniform standards and rules for education in the county. Teaching standards were gradually improved, but controversy resulted from a plan to bar married women from teaching in 1928. A year later that rule was rescinded.⁷

In 1915 there were eighteen schools in the newly established consolidated school district.⁸ Salaries ranged from a low of \$65 per month for teachers to \$180 for principals and administrators; the average teacher salary was \$80 a month. By the 1919–20 school year the district had grown to twenty-four schools.

The first organized high school classes in Tooele were held upstairs in a building on the corner of Vine and Main streets. Tooele High School was built on West First South in 1913; it also housed junior high school classes. The first graduating class had commencement exercises in 1914; fifteen students graduated. Four more classrooms were added the following year. Football became sponsored by the school in 1915, but student athletes of that era had to provide their own equipment.

High school sports were important in breaking down old prejudices in Tooele; however, it was in great part due to the efforts of Sterling Harris, the high school's football coach in the 1920s, that young men from New Town were even allowed to compete on the school's football team. These youths helped Tooele High School win the state championship in football in 1928, 1929, and 1933, and the accomplishments of the athletic teams helped unite people of all races and ethnic backgrounds throughout the county. Sterling Harris became superintendent of the Tooele School District in 1940 and served in that capacity for twenty-five years.⁹

The influx of military and defense-industry personnel beginning in the 1940s greatly expanded the county's and the school district's population. An elementary school was created at the Tooele Army Depot in 1943 for children of government employees. The school population of the county grew from about 2,000 students in 1942 to 6,600 by 1965. This growth put a strain on county budgets; however, because the newcomers were tied to national defense interests, the federal government stepped in and helped finance the building and



The Grantsville LDS Stake Academy. (Utah State Historical Society)

staffing of many new schools in the county. The Tooele Junior High School building was authorized for construction in 1943, with all of the money coming from the federal government. The school was opened in the fall of 1944. In 1949 a junior high school was opened with eleven teachers. In 1964 a new junior high school was constructed just west of the high school.

A new high school building was constructed in 1955. The great number of military and defense industry personnel in Tooele County facilitated the granting of federal assistance for various educational and other facilities in the county. Other schools built with federal assistance included elementary and high schools at Dugway and a number of elementary and middle schools in various locations of the county, including Wendover.

After World War II there was a great need for another elementary school in Tooele to help alleviate the overcrowding at Central School. In 1953 Harris School, named for Sterling R. Harris, was built on the east side of town.

In 1960–61 another school, West Elementary, was added to Tooele on the west side of town. Twelve classrooms, a library, lunchroom, and offices were built in a wide U shape. Additions were soon made and a large open media center was included. Busses brought

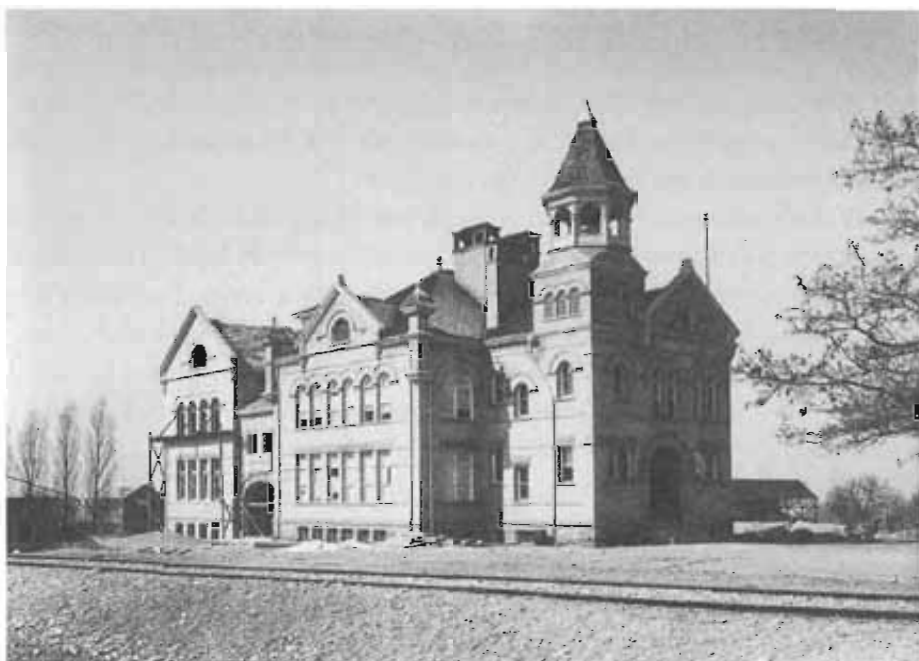
students from the southern end of the valley—from the Deseret Chemical facility, St. John, Clover, and Stockton—a trip of as much as forty-four miles. This made it necessary to add portable classrooms to accommodate the growing school population, and the school was subsequently enlarged.

A most unusually creative school building, East Elementary, was constructed in the southeastern section of Tooele in 1966. The school consisted of two circular buildings joined with a central administrative section. The six classrooms were open pods, each built to accommodate two teaching areas. In the center of one building was an open garden area. Surrounding the garden area was the library, which provided easy access to students and teachers.

The school was an experimental school, thousands of visitors from all parts of the world visited, took notes, and incorporated ideas to use in their own schools. Many new programs were used to further the program of individualized instruction. Changes have since come about and on one side the pods presently is closed; but the other side remains much the same as it was originally, and open teaching still exists.

In 1991 the Tooele School District was comprised of sixteen schools. Throughout the years from the county's early history schools have been opened and closed at many locations as the need arose, as funds were available or withdrawn, or as religious denominations felt called to minister to the educational needs of the county's young people. A detailed history is impossible to include here (some additional information is included in subsequent chapters dealing with individual communities), but mention will be made of a few schools to help establish an idea of education in the county.

Several small schools opened in the hamlets of Tooele County. Some lasted but a short time. For example, a small two-room school in Erda housed students for several years, and there were as many as four grades held concurrently in each room. There was also a small school in Lincoln, also called Lake View, just five miles north and east of Tooele. The town of St. John had a school for many years until students were bussed to Tooele. All these schools were listed in the 1915 count of schools at the time of the establishment of the Tooele County School District.



The Tooele Schoolhouse in 1910. (Utah State Historical Society)

In Stockton, just south of Tooele City, a new and larger school building was constructed in 1929, and students were moved from the old building across the street that had been built in 1912. It in turn had replaced an earlier structure from the nineteenth century. The new building of 1929 had four classrooms, an office, and a large room downstairs that occasionally was used as a classroom. Students at this school came from Stockton, Ophir Creek, and the Deseret Chemical housing area. In 1984 the school was discontinued and students began to be bussed to Tooele. The building was used as the Stockton town hall in the 1990s.

In 1904 a two-room, brick school building was built in the far western part of the county at Ibapah, and in 1907 classes had grown to the point that they were held at different locations in the town. In 1930 a fire damaged the original school, rendering remodeling necessary.

A gold strike brought population growth to nearby Gold Hill, and school classes were held there from 1919 to 1937. In 1950 the

schoolhouse at Ibapah burned and the school building at Gold Hill was purchased and placed over the old school's foundation at Ibapah. In 1961 a new building was constructed. An Indian school also was operated for local Indian children from 1914 to 1963. All of these schools housed grades one through eight; older students attended schools elsewhere.

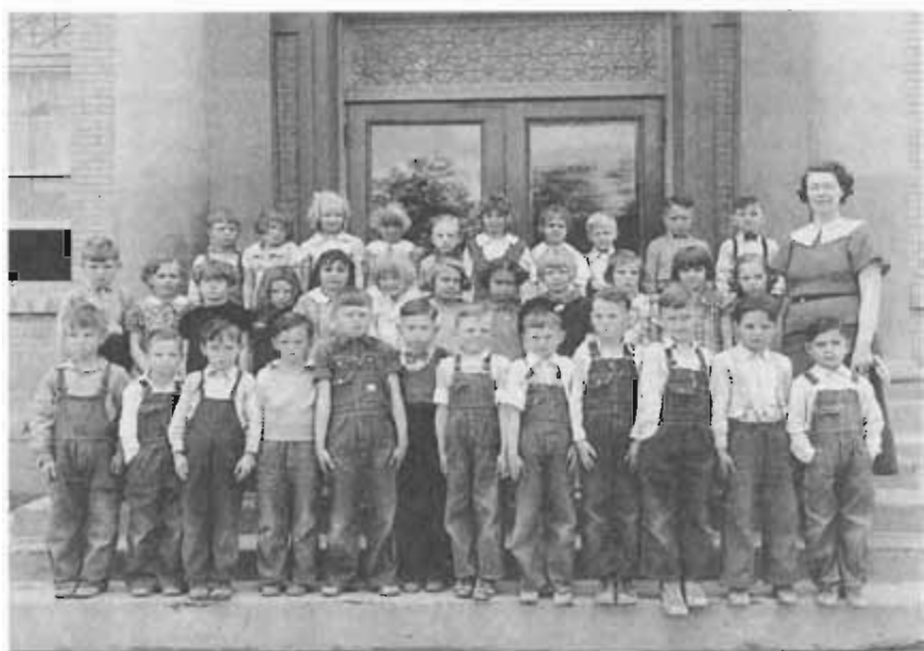
Grantsville was first called Willow Creek and was settled in 1851. In 1853 the community's first schoolhouse was constructed. It was made of logs and was thirty-one feet long and sixteen feet wide, with a fireplace at one end and the door at the other. This building had multiple uses as church, social hall, and city hall.

By 1861 the community's growth made it necessary to use homes for teaching, and a new school was built. In the late 1860s another school was added to the east end of town. Grantsville at the time had two school districts; however, in 1881, the Tooele Board of Education met and decided to consolidate the two districts, and in 1885 this was finally accomplished. In 1880, a town hall was completed and was used for a time for classes. The Methodist church established a school in 1886; however, it closed for two years in the early 1890s and closed permanently in 1899.

The leaders of the LDS church built a school in 1892 which was called the Academy. The school district then leased the building to conduct classes. Four years later, the Tooele School District purchased the building, and in 1914 the Academy became a high school. In 1928 a new high school building was built; and in 1954 an addition to it was built.

Many people moved to Grantsville because of the establishment of the Tooele Ordinance Depot, and, as a result of the enrollment growth, in 1957 a new high school was built. Tragedy struck in 1984 when the high school was almost completely destroyed by fire. Work soon began on a new building, and in 1985 classes were held in the new structure. A new middle school was built in Grantsville in 1982 for fifth- through eighth-grade classes.

Ophir was once a thriving town because of its rich deposits of gold and other minerals. Up to 1913, classes were held in private homes; in 1914 an elementary school was built, although older students still met in homes that were close to the school. A one-room



A Grantsville class in 1937. (Utah State Historical Society)

school was built in 1924; ten students attended. Schoolteachers taught many different grades—from elementary to high school. In 1927 the high school students were bussed to Tooele; elementary students were taught in Ophir until 1954, at which time they too were bussed to other schools. The Ophir Elementary School was destroyed in 1985, and, as this building was being used as a community center, it was a great loss to Ophir residents.

The planned community of Stansbury Park was begun in September 1969 at the northern end of Tooele County, around a large mill pond that formerly furnished water for the Benson Mill and is currently used as a source of water for the nearby Kennecott Smelter in Salt Lake County. As the community grew, a school became necessary. In 1979 a school was constructed with twenty-two classrooms, including special education and kindergarten classrooms arranged around circular administrative and other offices. Each class had doors leading to the outside and others opening to the circular hall. A large multipurpose room adjoins the school and houses the gymnasium and lunchroom. This school is also used for community activities.



Tooele Public Library. (Utah State Historical Society)

The Tooele Continuing Education Council was first formed in 1964 to organize a committee for the promotion of continuing education in the county. Olga Bradon headed this committee. Representatives from industry, government, civic groups, and church groups met together to discuss the needs of the community. It was believed that adult classes offered in the community could help in upgrading many people's skills for improved employment opportunities, completing their high school education, or broadening their cultural interests. Utah State University currently offers extension classes for both graduate and undergraduate students through a continuing education program that the university established in conjunction with state and county officials.

Libraries

By an act of the Utah Territorial Legislature in 1864 the Tooele City Library Association was incorporated, the object of the association being to establish a library of books, maps, charts, and scientific instruments in the town. John Shields was the first librarian, hired by Tooele City for thirty-five dollars a year. Books could be loaned only to those who belonged to the association. One library board mem-

ber later pushed the city to request a grant from the Andrew Carnegie Library Foundation to build a library. Hundreds of towns and cities throughout the country were awarded such grants, and Tooele received \$5,000 from the foundation; the resulting building, a free public library, was opened on 10 May 1911, the city agreeing to maintain the facilities and pay the staff as its part of the agreement.¹⁰

The Utah State Legislature made provisions for county libraries in 1919, and on 4 August 1919 Tooele County, at the request of the Tooele mayor, took over the Carnegie public library. By December 1957 the library had 8,000 volumes, and 33,000 book loans a year were reported. In 1959 a county bookmobile was authorized.¹¹ The bookmobile was headquartered in Grantsville. In 1994 the library included 50,000 volumes.¹²

Medical History

In the early years, practical nurses and midwives provided most of the medical services for Tooele County residents. Mary Ann Weston Maughan arrived in Tooele in December 1850 and was soon called to be the midwife for the settlement by LDS leader Dr. Willard Richards, who officially blessed her and ordained her to that calling. Maughan continued working as a midwife until she moved from the area in 1856. Other early midwives and nurses in the area included Mary Meiklejohn, Jeannette M. DeLaMare, Sadie N. Edler, Hannah Nay, Hilda Erickson, Elizabeth Wells Lee, and Lydia DeLaMare.¹³

They along with many others provided care and attention to the sick and ailing as well as to pregnant women, tending and mending broken limbs and other physical wounds and ailments in addition to extracting teeth and performing other dental services as necessary. Elizabeth Wells Lee charged ten dollars for the delivery and ten days of post-natal care, visiting twice a day. None of the midwives received much remuneration besides the love and gratitude of those they served, often at great personal sacrifice. They delivered thousands of babies over the course of the years (particularly in the nineteenth century) and were only gradually replaced as modern medicine became better established throughout the county.

Luke S. Johnson reportedly had studied medicine before coming west with the Mormons, and he used his training to the benefit of



A school group celebrates St. Patrick's Day in March 1919 at the Inland Crystal Salt Company school. (Utah State Historical Society)

others, particularly in the Rush Valley (Shambip) area, which was originally called Johnson's Settlement. One of his wives, America Clark Johnson, worked with him as a nurse.

Doctor William Bovee Dodds came to the area in 1872 or 1873 and is considered to have been Tooele's first practicing physician. He was greatly loved and respected by area residents. Other doctors who began to practice around the turn of the century included Dr. Joseph Phipps, Dr. Walter Stookey, and Dr. Frank Davis, who was Tooele County Physician for years until his death in 1937.

The first county physician received a pay raise from fifty dollars to seventy-five dollars per month in 1896.¹⁴ The first county health officers served without pay, being appointed in 1919 in each school district to check for illness among schoolchildren and report any illness to the county physician.

In July 1896 a hospital to house lepers in Iosepa was approved by the Tooele County Commission, and in January 1897 a wire fence

was built around it. The hospital was sold in January 1909. Dr. Frank Davis opened a hospital in Tooele in 1908 in the second floor of his home.

Dr. Joseph Allen Phipps came to Tooele in 1899 and was the supervisor at the second Tooele hospital, opened by Lydia DeLaMare in 1908 following her graduation from the Martha Hughes Cannnon school of nursing. It was located in a residence on Main Street. In 1910 Phipps established a hospital at the corner of Broadway and Utah Avenue for smelter employees; it operated until 1921.¹⁵ Dr. George Goins worked with Dr. Phipps for four years attending smelter workers in the 1910s before moving from the area. In 1919 Dr. Joseph Howard Peck moved from western Tooele County to practice with Dr. Phipps. In 1959 he wrote upon his retirement a humorous and heartwarming tale of a struggling young doctor's practice in Gold Hill entitled "What Next Doctor Peck?"

In 1908 Dr. Frank Davis built medical offices at his home in Tooele. As mentioned, this home's second story also served as a hospital and nursing home until September 1913, when it was sold to be used as a poor house.¹⁶ Other doctors who served in the county during the first half of the twentieth century included Dr. Tura Aldous, Dr. L.O. Eliot, Dr. A.N. Leonard, Dr. A.Z. Tanner, and Dr. George Cochran, among many others.¹⁷

Early dentistry was practiced by various midwives and others. Alfred Lee was reportedly efficient at pulling teeth and setting bones though he had no medical license. A Dr. Sharp reportedly set up a dental practice in Tooele in the late 1880s. Dr. George R. Davis first set up his dental practice in Tooele in 1895; after a brief stint at the Klondike gold rush, he returned to Tooele, where he remained until his death in 1928. After the turn of the century a number of dentists were practicing in Tooele County.¹⁸

The International Smelter established a maternity hospital in a home on Tooele's Vine Street in 1937 to augment its contracted services with area doctors including Drs. Phipps and Peck. This hospital was closed in July 1950.

Public health nurses were hired in 1934 with government funds during the Depression. Among the first nurses hired were Veronica Johannessen, Lillian Steele, Helen Anderson, and Elizabeth Smith.

They each covered assigned areas of the county, paying particular attention to schoolchildren and visiting homes to care for the injured and ill.¹⁹ This service continued through the war years.

During World War II, the American Red Cross provided home nursing training to housewives and homemakers. The government also established a hospital during the war years at Tooele Army Depot that served workers there. It was closed on 1 January 1946. It was reactivated in 1950 with the Korean War and then closed permanently in 1955. After World War II public health nursing programs were greatly expanded, offering services from infant care through all age groups.

In July 1945 Doctors J.L. Mayo and J.H. Millburn opened a modern maternity hospital in Tooele, with Hilda Young as administrator. In May 1947 they established the Tooele Clinic at 154 South Main. A county nursing home was built and dedicated on 4 October 1959 in Tooele, and the former rest home property was sold in December 1961. A new wing for special-needs patients was opened at the Tooele Valley Nursing Home (TVNH) in December 1993. The monies came entirely from donations from local businesses, community members, and the families of the facility's residents.²⁰

The county's greatest medical emergency came when two buses collided near Knolls on the highway on a foggy afternoon on 18 December 1948. Some forty seriously injured people were treated at the Tooele Clinic before most were sent to Salt Lake City hospitals. Others less seriously injured were sheltered in area homes for a while as emergency services mobilized. Unfortunately, twenty-five people lost their lives in the tragic accident.²¹

In Grantsville, a number of midwives including Hilda Erickson and Margaret Judd Rydalch served the early community, as did Dr. Ellis Shipp, one of the notable early women physicians in Utah. Later, in 1931, Dr. J.L. Marriott established his practice in Grantsville; he was succeeded by Dr. Joseph Mayo in 1936. An office was maintained by Dr. Wallace R. Johnson in the August Anderson home on Main Street in the 1950s; Johnson later moved his practice to a new building on Main Street. Dr. Johnson commuted from the Tooele Clinic to Grantsville each afternoon, much as Dr. Mayo had done from 1936 to 1949. A clinic currently serves the community.²²



Tooele High School and surrounding homes in 1946. (Utah State Historical Society)

A bond election passed for the building of a county hospital on 17 July 1951. The bid was \$359,587 for the project, and the Tooele Valley Medical Center (TVMC) was completed in September 1953. From 1953 to 1980 the center was managed by the county under the direction of an administrator.²³ The management of the facility since that time has changed several times. In March 1980 Tooele County entered into a hospital management agreement with Advanced Health Systems. After that company declared bankruptcy in the early 1980s, the county entered an agreement with Holy Cross Health Services. This was terminated in 1985, and on 1 August 1985 the county entered into a new hospital lease agreement with Westworld Community Health Care. In July 1987 that company filed for bankruptcy.

The county then resumed the operation of the nursing home and hospital. From July 1987 to February 1988 an interim control board managed the facilities; a special service district then was formed to

manage the Tooele Valley Medical Center after a \$1.5-million bond passed to pull the hospital out of bankruptcy court.²⁴ The special service district borrowed \$150,000 to purchase the Tooele Clinic. The TVMC currently is a thirty-six-bed hospital, with surgical and specialized obstetrical medical care.

The Family Practice Group at the hospital was established and received a grant in April 1977. This group has provided obstetrical and gynecological care for women in the county as well as physician support to a clinic in Wendover serving a population of over 1,000 people, including members of the Goshute Indian Tribe.²⁵

In October 1993 the TVMC received federal monies in the amount of \$1.25 million earmarked for special use, including establishment of a twenty-four-hour emergency room. The funds came from the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program and the Department of Defense. Personnel were scheduled to receive extensive training in treating patients exposed to chemical weapons or hazardous materials. This type of emergency preparedness is especially important to county residents due to the stockpiling of hazardous weapons and chemicals nearby.

Numerous other programs have been established at the medical center, and the county and its communities are also served by a number of private doctors, dentists, nurses, and emergency medical personnel. A women's health clinic and close cooperation with Salt Lake City hospitals have been established to serve local citizens. A community nursing service was also established in 1975 to help meet the needs of county residents and has continued to serve in the county.

ENDNOTES

1. Much of the information for this section came from research conducted by Kathryn D. Wilson.

2. Mildred Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 153.

3. *Ibid.*, 158.

4. *The United Methodist Church, The First Century of the Methodist Church in Utah* (n.p., 1970), 65–66, 69.

5. *Ibid.*, 85, 89, 711.

6. *Ibid.*, 96.

7. Orrin Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 392.

8. Schools from 1915–16 also included those at Clover, Lake Point, Benmore, Wendover, Iosepa, and Erda. Between 1914 and 1920 Lofgreen, Gold Hill, Sells, Bates Creek, Burmester, and Salduro schools were added. Also through the years were established Mercur, Knolls, and Deseret Chemical schools. See Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 392.

9. Ibid., 393–94.

10. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 103–4.

11. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 277, 302.

12. Ibid., 276–77. Librarians have included Blanche Brown, Effie Nelson, Telma Evans, Bernice Adamson, Mary Helen Parsons, and Geraldine Mortensen.

13. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 164, 166.

14. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 242.

15. Ibid., 212.

16. Ibid., 211.

17. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 163–64.

18. Ibid., 169.

19. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 217–18.

20. Ibid., 212, 215, 216.

21. Ibid., 221.

22. Ibid., 216–17; *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 26 January 1993.

23. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 244; *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 25 February 1993; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 20 February 1955.

24. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 251; *Tooele Transcript Bulletin*, 4 November 1987, 25 February 1993.

25. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 222–23.

CHAPTER 9

THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF TOOELE COUNTY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Tooele County was an important mining center at the time of Utah statehood in 1896, and was to grow in importance as an industrial center for private corporations and as the home of government installations throughout the twentieth century. A Utah governor from Tooele County was English-born William Spry, who tried his hand at ranching in Tooele, serving the county for two terms in the Utah House of Representatives from 1903 to 1907. He had married Mary Alice Wrathall of Grantsville in 1890 and moved his family to Tooele County in 1893. A Republican, he was elected governor in 1908 and is credited with bringing Utah's food and drug standards into line with federal Pure Food and Drug acts, promoting the creation of a state road commission, and facilitating the building of Utah's state capitol building.¹

The county was also home to important Democratic party politicians. George H. Dern was a member of the Masons of Tooele County who was born in rural Nebraska and was twenty-two years old when his father, who was living in Mercur, asked him to come west to help out as treasurer of the Mercur Gold Mining and Milling

Company. When Dern married Lottie Brown, the daughter of Will S. Brown, one of the directors of the Mercur Company, the *Utah Mining Review* of 15 June 1899 added its congratulations. Dern's political career had been launched by then, and in 1924 he won the Democratic nomination for governor of the State of Utah. He was elected, and during his eight years in office he worked exclusively with a Republican-dominated legislature. He was a successful negotiator, however, and achieved many of his goals.

The International Smelter

Around the turn of the twentieth century, the effect of smoke from mining smelters on vegetation and animals in the Salt Lake City area had led to some affected farmers bringing suit against the smelters in that area. As a result, government and industrial leaders decided to encourage the building of a smelter on the west side of the Oquirrh Mountains, away from the populous Salt Lake Valley.

In 1910 the International Smelting and Refining Company, backed by the Anaconda Copper Company, chose a 200-acre site some four miles east from Tooele City at the mouth of Pine Canyon for a smelter. The Anaconda Copper Company, which controlled the International Smelting and Refining Company, received its name from a claim at Butte, Montana, in which Marcus Daly bought an interest in 1881. Daly had left the Ophir mines in Tooele County, which he managed for Salt Lake City's Walker brothers, and was sent by them to oversee their Montana holdings. The name, Anaconda, was inspired by the writing of Horace Greeley during the Civil War when he editorialized: "Grant will encircle Lee's forces and crush them like a giant anaconda." Michael Hickey named his newly discovered mine in Montana after the great snake. Marcus Daly built the smelter to reduce the ore at the mine, and the associated Montana townsite for the smelter also became known as Anaconda.² The company saw potential in Utah mining and smelting and moved to Tooele County, which was already familiar to Daly, among others in the company.

At the site selected for the Tooele smelter in Pine Canyon, prevailing winds would carry smoke and gases up the canyon and away from inhabited areas. On 27 February 1910 the 350-foot brick



The Tooele Smelter in 1947. (Utah State Historical Society)

smokestack was completed; and on 14 July 1910 the first ore was received from the Highland Boy Mine in Bingham Canyon over an aerial tramway that crossed the Oquirrh Mountains. On 25 July 1910 the first fire in the smelter was started by Governor William Spry. By 5 August 1910 the sampling mill unit was under construction.³ Later, a lead smelter unit was added to the copper smelter. Completion of the Honorine Tunnel and Bauer Mill during this period also boosted the area population and economy.

Lead ores and concentrates came to the smelter from many Utah mines as well as from mines in Idaho and Nevada. The first concentrator was built in 1921–22. Wrote one historian: “By the early 1920’s as many as 85 or 90 cars from all over the West could be found unloading in the Tooele smelter rail yards.”⁴ Millions of dollars in wages and taxes were paid out, jobs were provided for thousands of workers, and the smelter was directly responsible for the town of Tooele more than doubling its population during the first ten years of the smelter’s operation. At the turn of the century there were 1,200

people counted in Tooele City according to the census. That number had grown to 2,753 ten years later, and by 1920 there were 3,602 people in Tooele.

In the county itself, the period from 1900 to 1910 saw a slight population gain—from 7,361 to 7,924 people. County population stayed about the same through the explosive period of Tooele City's growth—it was 7,965 in 1920—revealing that gains in the city were offset by losses of population in some mining centers such as Mercur and in various other hamlets and towns of the county. The population was becoming increasingly concentrated in Tooele Valley cities and towns.⁵

Stanley Whitehouse wrote of seeing from his Pine Canyon home the first building constructed on the site where the International Smelter was built. This building was later converted from a carpenter shop into living quarters for the company medical officer and his family. When the company built that doctor's family a brick home one block farther south, the doctor told Whitehouse that after they moved to the new location they were "hardly ever troubled with the smelter smoke anymore."⁶

Smoke from the smelter did affect people in Tooele County, however. In 1915 property tax reductions were requested by Lake Point citizens because their farms and pasture land were being damaged by smoke. After the smelting operation got underway, the company offered to pay the farmers some damages, but the farmers had to agree that thereafter they could never collect smoke damage from the smelting company. Most of the farmers accepted this option. The company also gradually acquired most of the land and water rights it desired. All of the people who had owned water rights to Pine Canyon Creek soon had been bought out.⁷

As the local supply of labor was inadequate to meet the smelter's demands, laborers were imported from southern and eastern Europe. Many workers came from the Balkans, Italy, and other Mediterranean areas. Most of the immigrant workers settled in Plat C, or New Town as it was called, and formed their own essentially segregated community with their own schools, churches, and culture, including the speaking of a wide variety of languages.

Stanley Whitehouse also observed the building of the company lead plant and blast furnaces:

After the excavation was about eight feet deep or so small tunnels were hand dug into the embankment by one man crawling and digging and another man pulling the dirt out of the hole with a long handle hoe. When the hole was about fifteen feet long, the gophering man came out, a keg or so of black powder was placed in the end of the hole, cap and a long fuse were in place and the hole was filled up. At noontime or quitting time, the black powder was exploded and enough dirt was loosened up to keep the men and teamsters busy for four hours or so, and the plow was pensioned off.⁸

All this excavation work was done with only the muscles of men and animals. The men began work at 8:00 A.M. and could only stop for a minute or so to get a drink of water. Whitehouse wrote: "When they had to visit the nearby privy, a fellow would take the reins and keep the outfit going until the teamster finished his business and came back. Only one at a time could visit that privy, because it had been built as a one holer at the request of the contractor."⁹

When the International Smelter was built in Tooele County, it stimulated the building of cafes, saloons, grocery stores, barber, butcher, and beauty shops, retail and hardware stores; and it also encouraged established businesses to expand. For example, one business, the Tooele Mercantile built a second story on its building.¹⁰ As a result of the increased population, expansion also came to Allen's Cash Store, which also extended to other areas as well, with corporate headquarters in Salt Lake City. Not only was employment high, bringing tax revenues to the county, but the company also paid taxes, further enriching county coffers to help provide added services to residents. The company also built homes for some employees in the Glenwood area of Tooele. The smelter with its related mining industrialization rapidly became the cornerstone of Tooele County's economic base.

By 1915 many employees of the smelter were anxious to buy automobiles, which were becoming greatly improved and increasingly popular nationally. Ernest Mantes (later a state senator),



Trailers were used as temporary housing for International Smelting and Refinery Company at Tooele. (Utah State Historical Society)

founded the oldest Chevrolet dealership in Utah on Tooele's Main Street, and the company is still in existence. William Vowles sold some of the first Paige, Dodge, and Maxwell automobiles in the county. Ed Gillespie sold Studebakers, Rainbow Garage sold DeSotos, Howard-Tourssen sold Oldsmobiles and Vikings, and Connor's Garage in Stockton sold Nash autos. Grover Higley in Grantsville marketed Mercedes Benz cars.¹¹

Beginning in the 1920s, Tooele City boasted many full-service gas stations serving the needs of residents and tourists traveling the vast and still relatively sparsely populated region.. McFarland and Hullinger, one of the oldest partnerships in Utah specializing in the mining and transportation of minerals, was formed during the period.¹²

In the 1920s Orlando "Cot" Barrus, an employee of the smelter, was advised by his father-in-law, Tom Adams, against quitting his job and buying into an automobile dealership, because "everyone who can



In 1943 these company houses were built for the International Smelting and Refinery Company at Tooele. (Utah State Historical Society)

afford a car already had one." Barrus did not heed that classic bit of advice, took advantage of his opportunity, and was in the automobile business for the next forty-five years. His first garage was called the Lincoln Motor Company, but it was destroyed by fire on 17 October 1930. He began business again, eventually employing about twenty employees. In 1958 he also founded Vistaliner, the nation's first manufacturer of truck campers, which eventually had dealerships throughout the West and Midwest. World War II brought a housing shortage, and Barrus purchased thirty-six apartments in an attempt to take advantage of the situation. To transport workers to the smelter and also to the Tooele Army Depot, Barrus founded the Tooele Workman's Bus Company. Later, the company's bus fleet was expanded to include the transportation of schoolchildren to the elementary school at the Tooele Army Depot. Barrus's successful business ventures later allowed him, along with Curtis Harding and Joe and Mary Bonelli, to convey land for a public golf course to Tooele City.¹³

Mining in Tooele County was affected greatly during the Great

Depression, causing production to fall. Many ore bodies were already becoming depleted, and the economic downturn forced the closure of some marginal mines. Smelting was also affected; from 1931 to 1934 the smelter operation was restricted, limited, and finally shut down for a period. Details of that period will be examined in another chapter, but it should be noted that the county was hit hard, with unemployment figures at times in the hundred or even thousands of men.¹⁴

Working conditions in the mines and smelter were often very dangerous, especially in the first decades of operation. Gus Karabatsos recalled several industrial accidents at the smelter, including three men burned to death in the zinc plant. Another was electrocuted. When the workers unionized, in about 1936, they received better wages and working conditions gradually improved. Most of the people missed their native country but were glad to be working in the county. Gradually, Sterling Harris and others helped break the barriers between Old Town Mormon and New Town immigrant residents of the county. The most unfortunate accident in the smelter's history occurred in November 1944, when an explosion at the slag treatment plant killed four men. The worst fire occurred on 9 May 1942, when the chemical laboratory, assay office, a warehouse, and shops burned.¹⁵

In 1937 the Anaconda Corporation constructed the Elton Tunnel through the Oquirrh Mountains from Tooele to Bingham on the Salt Lake County side. One hoped-for benefit of the tunnel was that it would help drain water from mines in Tooele County. The Elton Subdivision was built by the company in the late 1930s to help provide worker housing, and water from the tunnel was used in the area's homes and gardens. Shortly after World War II, however, the tunnel caved in and was closed and the water source dried up.¹⁶

At its zenith the smelter operation employed over 2,000 men and its payroll was the largest and the most important in Tooele County.¹⁷ But, faced with increased domestic and international competition and reduced production of area mines, the operation gradually ceased to be profitable. The work force was gradually reduced, as was the physical plant itself. By the end of 1974, except for the main office, chemical lab, general warehouses, and various shops, the Tooele



The interior of a International Smelting and Refinery Company house in 1943. (Utah State Historical Society)

smelter had been completely dismantled. The former plant superintendent, E.W. Steinbach, wrote: "It was a real struggle during the late years to show any profit; one year in the red, and the next we would make a few bucks; but mostly losses."¹⁸

Carr Fork

Anaconda Corporation had been buying up mining properties since the 1930s west of the huge Kennecott open pit on the eastern flanks of the Oquirrh Mountains, and in 1947 the company acquired all of the National Tunnel and Mine assets and land, including its Carr Fork claims high up in the mountains. Only a ridge of the Oquirrh Mountains separated the claims from those of Kennecott in Salt Lake County. In the 1970s the company began to develop its properties. According to one commentator: "The drilling of the four shafts, the underground development of the mine, the building of road, and the construction of the concentrator entailed considerable

labor.”¹⁹ Carr Fork was in full production by 31 August 1979, and hopes were high among county residents that it would revitalize the mining and smelting industries in Tooele County.

For a brief period these hopes were realized. Between 1974 and 1982, 800 men were employed at the mining project, with a reported expenditure of over \$200 million dollars. However, the operation was only in production for three years before operations were declared unprofitable and the mill on the site of the old International Smelting Company was dismantled. Nothing remains today up the steepest part of Pine Canyon, which once was home to the huge project.²⁰ The mine fell to the economic downturn in the industry, and the county’s population and tax base suffered; but life in the county went on.²¹ As mentioned in other chapters, various mining operations have continued throughout the decades, experiencing their own smaller booms and busts; but it can be readily seen that mining-related industry has a much smaller impact in Tooele County as the twentieth century draws to its close than it did in the first half of the century.

Public Utilities in the County

The development of telegraph and telephone service has been outlined elsewhere, both arriving in the county in the nineteenth century. Electricity for Tooele County came later, and except in the earliest years it always has been generated by hydroelectric and coal-fired steam generating plants in other counties. Tooele County, in fact, is distinguished by its having received some of the first extended transmitted electric power in the world. Utah Power and Light Company was formed in 1912 when four companies merged, the most influential being Telluride Power Company, which had successfully transmitted alternating high-voltage current for industrial use. Its founder, Lucien Nunn, earlier had built a plant on the Provo River and transmitted 44,000 volts of power to Mercur, thirty-two miles away. Teams had difficulty pulling the power poles up the hills, and in many places block and tackle was necessary. This has been called the first “successful construction and operation of a long-distance and high-voltage line in history.”²²

The availability of electricity in Mercur also made possible the

electric lighting of homes and businesses in that town. In 1895 Joseph G. Jacobs was granted the right to erect and operate a pole line system of wiring for the transmission of electrical energy for lighting, heating, and mechanical purposes at Mercur, making it the first completely electrically equipped mine and mill in the history of the mining industry.²³

The Clark Power Company erected a small power plant using the water in Settlement Canyon in the early 1900s. In 1909 an electric light was installed at the front entrance of the county courthouse in Tooele; its operating cost was 50 cents per month. Steam heat was also installed in the building that same year.²⁴ In 1895 a telephone had been installed at the courthouse, and Tooele residents took pride in being at the forefront of technological developments in their progressive communities.

In September 1913 Clark Electric Company was granted a franchise to erect poles and string wires between Tooele City and Pine Canyon and to extend its lines from the powerhouse in Tooele to Grantsville. In addition, authority was granted to construct a power line from Grantsville to Burmester. The Clark Electrical Company developed electricity from water-generated power plants at Ophir, South Willow, and Tooele. On 1 May 1920 Utah Power and Light Company took over the Clark Company and was granted the franchise to provide light, heat, and power in the county.²⁵ Electrification of isolated areas of the county gradually continued, aided during the Depression years by the activities of the Rural Electrification Administration.

Construction of a natural gas measuring station began in Tooele on 30 September 1929, after a franchise was granted for natural gas service in July 1928. Wasatch Gas Company then gradually extended natural gas service to many areas of the county in the 1930s and 1940s. Mountain Fuel Supply Company later took over natural gas service in the county. It continued to extend and improve service to county residents. In 1991 Mountain Fuel Supply Company extended natural gas service to Stockton and the South Area of Tooele Army Depot.²⁶ More isolated areas of the county heat homes with wood, coal, or propane.

Recent Industrial Expansion—Hazardous Waste Disposal

During the latter half of the twentieth century Tooele County has experienced a new type of industrial growth, hazardous waste storage and disposal. This development was in part spurred by the government's use of vast tracts of the county for defense installations and weapons storage and disposal. This expanded to chemical weapons during the war years, as will be mentioned later. Increasingly, private companies also began generating toxic wastes in their industrial processes, and Tooele's vast spaces, sparse population, and enthusiasm to restore its economic base in the 1970s led to talk of waste disposal companies establishing facilities or toxic dumps in remote areas of the county. The debate heated up in the mid 1970s, with various county citizens favoring and opposing various dumping plans including the dumping of radioactive tailings from the Vitro Chemical Plant in the Salt Lake Valley. Although county residents and officials generally opposed radioactive waste dumps, gradually approval was given for some hazardous waste dumps, and this trend continued in the 1980s.²⁷

In the booming Utah economy of the 1990s, other industrial expansion in Tooele County also has accelerated. Akzo Salt, Inc., for example, in March 1993 announced an expansion. The salt company planned to double its output by 1995 and construct a 35,000-square-foot building at Timpie Springs to screen, bag, block, and dry salt.²⁸ Magnesium Corporation of America, or MagCorp (formerly known as AMAX), is another large company with production facilities centered around the Great Salt Lake in Tooele County. Though such giant operations help the county's economic base and employ county residents, some including MagCorp have engendered concern because of their waste products and emissions that have increasingly polluted the environment. This has led to increased calls for regulation and control of industrial development in the county as elsewhere in the state and region.

Since the World War II years, the county has relied heavily on defense industry spending as a cornerstone of its economic base. In recent times, about half of the county's work force have been employees of government. Also, the defense industry requires support ser-

vices, benefiting other county businesses. With recent congressional budget-cutting measures and the closure and/or downsizing of military and defense installations, including the extensive realignment and downsizing of the Tooele Army Depot, the county increasingly has looked to other industries, one of the most lucrative but controversial of which is hazardous waste storage and/or disposal.

The first commercial hazardous waste incinerator in Utah was recently located in Tooele County's west desert. In 1992 the Aptus Company constructed a \$74 million incinerator with a capacity of 70,000 tons of waste disposal per year. The company employs about 180 people, and it must operate within rules set by the state.²⁹

The business of treatment, storage, and disposal of industrial wastes in the county also has been entered by USPCI and Envirocare, with fees and regulations established and controlled by state agencies.³⁰ Envirocare operates a radioactive waste-disposal facility in the west desert near Clive. Envirocare received the state's approval, but beginning in late 1996 the company has been the focus of scrutiny for possibly illegal practices, generating increased concern about the waste-disposal industry in Tooele County and to an even greater extent in the region at large, especially in the nearby heavily populated Wasatch Front communities, where opposition is generally stronger than in Tooele County, which benefits economically from the facilities.³¹

Major facilities have been constructed in the county, and more are proposed. USPCI operates a \$150-million waste incinerator eight miles west of the Aptus facility. The plant consists of two rotary kilns. The primary kiln is used for burning contaminated soils. The plant is located inside a 100-square-mile corridor, or hazardous-waste zone, established in the desert by county and state officials to control where waste disposal industries locate in Tooele County.³²

The development of these industries has helped broaden the local tax base and provide jobs in the county that have been especially welcome with the downsizing of defense industry employment. Opposition also exists, however. Many people feel that not enough consideration for health and environmental concerns has been given by officials and residents; and, although the majority of opponents are outside the county, only time will tell if Tooele County residents

will wish they had been more discriminating in their economic choices. Critics also warn that a catastrophic spill of hazardous material could severely impact the area, and that the odds of such an occurrence increase with the use of the county as a dumping and disposal site.

Even politicians who have traditionally supported such industries have reflected the increased concern of their constituents, as is evidenced by Governor Michael Leavitt's opposition to a nuclear hazardous-waste site on the Skull Valley Goshute Indian Reservation. Environmental versus economic concerns will no doubt be important to the county well into the coming century and millenium, keeping it a focal point of state and even regional attention.

ENDNOTES

1. See "Utah Governors," *Beehive History* 18 (1992).
2. Isaac F. Marcossan, *Anaconda* (Kingsport, TN: Dodd, Mead and Co., 1957), 26, 29, 31–32, 44, 51.
3. Orrin Miller, *Mining, Smelting and Railroadng in Tooele County*, 71–81; John A. Bevan, "Events in the Early History of Tooele City," 30.
4. Miller, *Mining, Smelting and Railroadng*, 74, 76.
5. Allan Kent Powell, *Utah History Encyclopedia*, 432, 438.
6. Stanley Whitehouse, "The Rise and Fall of the Tooele Smelter," 1.
7. *Ibid.*, 1. See also Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 269.
8. Whitehouse, "Rise and Fall of the Tooele Smelter," 30.
9. *Ibid.*
10. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 198.
11. *Ibid.*, 201, 666. See also Souvenir Program, Tooele Volunteer Fire Department, 12 August, 1929.
12. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 206, 545, 597, 607, 643.
13. Virginia Barrus Johnson, interview, Stansbury Park, Utah, 14 July 1993.
14. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 371. See also Utah Emergency Relief Administration, "Report of the Works Division: April 15, 1934–October 31, 1935," 253.
15. Miller, *Mining, Smelting and Railroadng*, 71, 79.
16. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 124–25.
17. Miller, *Mining, Smelting and Railroadng*, 79, 98.

18. Ibid., 99.
19. Ibid., 63.
20. Ibid., 63–65.
21. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 316.
22. *Deseret News*, 6 September 1987.
23. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 257–59.
24. Ibid.
25. Ibid., 258, 533.
26. Ibid., 258; Public Relations Coordinator at Mountain Fuel Supply Company to Ouida Blanthorn, 11 September 1992.
27. See Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 278–80.
28. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 9 March 1993.
29. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 12 November 1992.
30. *Deseret News*, 27 January 1993.
31. Mary Ruth Hammond, “Envirocare Given NRC Ratification,” *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 8 July 1993.
32. David Bern, “Getting Ready to Burn,” *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 20 May 1993.

CHAPTER 10

AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Development

Farming in Tooele County was practiced by most early white settlers. They planted vegetables including corn and grains from seed brought across the plains. Streams were captured for irrigation water for land near the mountain fronts, but problems arose getting the water to the farms. Ditches often would break, and it could be days of hard labor before the water could be turned back into its course again. Seed was also carefully kept for another planting, each person reportedly trying to save enough garden seeds for himself and a few for someone else.¹ Water was not the only problem related to farming. Insects also periodically threatened the crops, as was reported in the earlier chapter on county settlement.

The agricultural census for the Territory of Utah reported in 1860 that in Tooele County thirty bushels of wheat was an average crop; the oat crop average was thirty bushels; corn, twenty-five bushels; potatoes, 200 bushels; beets and carrots, 500 bushels. The Benson mill was reported as milling 6,000 bushels of wheat and 1,000

bushels of corn annually. Flour at the mill was valued at \$13,680 that year, with 228,000 pounds of flour being produced.²

Various crops were grown in the county from early settlement times. One of the first asparagus beds in Utah was grown in Tooele from seed sent from Russia to George Speirs in the 1860s. In the early 1900s Joseph Fredrickson raised certified seed potatoes. Dry farming of winter wheat met with some success in the county. Buyers from mills in Ogden came to Grantsville for local wheat, which brought premium prices.³

Raising fruit was an early adventure in Tooele County, as trees were brought in for the purpose. Seedling peaches, apples, and hundreds of current bushes were grown in Tooele by Eli Kelsey and others; and Kelsey's thousands of grapevines were the source for the name of Tooele's Vine Street. Certain areas and hillsides were obviously better suited for fruit trees than other more desert locations, and some areas produced fruit of good flavor in abundance. Pottawattomie plums from Iowa did well on the James Palmer Ranch in Skull Valley.⁴

During the 1850s and continuing on through the territorial period, Tooele County farmers and ranchers imported machinery, plants, and animals to improve their farms and ranches and the general level of local agriculture. Some won prizes for their imported animals. Through the years, they experimented with a variety of crops but mostly raised hay and grain. Alfalfa was not produced in the county until about 1876.

Agriculture only dominated the local economy for a couple of decades, until the 1870s and the growth of mining and associated industries, although some areas have always produced wheat and other grains well. More commonly, forage crops were grown, and ranching has always been important to the county. According to the 1910 census, for example, of the almost 4.4 million acres of county land, only 88,332 acres were in farms, and this was down from 116,016 acres in 1900, although the improved acreage was up to 34,239 acres in 1910 from 27,057 improved acres in 1900. There were 320 county farms in 1910, a figure down more than 33 percent from the 487 farms of only ten years earlier. The value of all county crops that year was some \$386,000, which was more than Wayne and

Washington counties, for example, but far less than the almost \$2.2 million value of such farming regions as Utah County, the \$2.3 million of Cache County, and the surprising \$2.1 million of neighboring Box Elder County to the north. Hay and forage crops, with a value of about \$183,000, topped the list of Tooele County crops in 1910.⁵

The 1920 census showed a marked gain in farms, following a statewide trend; in Tooele County there were now were 417 farms, and the land in farms almost doubled—to more than 163,000 acres, from the slightly more than 88,000 acres of ten years before. Improved farmland gains were more modest, however: from 34,239 acres to 49,570 acres. The value of all crops jumped to more than \$750,000 in the county, and, again, forage crops constituted about half of the total value; however, in relative percentage, the county's rate of growth declined in relation to such farming counties as Utah, Cache, and Box Elder, all of which had at least \$6.5 million in crop value in 1920.⁶

To illustrate the marginal importance of fruit growing in the county, in 1920 there were some 11,500 bushels of fruits harvested in Tooele County. This compared, for example, with more than 77,000 bushels from Cache County, almost 284,000 in Box Elder County, and more than 658,000 in Utah County that year.

The agricultural depression felt nationwide and throughout the state beginning in the 1920s took a modest toll on Tooele County's modest farming economy. The number of county farms actually increased by seventeen to 434, although the acreage in farms declined to 138,134 acres, of which crops were only harvested on slightly more than 24,000 acres.⁷ The Great Depression continued to take a toll on county farmers, although, like others elsewhere, those with home gardens were able to better survive the economic hard times.

A noticeable trend could be detected in the 1930s that continued into recent times in Tooele and some of the less developed agricultural areas of the state: a marked increase in the size of county farms. In 1930, farms in Tooele County averaged about 318 acres; by 1940 the average size of farms was 419 acres (the state average being about 287 acres). By 1950, Tooele farms were more than 609 acres on average; and by 1964 that number had soared to 1,087 acres per average



The Oquirrh Roller Mills located at the mouth of Settlement Canyon. (Utah State Historical Society)

farm. Only five years later the average farm size had skyrocketed to 2,531 acres (the state average was 867 acres that year). The average size subsequently decreased slightly—to 1,884 acres by 1978, and to

1,630 by 1987; but, in both cases the size of Tooele farms remained more than twice the state average.⁸

The 1981 agriculture statistics continued to illustrate the traditional farming trends: county products were led by the production of 57,600 bushels of wheat; 157,300 bushels of barley; and 58,800 tons of alfalfa.⁹ By 1987 there were 299 farms in the county, fewer than the number fifty years before. Although total farm acreage that year in the county was counted at more than 487,000 acres, that figure amounted to about 11 percent of the county's land, much less than the state average of 19 percent of the land in farms. Even more noteworthy, in 1987 only about 19,500 acres in Tooele County were harvested and only 18,972 acres were irrigated, less than the harvested acreage before 1920.¹⁰

Numbers have remained about the same since that time. In 1992, for example, there were 300 farms in the county, although the irrigated land had dropped below 17,000 acres.¹¹ Still, various grains were grown and harvested as well as forage crops. Although agriculture is still important in the county, most of the county income is now earned outside of farms and ranches. In the modern era of agribusiness and international competition, the majority of county farmers reportedly "have found it difficult to earn adequate returns from lands, equipment and labor investments" on land that can at best be considered only commercially productive on a limited scale.¹²

Agricultural production is basically determined by the county's geography, although it is in part limited because 87 percent of the county is controlled by the federal government: 1,948,417 acres are managed by the Bureau of Land Management; 1,558,852 acres by the Department of Defense; and 152,223 acres managed by the U.S. Forest Service, although ranching interests benefit from the use of public lands for the grazing of livestock.

Although Tooele County is often commonly thought of for its desert and Great Salt Lake areas, timber was sufficient in the mountainous regions of the county to support extensive harvesting operations in furnishing timber for the early area railroads, telegraph, and various settlements and mining operations. Despite the early misuse and overcutting of many forested areas, the county had sufficient reserves that the government moved to create two early national

forests to help protect and preserve them. The Grantsville National Forest was created on 7 May 1904, and the Vernon National Forest on 24 April 1906. Both were absorbed into the Wasatch National Forest on 1 July 1908, which at that time claimed 123,296 acres in Tooele County.¹³

Ranching and Livestock

The Mormon pioneer companies brought along what they called loose stock—mostly cows, bulls, and oxen, but including horses, mules, and sometimes sheep belonging to the individual pioneers that were allowed to run together. Ezra T. Benson's company in the fall of 1849 had over 300 head of loose stock that soon were brought into Tooele Valley to winter. For the first several years the livestock were allowed to run under supervision in much of the valley throughout the year. John Shields, the town bugler, called the herders together each morning by blowing his horn.¹⁴ The number of animals soon increased into the thousands, presenting a temptation to the local Indians who had been displaced from much of the land. Early pioneer farmers in more isolated areas kept their cattle on small farms during the summer, and the cattle were turned out on the range for the winter. More detailed information on some early farming and ranching activities can be found in the later chapters of this book about individual communities.

By the 1860s and 1870s, many locally born children had grown up and were married. Mormon church leaders advised them to stay in agriculturally oriented enterprises. However, irrigation water in Tooele County was very limited, restricting the number of people the land could support. Some people were forced to relocate—a situation that existed in many Utah communities. Most people who moved from Tooele went to southern Idaho or western Wyoming, which were sparsely occupied by whites at that time. Those emigrants included young men who had learned to handle livestock on the range.

Increased competition for the existing rangeland had resulted in its depletion and in serious deterioration as well. It was reported that sheep were probably brought to the county by Eli Kelsey in 1863, and they gradually were introduced to various parts of the county in the

following years. Various family records indicate that the sheep were first moved into the Skull Valley, Lakeside, and Grass Mountain areas west of the Great Salt Lake for winter grazing. They soon also spread into the mountains east of Salt Lake City and other areas for summer grazing. Sheep soon proved to be better adapted in the short term to the available resources than cattle; water for livestock was scarce in the west desert ranges, and sheep could use snow for water much better than could cattle. With the use of camp wagons and herders, sheep also could travel between seasonal ranges much easier than could cattle.

The Tooele County Stock Association was formed in 1871 by local Mormons and its members herded their animals in a cooperative arrangement, much as had been done since the early days of settlement. The coming of the railroad helped provide markets for the thriving and expanding industry, but since grazing was free on the open range stockmen began to overuse the resources in Tooele County as elsewhere with no thought of their protection. Sheep were being brought to the region in increasing numbers, and they had a serious impact on the land, grazing some native grasses and plants down to their very roots. Opposition mounted as the range began to deteriorate. A Grantsville news article dated 25 September 1879 stated "the stock raisers are all preparing to drive their sheep to where there is something to eat. This country which was one of the best ranges for stock in the territory is now among the poorest. The myriads of sheep that have been herded here for the past few years have almost entirely destroyed our range."¹⁵ In 1880 there were about 10,400 cattle counted in the county; that number had decreased to slightly more than 9,000 in 1900. According to the 1910 census there were 8,714 cattle on county farms, 967 of which were dairy cows. There were 44,228 sheep accounted for on county farms that year, along with 2,754 horses. There were more than 14,000 chickens and ducks counted, and even some 205 colonies of bees, although the latter had a valuation of under one thousand dollars.¹⁶

General trends continued according to the 1920 census. There were 9,891 cattle in the county farms, although the number of dairy cattle had markedly increased to 1,421. There were 66,546 sheep counted on county farms in 1920, although there were actually



The Robert Bruce Sagers home built in Pine Canyon in 1908. (Courtesy Verla McFarland)

75,256 reported as having been shorn in the county, the wool value of which being some \$310,000, placing the county well above most Utah counties in that regard—including Utah, Cache, and Box Elder—but still below other counties like Sanpete, Uintah, and even Salt Lake.¹⁷

A conservation ethos and awareness was late in developing or being supported by locals intent on surviving in the often harsh land. Accordingly, they were generally more concerned with short-term gains than long-term management. Also, once the mountain ranges had been somewhat exhausted, more reliance was put upon the desert ranges, which even in the first years could only support limited numbers of animals—and very few in the heat of summer.

Sheep production soon provided the largest agricultural income in the state. In the early 1900s more than 4.5 million sheep were being assessed in Utah. About one-half million sheep were being trailed through Tooele Valley to seasonal ranges. About half of these sheep went through Grantsville to the ranges in Skull Valley and

Lakeside; the other half went south through Tooele Valley and Rush Valley, then west into western Tooele County and Juab County. Some went farther south into western Utah and west into Nevada ranges.

There were some very large livestock operations in the county in the late nineteenth century and early decades of the twentieth. Some, such as the Hogan Ranch, were based in the county; others made use of the county's lands, particularly for winter grazing. The Deseret Livestock Company, as will be seen, claimed much of Skull Valley after the Mormon Polynesian colony of Iosepa left the area in the early years of the twentieth century after those church members had built their town on a former extensive ranch in the area.

Numbers of animals in the county began to decline, however, around the turn of the century, and part of the decline was due to overuse of the land and its subsequent deterioration, similar to what was happening throughout the territory. Still, Tooele remained on the path of numerous trail herds and the home of thousands of other animals. Overgrazing by migrating herds contributed along with fires and local grazing to the gradual but eventually almost complete denuding of a large area southeast of Grantsville. In 1934, in combination with drought conditions, the situation became serious and the area became known as the Grantsville Dust Bowl.¹⁸

The dust bowl situation soon was critical, and threatened the health of county residents. The dusty conditions were so hazardous and unpleasant that people on the east side of Grantsville were faced with relocating elsewhere. During an April 1935 dust storm conditions were so severe that many animals died from the choking conditions and some authorities were beginning to say that Grantsville might have to be abandoned. Highway traffic on both Utah Highway 112 and present Utah 138 (then U.S. Highway 40) was halted when south winds blew. In response, no grazing was allowed west of the sheep lane and south of Grantsville. Gradually, with rainfall, some vegetation reappeared. Russian thistle (tumbleweed) was the most dominant plant, however, along with some remnant of the former vegetation. In the late 1930s much of the area was seeded with a grain drill with crested wheatgrass.

Ranchers received some benefit from government projects during the Great Depression. Subsequent grazing regulations such as

those introduced in the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 and a changing economy and reduced land base have limited ranching and grazing activities in the county since World War II. Permits are now required to graze animals and permit holders are restricted to certain parts of the range.

In 1942 the Tooele Army Depot acquired about 22,000 acres in the south-central part of Tooele Valley. The Grantsville Soil Conservation District managed about 15,000 acres of land adjoining the depot to the north and west. The district also had a grazing lease on the army land. The army determined that, due to the extreme fire hazard of unused grass, conservation measures coupled with grazing use were in their best interest. It was soon determined that two blow pits, both on the depot grounds, were contributing much of the blowing soil. Ways were found to stabilize these pits so that the area to the north could then be rehabilitated.

Favorable moisture conditions, controlled grazing, and reseeding soon resulted in a large increase in the carrying capacity of many areas in the valley. The range was improved substantially and has continued to support range use. Army animal lease permits in recent years have been for about 5,500 animal unit months for about 20,000 acres, which equals 3.6 acres per animal unit month. The conservation district presently leases about 13,000 acres for 4,430 animal unit months, which equals about three acres per animal unit month, a much higher carrying capacity than most ranges in western Utah. By 1996 there were still more than 20,000 cattle in the county, although the number of dairy cows had dropped below 500.¹⁹

The sheep industry in Utah has declined since the Great Depression of the 1930s. In 1934, just as the serious dust bowl decline was beginning, Tooele County was one of six in the state to produce more than 1 million pounds of wool; it was fourth, with almost 1.2 million pounds. At that time there were about 4.5 million sheep in the state; there are about 400,000 at the present time. There are no large sheep ranchers in Tooele County, but some sheep are still wintered in western Tooele County. As the sheep use has declined, the county ranges increasingly have been fenced for use by cattle. A large number of livestock still use the rangelands of the county.

A total of \$10.2 million in cash sales from crops and livestock was



A Tooele County farm in 1910. (Utah State Historical Society)

generated in 1991. According to 1993 Utah agriculture statistics, Tooele County had 17,000 cattle and 10,000 sheep along with 19,563 acres of cropland. Because the livestock business has become more mobile over the years, with cattle and sheep able to be transported more economically over long distances by truck, the county has a large influx of sheep and cattle in the winter and spring months. Most Tooele County ranges are more conducive for fall, winter, and spring grazing, so large numbers of livestock are moved to Tooele County during those periods and Tooele County livestock often are moved to other areas of the state for a four- to five-month summer grazing period. Grazing is prohibited in the Dugway Proving Ground military areas, although Tooele Army Depot has allowed grazing within its boundaries because of the fire hazard created by ungrazed grass.

Under the multiple-use concept of public lands, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service issue grazing permits for the use of the forage consumed by livestock on those lands.

In the early 1990s the BLM had 39,173 animal unit months (AUMs—a month grazing for a large animal or a mother and nursing baby) allocated for cattle grazing, 67,001 AUMs for sheep, and 125 AUMs for horses within the boundaries of Tooele County. The U.S. Forest Service had 14,830 AUMs allocated for cattle and 698 AUMs for sheep within the county. There were about 7,500 sheep on county farms in 1996.

Many county livestock operators in business today supplement their income by other means; but advocates believe that it is important to the economic stability and tax base of the county to maintain these operations and protect those customs and cultures which have played a vital part in the development of the county. The more rural areas of the county are especially dependent upon the customary use of the public lands in the future to maintain a viable livestock industry. Opposition to such traditional uses is growing, however; opponents pointing out that fees paid for AUM permits are much less than would be charged on private land—in effect creating a situation where all American taxpayers are subsidizing the county's ranchers, since the land on which they graze their animals is public land, not private land owned by those using it for grazing purposes. Traditional uses are coming under increasing fire as other citizens push for more return from the land or for its use for other purposes such as recreation and wilderness, for example. As is the case throughout the West, the issue has helped polarize the citizenry and promises to remain a point of contention for the foreseeable future.

The Depression and the Civilian Conservation Corps

A decrease in livestock prices came in the 1920s and was exacerbated in the 1930s with the Great Depression. Gross farm income had declined from a high of \$69 million to \$29 million in Utah by 1932.²⁰ In Tooele County the Tooele County Bank foreclosed on the loans of many area residents, wiping out the dreams and hopes of some in the process. The bank itself closed in 1933, as did the Grantsville State Bank; both banks and dozens of others in the state (and hundreds in the nation) were victims of a massive debt load. Citizens throughout the county struggled to meet their basic necessities; few could afford

any luxuries. Residents who had home gardens were better able to provide for their families.

Unemployment in the county was high during the 1930s, particularly during the periods when the smelter was shut back or even shut down entirely. During the latter times as many as 2,000 smelter workers would be out of work. Ripple effects were then felt in the mining and transportation industries, affecting hundreds of other workers. Retail merchants naturally also were affected, as the shoppers they had depended on had little or no money to spend.

Because of the large number of unemployed in Tooele County, \$2,500 was appropriated in October 1932 to build and repair the road leading to Middle Canyon.²¹ In Grantsville, the Red Cross and the Tooele County Relief Commission joined church and civic groups to try to provide work, clothing, animal feed, and seeds for planting. A Civil Works Administration program provided employment for some residents sodding the Grantsville High School football field; a track and two tennis courts also were built. Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Public Works Administration (PWA) programs provided funds for labor, irrigation lines, and for a culinary water system. Volunteers from two Mormon wards built a road to Mack Canyon in order to use timber there for heating and cooking fuel.²²

Various federal and state relief programs were enacted throughout the 1930s, many providing some employment for the many county miners and industrial workers left jobless for extended periods during the Depression. A study by the Utah Emergency Relief Administration of the period from August 1932 to December 1935 showed that 24.6 percent of the county population had received relief assistance during the period and that the relief amounted to more than eighty-eight dollars per capita, a large sum at the time. Among the county improvements were new roads, sidewalks, fencing, wells drilled, construction and repair of schools and other public buildings, and improved culinary water systems. Direct relief in the form of food and clothing was also distributed to the needy.²³

One of the New Deal programs of President Franklin D. Roosevelt had a pronounced effect on residents in the livestock area of Deep Creek when stockmen essentially were paid to slaughter their own cattle in order to help stabilize beef prices. Although the locals

benefited, being allowed to consume the meat, it was a policy difficult for many to understand since there were people in the county and elsewhere going hungry. Severed ears of the destroyed animals had to be mailed to the county agent as proof that the animals had been killed.²⁴

Besides times being hard economically, it was also a time of severe drought in the region, compounding the problems of overgrazing and other deterioration of the land. When the wind blew, it was claimed that soil from the Tooele Valley settled as far away as Salt Lake City, Ogden, and Logan.²⁵

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was formed in 1933 as a New Deal program of the administration of newly elected president Franklin D. Roosevelt. It was established to help protect and improve public (and some private) lands, employing a virtual army of young men, generally from the urban sections of the nation. Dozens of camps subsequently were built in Utah, many having as many as 200 or more young corpsmen. Local men often were hired to supervise projects. Utah had a great many acres of public land, much of the state's rangeland was overgrazed, some farmland was deteriorating, and erosion was common, so there was a great need for conservation work in the state as elsewhere in the nation.

The CCC enlisted young unemployed men seventeen to twenty-five years of age. The youthful "army" wore uniforms and lived in military-type camps under a form of military discipline. They were sometimes transported in troop trains to plant trees, construct roads, make campgrounds, and work to reclaim and protect the land from erosion. They were clothed, housed, and in most cases fed better than they would have been at home; and after their term of duty expired, they could re-enlist for additional six-month periods.

Pay was thirty dollars a month in addition to room and board; enlistees were required to send twenty-five dollars to their families each month, and the remaining five dollars was theirs to spend as they pleased. During the bleak days of the Depression this spending money greatly benefited merchants in the towns where the youths went on their off-duty days.

In July 1935 a CCC camp (Camp G-154) was established at the head of Clover Creek in Rush Valley. The corpsmen added a gravel

surface to the road in Rush Valley from Faust to Five Mile Pass in February 1937.²⁶ The young workers finished the road over Johnson's Pass, then worked on the Lookout Pass Road before moving in 1939 to Simpson Springs. While on Clover Creek, the corpsmen helped build corrals for local stockmen.²⁷

At Simpson Springs, the CCC camp worked on roads, primarily along the original Pony Express trail (old Lincoln Highway). The campgrounds included a dozen large barracks buildings, officers' quarters, a mess and recreation hall, a swimming pool, and support bunkers. The workers erected Pony Express monuments (plaques furnished by others) along the trail at Lookout Pass and Faust in 1939.²⁸

The CCC was greatly appreciated by almost all county residents and citizens in general. Enlistees also looked back fondly on the period of hard work but good camaraderie. Robert Baugus of Traphill, North Carolina, a former CCC enrollee of Camp G-154, Company 2517, assigned at Clover Creek, through the newsletter of the National Association of CCC Alumni, wrote to Earl Sessions of Tooele, also a former CCC enlistee: "I served from 1938 to 1939 and we used to come into Tooele every Saturday night, weather permitting." Baugus told Sessions that he worked building a road in 1938 across Skull Valley and worked on Orr's Ranch when he was just seventeen years old: "I was on the pick and shovel gang [and] drove a dump truck. . . . The days I spent in the C's were the best years of my life, but I didn't realize it then."²⁹

The CCC produced many tangible benefits and it also helped transform the lives of many of the young men who participated, teaching them job skills and responsibility.³⁰ The CCC lasted until America entered World War Two. Nationally, it employed nearly 3 million men, replanted and helped protect millions of acres, and built thousands of miles of rural roads, among other public-works projects. The corps also brought people of many races from all over America to live and work together. It has been considered the most successful of all the New Deal programs.

Water Development

In a county that often suffers from drought, has extensive deserts, and is considered dry even in a semiarid state, water is obviously very

important. Finding and storing water for human use has long been at the forefront of activities of Tooele County residents and government officials. The cities, towns, and farms of Tooele County have come to depend on dams to guarantee a year-round supply of water. Tooele County's reservoirs provide water storage and flood control while also providing facilities for recreation. Groundwater also is and has been an important source of water. In the county's rural areas groundwater from wells provides much of the domestic water.

No major river is found in Tooele County, but nearly all of the more prominent canyons in the local mountains have at least intermittently flowing small streams or creeks. Important springs in the northern end of the county include Twin (Adobe) Springs, the Old Mill Pond, springs at the site of Grantsville, and springs near Iosepa in Skull Valley. None of these springs flows into the Great Salt Lake.³¹

Clover Creek, Ophir Creek, Shoulder Canyon Creek, and the stream feeding Vernon Reservoir have over time proven to be dependable sources of water in Rush Valley. All currently are being utilized to their capacity. Underground sources of water have been found in various areas of the county, including Hogan's Ranch, Russell's Ranch in Rush Valley, and in the Vernon area. Water was found near the Mercur gold mine along the bench below the Ophir/Mercur area.

From settlement times communities in the county have depended on water which originated in the nearby mountains. The Tooele pioneers utilized the streams coming from the southern end of the Oquirrh Mountains, building their first homes near the mouth of Settlement Canyon and bringing the water from the canyon creek to their land by means of open earthen ditches. Grantsville was settled near its springs, and all other county settlements were located by streams or springs. Cooperation was required to bring the water to the land, especially since irrigation ditches and canals of some length were often required to be built. Various canal companies and other water-user associations were formed over the years, some of which will be discussed in pages to follow.

Trouble and even violent conflict could arise in disputes over the water, and the early Mormon communities established watermasters, who were often trusted church leaders, to help dispense the water and

arbitrate any disputes. Non-Mormons could feel somewhat shut out and worked to establish their own water sources and claims after they began to settle in the county. During the brief years of the "Tooele Republic" in the late 1870s when the Liberal political party took control of Tooele County government certain claims were made to the waters of Settlement Creek by gentile judge Lawrence Brown. This brought a heated response from the local Mormons, who refused to pay the \$2,000 Brown wanted to relinquish his supposed claims. Mormons then used the dispute to organize to retake control of the county in 1878. Brown left the territory.³²

One Tooele citizen, Abram F. Doremus, was concerned at a very early date about the watershed in the Oquirrh canyons being endangered by the removal of the forests by woodcutters, and he insisted that the county provide protection to the canyons. He later (1901–1905) was appointed state engineer for the state of Utah and sold to Tooele City his private water company, the first city water system, which was established in 1891.³³

Dams were constructed, irrigation canals dug, and wells sunk over the course of the years to bring water to the land. The success of these measures was directly related to the ultimate success of the settlement ventures—a situation that remains no less true in the 1990s than it did in the 1850s. Developments today must secure water rights and get the water to the land, much as their predecessors did a hundred years before. Once municipalities were established, their water and sewage systems also were gradually developed and improved. One benefit of modern technology is that the newer dams and water systems generally remain stable for years longer than did their earthen forerunners.

The Settlement Canyon Irrigation Company was formally incorporated on 13 May 1903. In June 1964 the company constructed an earthen dam near the mouth of Settlement Canyon. L.A. Young and Sons of Richfield was awarded the construction contract. The new system included twenty miles of pressure-irrigation pipeline, which replaced the open-ditch delivery system to sprinklers. The original loan in 1967 from the Bureau of Reclamation was \$1,162,394—the total cost \$1,419,000.³⁴

The 560-acre-foot-capacity Vernon Reservoir was constructed by

the Griswald Construction Company of Moab for a total cost of a little over \$1 million and was finished the fall of 1972. As a result, according to one farmer in the area, "the yields of hay and grain per acre have more than doubled."³⁵

Like other areas of northern Utah, both Settlement and Middle canyons suffered two consecutive spring flood years in 1983 and 1984, caused by excessive mountain runoff. Roads and culinary water systems were damaged. In 1983 formerly dry Stockton Lake collected runoff from Soldier and Ophir canyons and from Vernon, Clover, and Hickman creeks.³⁶

During the high-water period Tooele City's valuable culinary spring and well field at Angel's Grove suffered extensive damage.

The 3,400-acre-foot-capacity Grantsville Dam, a 75-foot-high, earth-filled dam was built in the mid-1980s by the W.W. Clyde Construction Company of Springville at a cost of about \$8 million. The reservoir is filled by concrete inlets from both North and South Willow canyons.³⁷

In June 1990 Tooele City purchased for \$650,000 the Meredith Sod Farm in Vernon in the southern part of Tooele County, planning to transport its underground water to Tooele Valley for municipal use. However, the Rush Valley Water Conservancy District opposes the twenty-seven-mile transportation of the water to the city, and a prospect of litigation looms.³⁸

Current sources of county water include springs in Settlement Canyon. Left-hand Fork produces 750 gallons a minute, and, for culinary purposes, Tooele City purchased 400 shares of stock from the irrigation company controlling this spring. Right-hand Fork produces 900 gallons per minute, and Green Tunnel produces 700 gallons each sixty seconds. The water from the last two springs is piped and used as culinary water for Tooele City when it is not needed for irrigation. Another spring, called the "Sam Ranch," discharges some 500 to 1,000 gallons per minute directly into the Settlement Canyon reservoir.³⁹

The availability of water continues to be a problem hindering additional growth in Tooele City as well as the county. Middle Canyon, north of Settlement Canyon, has been another source of water. In July 1992 Kennecott Corporation gave 250 water shares of

stock in the Middle Canyon Irrigation Company to Tooele City at no charge; but the irrigation company president said his company is prepared "to do battle" against the city if the mayor wants to use the shares to water Tooele's golf course. The company president is also worried "the city will control the company and [the] remaining [Middle Canyon] shareholders will lose out."⁴⁰

Modern water-treatment plants are found in Stansbury Park, Tooele, and Grantsville; and in these same communities, waste water is piped into sewer systems for disposal. Wells provide the culinary water supply in the rural areas of the county.

In order to help conserve the natural resources of the county, soil conservation districts have been formed, supervised by elected officials. The Grantsville District was formed on 3 May 1938 and encompasses 1,124,960 acres; the Shambip District (Vernon, Centre, Ibapah, and Government Creek) of 3,305,760 acres was formed in June 1976.⁴¹

In 1993 the Shambip Soil Conservation District honored the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservations for "conserving and enhancing their tribal natural resources." Grazing management practices have been updated and livestock watering techniques have been improved.⁴²

ENDNOTES

1. Mildred Mercer, ed., *History of Tooele County*, 34. See also "History of John Shields," 18.

2. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 44, 45, 403.

3. Orrin Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 572, 430.

4. Ouida Blanthorn, "Trees for Beauty and Purpose are Brought into Tooele County," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 5 November 1985.

5. Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1913), 614.

6. Bureau of the Census, *Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, State Compendium Utah* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1924), 56, 60.

7. Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930, Agriculture* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1931), 636.

8. *Statistical Abstract of Utah*, 1993 (Salt Lake City: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 1994), 279.
9. *Utah Agricultural Statistics* (Salt Lake City: Utah Department of Agriculture, 1982), 31.
10. *Statistical Abstract of Utah*, 1993, 279.
11. *1997 Utah Agricultural Statistics*, (Salt Lake City: Utah Department of Agriculture, 1982), 100.
12. *Utah Agricultural Statistics*, 31.
13. See *Inventory of County Archives of Utah: Tooele County*, No. 23 (Washington, D.C.: Works Progress Administration, 1939).
14. "History of John Shields," 13.
15. *Tooele Stake History*, 180–81.
16. *Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910*, 614.
17. *Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, State Compendium Utah*, 59.
18. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 156–58.
19. *1997 Utah Agricultural Statistics*, 93, 96.
20. Richard D. Poll, ed., *Utah's History* (Provo: Brigham Young University Press, 1978), 482.
21. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 261.
22. Alma A. Gardiner, "The Founding and Development of Grantsville, Utah, 1850–1950" (Master's thesis, Brigham Young University, 1959), 314–16.
23. "A report of the Works Division, Utah Emergency Relief Administration, April 15, 1934–October 31, 1935," 253–54, copy at Utah State Historical Society Library.
24. Ronald R. Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections*, 426.
25. B.W. Allred, comp., *Conservation History of Tooele County* (Tooele: Soil Conservation Service, n.d.), 95–97.
26. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 261.
27. Ouida Blanthorn et al., *History of Clover*, 34.
28. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 357–58.
29. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 7 July 1987.
30. Utah State Historical Society newsletter, August 1993. One building, part of a CCC Camp at Tom's Creek on the eastern slopes of the Deep Creek Mountains, was donated to Callao for use as an LDS chapel in 1956.
31. Thomas Keith Midgley, "Early Exploration of Tooele" (Master's thesis, Brigham Young University, 1953), 5.
32. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 86–87.

33. Ibid., 40, 264.
34. Ibid., 409–15.
35. Allred, *Conservation History of Tooele County*, 47; Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 165.
36. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 31 May 1983.
37. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 165; David Bern, “Snowmelt Pours into Reservoirs,” *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 27 May 1993.
38. *Tooele Transcript Bulletin*, 19 November 1992.
39. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 414.
40. David Bern, “Irrigation President Angry Over Water Donation to City,” *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 7 July 1992.
41. Allred, *Conservation History of Tooele County*, 87–92.
42. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 14 October 1993.

CHAPTER 11

TOOELE'S DEFENSE INDUSTRIES

Tooele County's vast spaces, transportation facilities, and limited population combined with its close proximity to the Wasatch Front's populated communities with their many resources has helped lead to the establishment of many important military and industrial facilities both by the government and by private companies beginning in the middle of the twentieth century. These facilities have helped the county grow and its residents prosper with their accompanying good-paying employment opportunities, although, as the twentieth century draws to a close, a combination of factors has resulted in the closing or downsizing of some of these facilities and the public's questioning of others.

Tooele Army Depot

During the early period of World War II, the government purchased for \$94,221 land five miles southwest of the town of Tooele for the construction of what became Tooele Ordnance Depot (TOD). A contract for more than \$26.7 million was let to four contractors to complete the construction work, which began in 1942.¹ The depot

was established as a World War II Ordnance Corps installation in 1942 and was completed in 1943.

By the end of World War II, Tooele Ordnance Depot included 902 igloos, including almost 100 that were constructed of reinforced concrete and covered with two feet of earth and gravel for storing high explosives. In addition, there were twelve aboveground magazines for the storage of small-arms munitions; thirty-one warehouses, each with a capacity ranging from 200 to 500 rail-car loads; a \$1 million tank repair shop; and artillery and automotive equipment repair shops.²

A prisoner-of-war camp also was established at the Tooele Depot during World War II to accommodate Italian and German prisoners. In addition to this camp, the administrative area of TOD included a hospital, twenty-nine barracks for troops, and a 4,080-unit housing project called TOD Park, which included a shopping center, post office, and elementary school.

The first mission for Tooele Ordnance Depot was assigned on 8 December 1942 and was to store vehicles, small arms, and fire-control equipment. Other mission functions included overhauling and modifying tanks and tracked vehicles and their armaments. In general, Tooele was a backup depot for the Stockton Ordnance Depot and the Benicia Arsenal, both in California. In July 1943 Tooele Ordnance Depot was designated as a reserve storage depot for tank and combat vehicle tools and equipment.³

The Tooele Engineer Redistribution Center, an Army Corps of Engineers agency serving the western United States, was established at the depot in November 1943. Although this center is no longer in existence at the depot, the Corps of Engineers still fulfills various functions there, with several officers assigned periodically to the depot.

The Ordnance Department was assigned the mission of rebuilding vehicles and artillery pieces; this required the establishment of maintenance shops. The depot later expanded its functions to include the repair of optical instruments (telescopes, height finders, aiming circles, and binoculars) and the reclamation of useless or obsolete weapons, ammunition, and vehicles.⁴

The assignment of additional work and the consequent expan-



The Tooele Ordnance Depot. (Utah State Historical Society)

sion of the work force required additional construction. New structures included a \$110,000 base hospital, a 100,000-gallon water tank, and a coal yard. Departments were reorganized and new workmen trained; nearly all were recruited locally. By the end of World War II an average of more than \$800,000 per year was being spent on the repair of depot buildings.⁵

At its early stages, the depot became noted for its efficient and economical operation. Depot personnel regularly broke performance records supplying the troops. It was difficult to acquire many pieces of equipment, supplies, tools, and other items during the war years, so depot employees designed money-saving ideas and programs which reclaimed material or replaced missing items. These factors led to even more assignments; eventually the depot was considered the major ordnance supply center in the West.⁶ Work continued after the world war and into the Korean War years of the late 1940s and early 1950s.

During the period after the Korean War, Tooele Ordnance Depot was assigned a most interesting and creative additional mission. Late

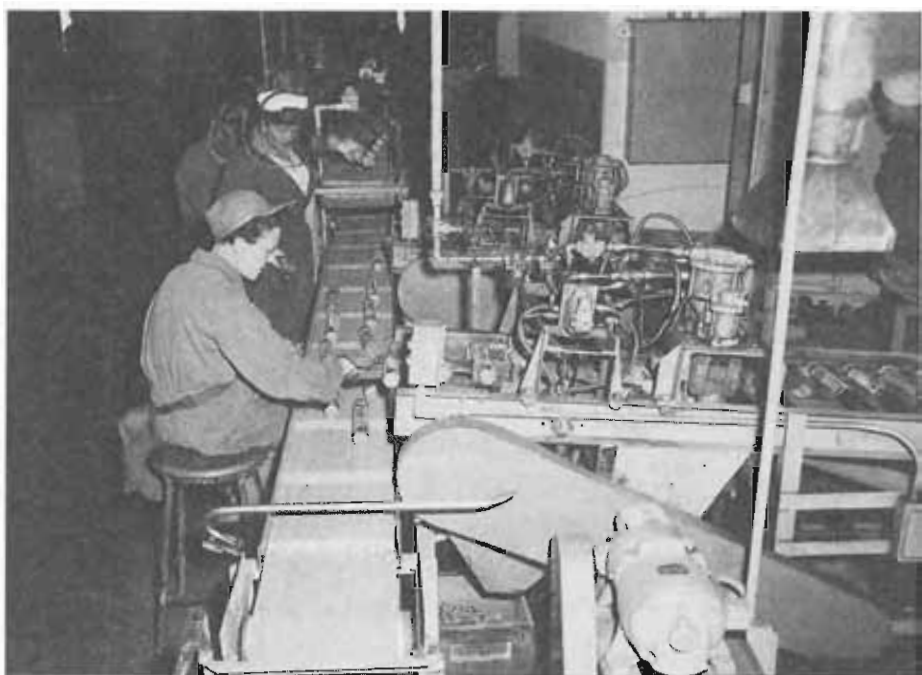
in 1954 the Defense Department established the Office of Ordnance Ammunition Command. The mission of this division included the design, standardization, and manufacture of all ammunition equipment used in the handling, maintenance, and demilitarization of all types of ammunition. On 28 July 1959 this was redesignated the Ammunition Equipment Division and made a permanent part of Tooele Ordnance Depot.

Tooele Ordnance Depot was approved as a training site for ordnance army reserve units in late 1957. The units received “hands on” training. Reservists worked with journeyman workers, learning about modern military equipment. Sleeping barracks, food services, and medical facilities were located at several of the complex’s locations to accommodate this important training.

On 21 August 1962 the Department of the Army renamed Tooele Ordnance Depot as Tooele Army Depot (TEAD). Effective 1 June 1966, Tooele Army Depot personnel were assigned the responsibility for maintenance of rail equipment. The rail overhaul shop is the only facility of its kind in the Department of Defense, and it is located at Hill Air Force Base, Ogden, Utah.

A recent structure at Tooele Army Depot is the Detroit Diesel facility originally known as the Consolidated Maintenance Facility, perhaps the most prominent structure in Tooele Valley. Thirty-five feet high, the facility has a total area of 378,000 square feet—equivalent to approximately nine football fields. The groundbreaking was held in 1989; the structure was completed in 1992. The facility consolidated the overhaul processes for generators, engines, and powertrain components. It housed approximately 1,350 maintenance employees, consolidating operations being performed at eight separate sites through automation and computer-integrated manufacturing principles. Self-contained equipment that was claimed to be environmentally safe attempted to assure that no industrial waste was discharged.⁷

The Tooele Army Depot complex was comprised of seven separate facilities at locations in five states. The three Utah locations include the main depot headquarters at Tooele, the “South Area,” and the rail shop. The other four locations were Pueblo Depot near Pueblo, Colorado; Umatilla Depot near Hermiston, Oregon; Fort



Workers at the Tooele Ordnance Depot. (Utah State Historical Society)

Wingate Depot near Gallup, New Mexico; and Navajo Depot near Flagstaff, Arizona.

Supply services at Tooele Army Depot included the management of vast amounts of war reserve material. The depot's peacetime mission involved contingency planning and physical receipt, storage, preservation, packaging, shipping, and inventory of a wide variety of supplies. Each of the complex's locations enjoys low humidity, making long-term storage practical.

Deseret Chemical Depot

During World War II, the War Department ordered the construction of a storage depot for its Chemical Corps' toxic materials on 19,364 acres of land twenty miles south of the town of Tooele in Rush Valley. It was an isolated area, far from densely populated communities. Upon completion of the facility, the depot consisted of 140 igloos, two magazines, seven warehouses, thirty-two toxic sheds, and several transitory storage shelters storing chemical agents and chemical-agent-filled munitions.⁸

This new storage area was named the Deseret Chemical Warfare Depot, a Class-II Chemical Corps installation, designated as an activity of Tooele Ordnance Depot. Under various designations, this portion of the Tooele Army Depot has been a fully integrated activity of the depot since 1955.

When initially established, this government-owned facility was virtually a self-contained community. In addition to operational buildings, the government constructed a theater, shops, stores, laundry, cafe, and housing facilities. It has been a restricted facility, and estimates of the exact number of village inhabitants or the exact number of employees at any time are difficult to determine. However, it has been estimated that approximately 700 to 1,000 guards, laborers, auto mechanics, machinists, truck drivers, painters, storekeepers, nurses, and typists were employed there during most of World War II.⁹ Following the war, the depot phased down; it eventually kept only its military chemical-storage functions, with a staff for maintenance and inspection.

Although government production of chemical munitions ceased in 1965, approximately 42 percent of the chemical munitions of the United States has been stored at Tooele Army Depot. Both government and public attention was focused on the potential dangers of open-air testing and stockpiling of chemical munitions, which led to the planning and eventual construction of a disposal plant in the western part of the South Area. Construction began in 1974 of what was known as the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS). Actual disposal operations started in 1979. Because of the notoriety and potential danger of this project and the extreme public sensitivity regarding toxic chemicals, an elaborate system of chemical-agent detectors was developed and tested at the CAMDS plant. Perimeter monitoring stations are located near the boundaries of the Depot and also in the plant to help protect against any fugitive emissions that would affect the public or workmen in or at the plant.¹⁰

In 1998 DCD continues to store chemical agents and chemical-agent-filled munitions. From time to time, toxic nerve agents in the U.S. military weapons inventory become the subject of media and public concern. The potential for catastrophe is such that, although government officials and depot officers consider it "unwarranted



Tooele Ordnance Depot employees cleaning a bomb storage area in September 1946. (Utah State Historical Society)

apprehension and subsequent over-reaction,” citizens far from Tooele County have become highly interested in the matter, many vociferously protesting against the facility and calling for its complete shut down, fearing not only a problem at the TEAD but also a potential accident in the transference of toxic agents being transported to the base for destruction.

The disposal operation in the South Area has remained open under new guidelines set by the Base Closure and Realignment Commission even as plans moved ahead after 1994 for closing the facility at Tooele Army Depot’s north area, sending its missions elsewhere, and converting to the private sector the depot’s consolidated maintenance facility.

In 1997 the Tooele Army Depot employed about 500 people in its ammunition storage and disposal facilities, as other functions at the depot had been reassigned elsewhere. Although this is a significant drop from the 4,000 employees in previous years, the impact of

the depot on the economy of Tooele County is substantial and it remains of vital interest to all Utahns. A mainstay of Tooele County for half a century, the Tooele Army Depot has contributed hundreds of millions of dollars annually in payroll and other associated work to county residents. Its downsizing and partial closing as a result of the easing of world tensions and resulting reduction of U.S. military facilities promises to greatly affect Tooele County in years to come, although plans to attract private companies to the unused facilities have been promoted aggressively and with some success since the downsizing of the depot was effected in the mid-1990s.

POW Camps at Tooele County Military Installations

German prisoners of war during World War II were sent to Tooele County and located on military installations. These included Camp Warner at the Tooele Army Depot, the Deseret Chemical Depot in Rush Valley, and Dugway Proving Ground.

Camp Warner was established in December 1943 and first occupied in January 1944 by prisoners previously held in Colorado—900 from Camp Trinidad and 100 from Camp Carson.¹¹ These prisoners stayed less than nine months, and German prisoners of war did not return to Camp Warner until January 1946 on the last leg of their stay in this country before being transported back to Germany. At Deseret Chemical Depot 100 Germans were confined from December 1944 to July 1945. A group of German prisoners that fluctuated between 174 and 201 was housed at Dugway between January and May 1946.¹²

Italian prisoners of war were also incarcerated at these facilities: 100 at Deseret Chemical Depot between November 1944 and September 1945; 94 at Dugway between May and September 1945; and 981 at Warner from June 1944 to January 1946.¹³ The transfer of prisoners from camp to camp apparently occurred for logistical and work-related reasons.

Wendover Air Force Base

When word reached the nations of the world on 6 August 1945 that the 509th Composite Group had dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, most of the personnel of Wendover Army Air Base were just as surprised as anyone, even though the 509th had

trained at Wendover, Utah, in Tooele County and practiced with test bombs on the surrounding ranges. Only commanding officer Colonel Paul Tibbets had fully understood the ultimate mission of the group.¹⁴ The project was so secret that even the technicians who assembled and tested components of the bombs in the ordnance area at the south end of the field knew little concerning the nature of the weapons.¹⁵

The history of Wendover Field actually began in the late 1930s when the U.S. Army Air Corps began an immense expansion program. An acute need for bombing and gunnery training ranges existed; therefore, in early 1940 a search for potential sites was initiated. Military leaders found the desert area adjacent to Wendover on the Utah-Nevada border to be ideally suited for development of the required ranges. Meteorologically, the area averaged more than 300 days a year of sunny skies and received little rain or snowfall even during winter months. The clear weather and the wide expanse of uninhabited flat landing surface provided a good setting for bomber-crew training.

Wendover's geographic location also conformed closely to the air corps' needs. It lay far enough inland to provide protection from an enemy attack on the west coast; the Western Pacific Railroad ran directly through the town; and the distance was practically equal between it and the three major ports of embarkation (Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle). The selection of Wendover was also influenced by War Department plans to turn the infantry post at Fort Douglas into an air corps post, using the municipal airport in Salt Lake City as a station for heavy bomber groups. It soon became obvious, however, that the municipal airport, which previously had served as a storage arsenal for ordnance material, could not continue to stockpile such high explosives so close to the heart of downtown Salt Lake City. Since military planes based at the airport already flew practice bombing missions over the flat desert, it was logical to move the armament from the Salt Lake City airport to a more remote site at Wendover.¹⁶

The acquisition of the required land for the vast ranges and airfield presented few problems to the government, since the Department of Interior already controlled virtually all of the desired

area, which was in the public domain. Construction of base facilities began in November 1940. The field was officially activated on 20 July 1941; the first detachment of two officers and ten enlisted men, comprising a gunnery and bombing detachment, arrived at the field on 12 August 1941.¹⁷

Throughout this formative period, Wendover Field was not officially recognized as an army air base, since it was simply a subpost of Fort Douglas. However, with U.S. involvement in World War II, Wendover was activated to independent air base status in March 1942.¹⁸ This required the construction of additional facilities not only for operational needs but to provide a small community to accommodate and service the growing numbers of both military and civilian personnel assigned to Wendover. By the end of 1943, approximately 2,000 civilians and 17,500 military personnel were assigned to the field. Encompassing 3.5 million acres, the base became the largest military reserve in the world. The government's investment at Wendover soared to over \$13 million.¹⁹

The enormous buildup of troops in such a short period of time necessitated the activation of a subdepot to supply and service the base and other organizations stationed there. The army officially formed the Wendover Sub-Depot on 25 April 1942 under the immediate command of the Ogden Air Depot, Hill Field, Utah. It was designated the 317th Sub-Depot on 20 September 1942, and on 1 January 1944 it was placed under the command of the 2nd Air Force. Its mission was to requisition, store, and issue all U.S. Army Air Force property pertaining to activities at Wendover Field; it also was to perform some aircraft maintenance.²⁰

Wendover's prime mission during World War II was to train the crews of B-17, B-24, and B-29 bombers. Under the direction of the 2nd Air Force, twenty-one bombardment groups were trained at Wendover. One goal of this training was to foster teamwork. The groups were activated, sent to Wendover, formed into complete units, trained together, and then reassigned to other bases or directly to combat zones in Europe or the South Pacific.²¹

The 306th Bombardment Group was the first such outfit assigned for training at Wendover. Equipped with B-17 Flying Fortresses, the group arrived in April 1942. In order for the bomber



Wendover Air Force Base. (Utah State Historical Society)

crews to better practice, lifesize targets of enemy battleships were formed, a city of salt was constructed near the mountains, and an electrical system for night illumination was installed.²²

Workers constructed a machine-gun range north of U.S. Highway 40 and east of the town of Wendover. In its effort to duplicate actual gunnery situations, Wendover developed training systems which gained nationwide attention. One incorporated three machine guns mounted on a railroad car that moved along a section of track at speeds up to forty miles per hour. This allowed gunners to practice firing at moving targets from a moving mount. Known as the "Tokyo Trolley," this apparatus gained fame because it posed realistic challenges to aerial marksmen.²³ Later, General Douglas MacArthur sent a telegram praising Wendover's gunners as the best trained in the army.²⁴

In April 1943 the first unit equipped with B-24 aircraft, the 339th Bombardment Group, arrived at Wendover.²⁵ By early 1944 the base could easily handle two complete air force groups at a time. In an

effort to weld crews into effective fighting units, training included extensive exercises in high-altitude formation flying, long-range navigation, target identification, and simulated combat missions.

Beginning in April 1944, 180 fighter pilots successfully trained at Wendover in P-47 aircraft. This program came to an abrupt halt in September 1944 and pilots were quickly transferred to other locations because of the impending formation of the 509th Composite Group at Wendover.²⁶

Officially activated on 17 December 1944, the 509th was no ordinary unit. Its mission was without precedent. Equipped with B-29 bombers, it became the first unit organized and trained expressly for atomic warfare.²⁷ The code name of "Silver Plate" was the military designation for the complicated effort of assembling and training over 1,500 men to drop the first atomic bomb.

This outfit was completely self-sufficient, with its own bombardment, engineer, supply transport, security, and ordnance squadrons. Personnel were handpicked, and rigid security checks were conducted into the background of each individual.²⁸ The men were ordered never to discuss Wendover, their jobs, or their mission, even with each other. FBI agents combed the area around Wendover as well as the streets of Salt Lake City; men who talked too much received immediate transfer. In addition to these security precautions, each person knew only what was necessary to do his particular job.²⁹ The GIs at Wendover named the unknown thing they were working on "the gimmick." The Wendover base itself was given the code name "Kingman," and work in the ordnance area was termed "Project W-47."³⁰

Wendover's treeless, flat expanse of salt desert, far from population centers, provided a perfect hiding place for the secret mission. Since plans called for the atomic bomb to be dropped visually rather than using instrumentation, Wendover's bright blue skies were precisely what was required for training purposes.³¹ Furthermore, by this time, Wendover had developed unequalled expertise in training heavy-bomber crews.

The personnel of the 509th did most of their training at Wendover. Initially this involved individual instruction for the pilots, navigators, and bombardiers. Assembled crews then practiced

together in the B-29s, dropping only one dummy bomb, called a "pumpkin," at a time.³² Colonel Tibbets demanded extremely precise navigation and bombing techniques, with little room for error. The group left Wendover in segments, beginning 26 April 1945, for Tinian Island in the Marianas in the Pacific.³³

In preparation for the eventual atomic bomb drops, the 509th flew missions over Japan, employing "pumpkins" which contained conventional explosives.³⁴ Meanwhile, ordnance personnel at Wendover continued to assemble and test components for the bombs. By mid-July 1945 the necessary modifications to the bombs had been completed to the satisfaction of the scientists. The atom bombs were delivered in late July 1945 to the 509th at Tinian, where technicians and scientists made the required final adjustments. On 6 August 1945, the "Enola Gay," piloted by Colonel Tibbets, dropped the first atomic bomb, called "Little Boy," on Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later, the second bomb, known as "Fat Man," was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, from "Bok's Car," flown by Major Charles Sweeney. Japan quickly surrendered, bringing a swift conclusion to the war. Only later did the people of Wendover realize what their base had housed and been a part of for more than nine months.³⁵

The end of the war brought drastic changes to Wendover Field. The need no longer existed for training large numbers of bomber crews for combat, so the number of personnel assigned at Wendover dwindled to approximately 1,000. In December 1945 the army transferred jurisdiction of the base from the 2nd Air Force to the Air Technical Service (later Air Materiel) Command. With the change, the mission at Wendover shifted to weapons development.³⁶

As a prelude to the development of the missile industry of the 1950s and 1960s, Wendover began testing and developing three types of missiles: power-driven bombs called "Weary Willies," glide bombs, and vehicles such as ground-to-air-pilotless aircraft (GAPA). German V-2 rockets, which had plagued Great Britain during World War II, were also taken to Wendover for evaluation.³⁷

In March 1947 the Army Air Force transferred Wendover to the Strategic Air Command's 15th Air Force. Except for the bombing ranges, however, other base facilities were unused. In 1948 the base itself was completely deactivated and was declared surplus the fol-

lowing year. The U.S. Air Force returned the installation to the Air Materiel Command in July 1950; it was placed under jurisdiction of Hill Air Force Base.³⁸ Only a skeleton personnel crew of thirteen people occupied the base between 1950 and 1954.³⁹ The temporary structures deteriorated rapidly. Some buildings burned, some were torn down, and others were sold, dismantled, and removed from the base.

In 1954 the Tactical Air Command (TAC) expressed an interest in using Wendover as a gunnery and mobility staging area. Air Force officials reactivated the base on 1 October 1954, placing it under the jurisdiction of the 9th Air Force. Workers renovated and reopened old buildings, extended runways, and constructed new targets on the bombing ranges. New jet bombers and fighters arrived, revitalizing the base. However, the anticipated influx of large numbers of personnel proved to be highly exaggerated. In 1956 the work force totalled only 331 people, and by 1957 there were fewer than 300 people assigned to Wendover.⁴⁰

The Air Force once again deactivated the base in December 1957; the following month it was renamed Wendover Air Force Auxiliary Field. The field was placed under the jurisdiction of the Air Materiel Command, with Hill Air Force Base as caretaker.⁴¹ During the late 1950s and early 1960s the Utah National Guard and various Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units used the base for summer encampments and other training purposes. In addition, Wendover served as a clear-range area, where new supersonic aircraft such as the X-15 were dropped from larger airplanes and tested.⁴²

On 15 July 1961 the Air Force reactivated the field, but with only a firefighting detachment of fifteen men. By 1962 only 128 of the original 668 buildings remained on the dismantled base, and it was again declared surplus. The General Services Administration (GSA) hoped to sell the base to the town of Wendover, with only the bombing ranges and radar site being kept by the Air Force.⁴³ However, disposal of the base property did not immediately occur.

Air Force units from Hill Air Force Base and Air National Guard units from several states, including California and Montana, continued to intermittently occupy the base and the ranges for training.⁴⁴ Renamed Decker Field, the base was again declared surplus in 1972.

The fifteen-man firefighting detachment remained the only permanently assigned personnel; this crew stayed at Wendover until 1977.

Certain Wendover citizens and members of the firefighting crew broached the idea that the base be considered a possible historical site. They argued that Wendover's role in ushering the world into the atomic age should not be overlooked or forgotten.⁴⁵ The base has now been officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places, placing it under the auspices of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Since the government desired to relinquish Decker Field, the town of Wendover sought to obtain the base and its remaining facilities. On 9 July 1976, the water system and its annexes were transferred to the city.⁴⁶ The GSA deeded the runways, taxiways, hangars, hospital complex, and several warehouses to Wendover on 15 August 1977. Only about 86 acres of the old cantonment area north and west of the flightline and about 164 acres comprising the radar site on the east side of the base were retained.⁴⁷

Since 1977 the old base has had many different uses. Wendover City offices are located in one of the buildings adjacent to the field. Private aircraft make use of the old hangars. The U.S. Air Force has signed yearly lease agreements with the city in order to be able to continue using the runways and facilities for practice takeoffs and landings as well as mock war games. Air Reserve and National Guard outfits still train at Wendover's facilities.

For several years, mock war games exercises were held at Decker Field. After the traumatic events involving the aborted attempt in 1980 to rescue the hostages from the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran, the Carter administration determined that there was a need to train the military for similar contingencies. Decker Field offered the ideal situation—desert similar to that in the Middle East, high elevation, and remoteness from any active military installation. The exercise scenario to employ what became known as the Rapid Deployment Forces (RDF) was the war games—called Red Flag—conducted by Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. This was a combined forces training with all the elements of warfare, except use of live ammunition, in life-threatening situations. About 100 aircraft from all U.S. armed

services and even from other allied nations arrived for a six-week exercise.

To support this large group of aircraft, about 500 pilots and as many as 5,000 maintenance support personnel were required. The people involved were front-line airmen; they had the opportunity to test their training and tactical skills in an intense, low-level flying event, with simulated ground forces, simulated missile systems, and the electronic equipment to "rebuild" each mission to determine the success or failure of each air crew's flying skills. More than 9,000 men and women were deployed to Decker Field, Utah, for Red Flag exercises, and some 5,200 sorties were successfully flown, for a total of more than 9,500 flying hours without aircraft accident or mishap.

In 1992 what remained of Decker Field's runways and property was relinquished by the U.S. Air Force to the town of Wendover. Although conditions of the runway and ramp have deteriorated beyond economical repair, Air National Guard and Air Reserve units still plan in the future to lease some of the buildings for summer encampments.⁴⁸

Wendover City by the mid-1990s hoped to refurbish the airport to attract more private and some commercial aircraft to the facilities, especially those attracted to the booming resort-casino facilities next door in Wendover, Nevada. However, early in 1998 the Utah legislature refused to appropriate \$9 million to the project, feeling that tax revenues could better be spent on other projects. This left the project in limbo and Wendover City facing bankruptcy, as civic officials had hoped to use revenues collected at the airport for other community needs. Later in the year, Tooele County agreed to support the project, bringing new hopes for the area.

Utah Test Range

The Utah Test and Training Range was established in the summer of 1941 for bombing, gunnery practice, and (later) the testing of space components. The range consisted of three designated areas: R-508, R-258, and R-259. Range 508 was located mostly in Nevada; R-258 extended northeast of Wendover to the Great Salt Lake and included the southern tip of the Newfoundland Mountains (now referred to as the Eagle Range); R-259 is more than 1 million acres

and extended southeast of Wendover to the Wildcat and Granite ranges.⁴⁹ Dugway Proving Ground was adjacent to the southeastern edge of R-259 and used sections of it for chemical munitions development and testing. Air National Guard and Reserve units also used the range.

The Newfoundland Basin on part of the Eagle Range was filled with saltwater after the station to pump water from the Great Salt Lake was constructed in 1986–87, and portions of the range were lost to operational activity, though the area could still be used if the climate allows it to dry out again. Before the pumping took place, an archaeological expedition recovered artifacts from the ill-fated Donner-Reed party, which was in the area in 1846.⁵⁰

Dugway Proving Ground

To test the U.S. Army's chemical munitions under field conditions, Dugway Proving Ground came into being, with President Franklin D. Roosevelt withdrawing from public access 126,720 acres of sparsely settled and used land in Tooele County from Utah's public domain lands on 6 February 1942. Construction of facilities began under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Tooele County's desert, with headquarters at the former CCC camp at Simpson Springs. Major John R. Burns, who had been initially sent by the army to find a suitable test site, became the first commanding officer at Dugway Proving Ground when it was officially activated on 1 March 1942.⁵¹

The installation received its name from the nearby Dugway Mountains, named by Mormon pioneers, who constructed a dugway, a "long, winding horizontal trench . . . along a steep slope" of the mountains. "The trench held the two wheels on the upper side of a wagon, preventing it from slipping downhill or tipping over."⁵² Since local labor was in short supply during the war years, Spanish-speaking workers were brought in from New Mexico to construct the first buildings. Land was prepared for the first test grids that would measure the "behavior and characteristics of chemical agents and munitions." Two years later Dugway "expanded its activities and constructed at Granite Peak a separate testing facility to study the potential of biological warfare."⁵³



Main Street in Tooele in March 1942. (Utah State Historical Society)

An airfield, which has since been expanded to include a 7,200-foot runway, was also built. Michael Airfield has a landing area “large enough to accept any aircraft in the army’s inventory and is the third alternate landing area for the space shuttle,” according to official notices. Aircraft is tested there, and Dugway is designated a safe haven for aircraft with hung ordnance training in the Utah Test and Training Range just north of the Proving Ground.⁵⁴

During World War II, at the suggestion of President Franklin Roosevelt himself, accurately detailed structures typical of German and Japanese targets were built at Dugway. The twenty-four Japanese worker houses built were the work of a student of Frank Lloyd Wright, and the German apartment-style building there was the work of refugee architect Eric Mendelsohn. The structures were bombed from the air with incendiary bombs, then rebuilt and redemolished at least three times.⁵⁵ During World War II, German prisoners of war were located at Dugway, 200 arriving in December 1945 and remaining incarcerated there until April 1946.⁵⁶

In June 1953 the army’s environmental test programs were trans-

ferred from Maryland to Utah, with Dugway managing the test teams being sent to the arctic and the tropics. A year later came control of biological testing. In 1958 a school was held at Dugway to brief high-ranking U.S. and foreign military and civilian personnel on operations, plans, and techniques related to chemical, biological, and radiological (CBR) warfare. This CBR Weapons Orientation Course operated at Dugway for ten years.⁵⁷

In 1968 Dugway was merged with the Deseret Test Center at Fort Douglas to test biological and toxic weapons; but with the international treaty banning such weapons in 1972 that official function was soon discontinued and the area was to be used only for the destruction of such weapons that had already been created. Increasing environmental safeguards and concerns further restricted and challenged activities at Dugway.

The need for testing of military equipment designed to protect soldiers in the event of a chemical or biological warfare environment was evidenced in the Persian Gulf War with Iraq in 1991, which presented the threat of such dangers. Much of the protective gear that the soldiers wore was tested at Dugway.⁵⁸

Through the years Dugway's mission has caused controversy and opposition. The death of several thousand sheep in 1968 by a chemical agent, which was present in the snow where sheep browsed in Skull Valley, had a profound effect on Dugway history. This incident, combined with the increasing anti-military sentiment generated by the Vietnam experience, helped lead to presidential policies limiting the U.S. to purely defensive measures in regard to biological warfare.⁵⁹ Opposition continues to this and all other chemical and biological forms of warfare among many U.S. citizens. Others oppose Dugway due to fears that leaks or accidents could pose great hazards to the populous areas nearby.

The U.S. government currently has a \$62 million research program to find better ways of disposing of chemical weapons. To this end in 1993 Dugway constructed a \$140,000 inflatable building called a Bang Box, which is a spherical, 50-foot-diameter structure used for testing munitions. Instead of detonating large quantities of munitions outdoors, testers are able to explode a smaller amount inside



World War II tanks being prepared for storage at Tooele Ordnance Depot in 1946. (Utah State Historical Society)

the Bang Box and retrieve accurate information about the explosion.⁶⁰

In addition, according to officials, “testing is accomplished using chemical agents and biological toxins or pathogens in state-of-the-art testing facilities.” A robotic mannequin is used in the testing of protective clothing. Fearful of the potential for leaks that could be catastrophic, “the Department of the Army works very hard to ensure the safety of its workers and the surrounding communities,” according to army press releases. Officials also claim that Dugway is “cleaning up the environment” from residue left from the early years of testing and that it is carefully protecting the environment today.⁶¹

Dugway’s remoteness has always been its greatest asset, keeping the public distant from the highly dangerous materials being tested and/or destroyed. However, the rapid growth of the nearby Wasatch Front communities has brought increased opposition to the facility—especially outside Tooele County but to some extent within the county itself, which has also expanded rapidly in recent years. Today

the proving ground controls about 850,000 acres of land, with an additional area of approximately 300,000 acres adjacent to the installation. Most of the land in the original acquisition came from federal public lands, but some came from the Hatch brothers, who had a ranch near Johnson's Pass in Skull Valley, additional land was acquired from the State of Utah.⁶² Roads to and within the area were improved by the government in the 1940s and have been maintained by the government. Parts of the old Lincoln Highway were used, but travel to the area is restricted.

In 1992, along with 135 military personnel, 770 civilians and 540 contractor employees worked at Dugway, which receives substantial government funds for its operation, enriching the coffers of county and state. This revenue and attendant employment opportunities—especially in the desert region that otherwise could support few people—has generally brought support from county residents for Dugway and other government and private waste-disposal companies that handle hazardous or noxious materials, even as opposition to such establishments continues to grow outside Tooele County. Some of the facilities are even considered attractive by many people. Dugway's English Village, for example, a green oasis of homes and administration buildings, stands out against the surrounding desert.

Recently some controversy has erupted with the proposal by the Skull Valley Goshute Tribal Council to site a nuclear waste depository for spent reactor fuel rods on the reservation. Opposition has come from some who have previously supported private corporation and defense industry waste-disposal efforts in the county and the state. Utah's Republican governor Michael Leavitt has opposed the project and has alienated some in Tooele County when he threatened to restrict access to the reservation from the state highway to the area, thus blocking any shipments. The controversy will doubtless continue for the foreseeable future. Even after the resolution of this particular controversy, questions relating to the storing and/or disposal of hazardous materials and pressure to increasingly use Tooele County lands for these purposes will doubtless pit Tooele County officials and residents against many others both inside and outside the county. Tooele County will likely be a major center of attention locally, regionally, and nationally well into the next millenium.

ENDNOTES

1. "Tooele Army Depot—A Brief History," News Release Number 08–04, April 1988, Public Information files at Tooele Army Depot (TEAD). Much of the material in this chapter is based on research by Dorothy H. Davis, presented as a preliminary chapter in the preparation of this book.
2. Ibid.
3. Leonard J. Arrington and Thomas G. Alexander, "They Kept 'Em Rolling," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 30 (Winter 1962): 7.
4. Ibid., 8.
5. "Tooele Ordnance Depot," Folder 42–45, Public Information Office, TEAD.
6. "Tooele Army Depot—A Brief History."
7. Public Information News Release Number 89–025, 27 June 1989, TEAD.
8. "Tooele Army Depot—A Brief History."
9. Leonard J. Arrington and Thomas G. Alexander, "Sentinels on the Desert: The Dugway Proving Ground (1942–1963) and Deseret Chemical Depot (1942–1955)," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 32 (Winter 1964): 32–43.
10. See Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 166–94.
11. Allan Kent Powell, *Splinters of a Nation* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1989), 58, 59, 63.
12. Ibid., 63–65.
13. Ibid., 119.
14. Jay Ellis Ransom, "Wendover: Home of the Atomic Bomb," *Northwest Rural Light* (November 1973): 24; "Training Camp for the Atomic Age: Wendover Field," *Aerospace Historian* (Fall 1973): 137.
15. James Les Rowe, *Project W-47, A Never Disclosed Chapter in the A-Bomb Story* (Livermore, CA: Ja A Ro, 1978), i.
16. Leonard J. Arrington and Thomas G. Alexander, "World's Largest Military Reserve: Wendover Air Force Base, 1941–63," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 31 (Fall 1963): 325–26.
17. "History of Wendover Army Air Base, Installment 1, 1 January 1939–7 December 1941," 1–2, Ogden Air Logistics Centre historical files.
18. U.S. Air Force Historical Division, "Brief History of Wendover Air Force Base, 1940–1956," 1–2, Ogden Air Logistics Centre historical files; "History of Wendover Army Air Base and 315th Base Headquarters and Air Base Squadron, 7 December 1941–31 December 1942," 11, Ogden Air Logistics Centre historical files.
19. Arrington and Alexander, "World's Largest Military Reserve," 327.

20. Helen Rice, *History of Ogden Air Materiel Area, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, 1934–1960* (n.p., 1963), 263.
21. Arrington and Alexander, "World's Largest Military Reserve," 327–29.
22. U.S. Air Force, "Brief History," 6.
23. "History of Wendover Army Air Base and 315th," 9.
24. Arrington and Alexander, "World's Largest Military Reserve," 328.
25. Rice, *History of Ogden Air Materiel Area*, 263.
26. U.S. Air Force, "Brief History," 5, 7–8.
27. Maurer, ed., *Air Force Combat Units of World War II* (Washington D.C.: U.S. Air Force, 1960), 371.
28. "History of the 509th Composite Group," 1, Ogden Air Logistics Centre historical files.
29. Fletcher Knebel and Charles W. Bailey II, *No High Ground* (London: Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1960), 82.
30. Leslie R. Groves, *Now It Can Be Told, The Story of the Manhattan Project* (New York: Harper and Row, 1962), 260; Rowe, *Project W-47*, ii.
31. Knebel and Bailey, *No High Ground*, 83.
32. Ransom, "Wendover," 24–25.
33. "History of the 509th," 19.
34. W.F. Craven and J.L. Cate, editors, *The Army Air Forces in World War II* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1953) 5:708–9.
35. Arrington and Alexander, "World's Largest Military Reserve," 332.
36. *Ibid.*, 332.
37. U.S. Air Force, "Brief History," 11.
38. *Ibid.*
39. Arrington and Alexander, "World's Largest Military Reserve," 333.
40. *Ibid.*, 333–34.
41. Rice, *History of Ogden Air Materiel Area*, 265.
42. Arrington and Alexander, "World's Largest Military Reserve," 334.
43. *Ibid.*
44. Fred G. Kenley, interview with Scott C. Frishknecht and Lt. Mike Bell, 16 July 1981, transcript in Ogden Air Logistics Centre historical files.
45. Ransom, "Wendover," 24–25.
46. Quitclaim Deed covering transfer . . . to the Town of Wendover, Utah, 9 July 1976, in Ogden Air Logistics Centre historical files.
47. Letter, Federal Property Resources Service to U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers, Disposal of Wendover Air Force Auxiliary Field, 3 September 1980, Ogden Air Logistics Centre historical files.

48. Information throughout this summary of defense industries provided by Scott C. Frishchnecht, Office of History, Ogden Air Logistics Centre, Ogden, Utah; Brenda Morgan, Mayor of Wendover, Utah, Civilian Personnel/Public Affairs Office Records, recruiting brochures, newspaper articles, news releases, and historical files, compiled by Dorothy H. Davis.

49. Roger D. Launius, "Home on the Range: The U.S. Air Force Range in Utah," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 59 (Fall 1991): 354–59.

50. *Ibid.*, 360.

51. Melynda J. Petrie, Public Affairs Officer, Dugway, Utah, to Ouida Blanthorn, 15 July 1993, with an attached information sheet entitled "Dugway Proving Ground, A Community of Excellence"; Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 180.

52. John W. Van Cott, *Utah Place Names*, 119.

53. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 183.

54. Petrie to Blanthorn, 15 July 1993.

55. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 183.

56. *Ibid.*, 176–80.

57. *Ibid.*, 184–85.

58. Petrie to Blanthorn, 15 July 1993.

59. *Ibid.*; *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, supplement, 9 July 1992.

60. *Deseret News*, 7 February 1993; Petrie to Blanthorn, 15 July 1993.

61. Petrie to Blanthorn, 15 July 1993.

62. Arrington and Alexander, "Sentinels on the Desert," 39–43.

CHAPTER 12

SKULL VALLEY AND ENVIRONS

Exploration and Settlement

Skull Valley is about fifty miles long and fifteen miles wide. As mentioned earlier, it was traversed by many early explorers and travelers including Jedediah Smith and John C. Frémont. It was a welcome sight to travelers crossing the Great Salt Lake Desert. Captain Howard Stansbury and his survey party, traveling east in October 1849 north of Wendover, had to ration a pint of water a day to their mules, "several of . . . them giving out in crossing the mud plain," he wrote in his report entry of 29 October. Continuing on after camping at the base of Hasting's Pass in the Cedar Mountains on 4 November, the party found water at Redlum Springs on the other side of the Cedar Mountains and viewed the Stansbury Mountains and the "broad green intervening valley," to which they gave the name "Spring Valley."¹

In 1854 William Henry Hooper and his brother-in-law John Quincy Knowlton used Spring Valley as a winter herding ground. Knowlton built a cabin at Burnt Spring, and by 1870 a branch (known as Quincy) of the LDS church had been established at the

ranch. Knowlton's brothers Benjamin and George also settled in the area with their plural wives.² Their ranchland today is part of the Skull Valley Ranch, established by John H. Moss, Orrin Hatch, and others on 21 January 1891 as the Deseret Livestock Company. Today, some 3,000 head of cattle belonging to the Skull Valley Ranch Company graze in the valley and adjacent areas—fewer numbers than Hooper and Knowlton ran in the 1860s and 1870s, when 7,000 head of cattle and 2,000 horses reportedly grazed there. The ranch headquarters today is located at the site of the old Hawaiian village of Iosepa.

According to some accounts, Skull Valley received its name from buffalo skulls found there, and some Indian tales relate that Tooele County was a favored ground for buffalo before the coming of white men to the area. Early settler Harrison Severe, however, believed it was named for Indian skulls found there. With white settlement of the area, the valley soon became used for grazing livestock. One of the first ranches in the valley was established by Orrin Porter Rockwell, as early as 1850–51 according to one account.³ Rockwell ran 500 head of horses in an area between the Simpson and Sheeprock mountains, where he established a homestead. Government Creek, which ran east of his log cabin, was fed by springs near Erickson Pass and two streams that flowed from the Simpson Mountains. Rockwell's cabin no longer stands, but the stately groves of trees and the tall cedar picket corrals, high enough to contain horses, still remained in the 1990s.

When Rockwell was hired to protect the Wells Fargo stage lines west of Salt Lake City, perhaps the most desolate and dangerous portion of the route, his ranch was left in the care of an expert manager, Harrison "Hat" Shurtleff. Another close friend of Rockwell's was David Sharp, who often accompanied him when he went to hunt and capture outlaws and fugitives. Horses belonging to the stage line often became lame, and Rockwell would sometimes buy the mares to breed to his fine stallions. He winter-ranged his cattle in the present Dugway Proving Ground area. His ranch was sold to William Chester Rydalch, then to Rydalch's son Richard, and later (in 1940) to Jack Johnson. Today it is owned by the LDS church's Cottonwood Stake.⁴

Orrin P. was twelve years older than his brother Horace, who



Pilot Rock in Skull Valley. (Utah State Historical Society)

managed the stage station at Lookout. One son of Rockwell's and his plural wife Luana Beebe—Orrin, Jr.—operated a ranch south of Cherry Creek in Juab County. He was elected recorder of the Tintic Mining District and sold water to the Mammoth Mine for its operation.⁵ Another son, David Porter Rockwell, born to Mary Ann Neff, married Elizabeth Cook of Vernon.⁶

Orr's Ranch was another prominent early homestead in Skull Valley. Some 120 acres of land with a spring near Johnson's Pass was homesteaded by Mathew Orr probably in the late 1850s. Orr had come with his family from Scotland as Mormon converts. His father, Robert, established a freighting business at Grantsville, bringing the family to Tooele County. Mathew and his brother James lived in Clover before Mathew moved to Skull Valley. James followed for a time when the brothers attempted to raise sheep in the area. Orr's

Ranch became an important resting point for travelers and freighters, as it was the last watering place before the Great Salt Lake Desert for westbound travelers. Members of the Orr family rode for the Pony Express and managed stations nearby in Rush Valley and the Deep Creek Mountains. There are many stories associated with the ranch of freighters and their trials crossing the desert to the west.⁷

In the 1870s white Mormon settlers were sent to Skull Valley to live and work with the Goshute Indians there. Horses were common in the area; one settler wrote: "as far as a person could see there were horses, mostly little mustangs."⁸ Many wild horses were found in the hills. Sheep were also soon plentiful—at one time twenty-three bands of sheep wintered in Skull Valley. The Deseret Land and Livestock company later ran 60,000 head of sheep, the Brown Ranch 7,000 animals, and the Hatch Ranch 15,000.⁹

Along with livestock raising, homesteading was important in Skull Valley. James Palmer wrote: "The whole of the Utah Territory was before me and it seemed to me that all the best [land] was taken up to within seventy or eighty miles of Salt Lake City." Accordingly, in 1868 Palmer made an arrangement in Skull Valley with Benjamin F. Knowlton to milk cows on shares and also to farm on shares the land four miles north of the Hooper-Knowlton Ranch. This ranch took one-half of all Palmer produced; therefore, finding a fine stream of water flowing down the western base of Deseret Peak seven miles south and learning that a U.S. land office had just opened in Utah, Palmer filed on a homestead of his own. Using pine trees felled from the mountains, he built a log house, proved up on the 160 acres, and made payment. Antelope Springs was home to the James Palmer family for more than twenty years before Robert T. Brown bought out Palmer in 1889.¹⁰

Other ranches were established in Skull Valley, including one by Harrison Severe, five miles to the south of the Goshute Indian Reservation on Spring Creek, and another by William Lee, whose ranch later became part of the Dooley-Bamberger Ranch. Some ranches, including that of Rowberry and Matthews, have become part of the present-day Skull Valley Company's holdings. The Delle Ranch was sold by Chauncy Webb to Benjamin Knowlton in 1886. After the Western Pacific Railroad line was established in 1907 the

railroad purchased the ranch in order to have water brought by pipe some fourteen miles to the tracks, where the Delle Station was established. The ranch holdings were later purchased by the Deseret Livestock Company. The Condie Ranch at the mouth of Barlow Creek was another early homestead.

In 1867 or 1868, on what was the Hatch Ranch, in a clearing east of the present ranch house were found the bodies of an emigrant couple from Scotland, George Gordon and his wife. They were in the employ of a Mr. Woodmansee and had saved \$300 to return to their homeland, and evidently someone knew it. The cabin had been ransacked from one end to the other, and it was said that "there is plenty of evidence that the Indians were innocent."¹¹ No one was ever convicted of the crimes.

Iosepa

The townsite of Iosepa (pronounced Yo-seh-pa) is located some seventy-five miles southwest of Salt Lake City. It lies on the desert floor of Skull Valley between the Cedar Mountains and the Stansbury Range, receiving annual precipitation of about seven inches per year. Since 1917 it has been an integral part of the Deseret Livestock Company and the later Skull Valley Company.

Little remains today to remind the casual observer of the historic role of this community. Looking over the ruins where at its height 228 people once lived, one has difficulty imagining the activity which took place in this remote area. At the present time, there are only two or three of the original houses of the townsite still being used. Up until a few years ago, when the townsite area was plowed and planted with crested wheatgrass, one could still drive along most of the ancient streets, dotted by rusty fire hydrants, with an occasional home foundation protruding above the ground. Remains of old root cellars and fence posts marked the area which once was an industrious, thriving community. Gone are the church house, the schoolhouse, most of the dwellings, and the general store, which has been replaced with a ranch bunkhouse. Gone are the beautiful lawns, flowers, gardens, and trees, which helped Iosepa win the state prize for the best kept and most progressive city in the state of Utah in 1911. The town of Iosepa has returned to the dust of the desert.¹²



This building was constructed in 1889 as the administration building for the Hawaiian colony at Iosepa. (Utah State Historical Society)

In about 1852, a few years after the Mormon pioneers entered the Salt Lake Valley, LDS missionaries were sent to the South Sea Islands. In 1854 Joseph F. Smith, a lad only fifteen years old who would later become the president of the Mormon church, was sent to the Hawaiian Islands as a missionary. Converts were desirous of migrating to Utah in order to participate in the gathering of Zion and do temple work, an important part of the Mormon religion. However, at that time, Hawaiians wanting to leave the islands were restricted by the Hawaiian government. In 1865 the Mormon church bought a large tract of land at Laie, Oahu; however, many Hawaiians still had a burning desire to come to Utah. Beginning in the 1870s the Hawaiian government began to relax its laws, and Hawaiians wishing to come to Utah were permitted to do so. By 1889 about seventy-five Hawaiians had gathered in the North Salt Lake area.¹³

By this time, forty years after the first Mormon pioneers had entered Utah, much of the colonization of communities along all the nearby mountain streams had already taken place. It was difficult to find a place for the South Sea Islanders to go and settle as a group, which they desired to do. The need developed for a permanent place where they could obtain year-round employment and enjoy practicing their own customs and culture.

After much investigation by Mormon church officials to find a suitable settling place, the ranch of John T. Rich in Skull Valley was purchased. On the morning of 27 August 1889 H.H. Cluff and others of the Tooele LDS Stake, under assignment of the Mormon church's First Presidency, began the task of transporting the Hawaiians and their belongings from Salt Lake City to their new home. About fifty Hawaiians went by train and wagon from Salt Lake City to Grantsville. That evening they provided native music and dancing for area residents. The next day, 28 August, this group of pioneers reached the place that was to be called the home of the Polynesian Mormons for the next twenty-eight years. Later, 28 August was proclaimed Hawaiian Pioneer Day.¹⁴

On the afternoon of their arrival, a survey of the townsite was begun. It was completed two days later, but for some unknown reason the townsite map was not recorded in the Tooele County Courthouse until 1908, nineteen years after the town began.

The town was laid out in a shape resembling that of the state of Utah, being a little more than one-half mile on the south side and a little less than one-half mile on the west side. It contained a public square or park of almost seventeen acres in the center, with four major streets, each 132 feet wide, radiating to the outskirts of the town from the four sides of the town park. A row of trees was planted in the center of each of these streets. All other streets were sixty-six feet wide, and blocks were 363 feet square. Each block was divided into four lots, and each lot contained about three-quarters of an acre.¹⁵

Drawings were held for the lots, and land title was obtained by purchase. Lots sold for from twenty-five to seventy-five dollars each. Lots fronting the town square were reserved for the church's development company. If a family or individual did not have the money to pay for a lot, the purchase price was loaned to them by the Mormon church.

Within two weeks after the arrival of the Hawaiian people, arrangements were made to buy a nearby sawmill from Edwin Booth for the sum of \$1,487.75. Booth was employed to operate the mill, and ten days later construction was begun on the first home. Most of the new residents had to spend that first winter in tents and wagons,



Iosepa residents picking up supplies at the railroad line sixteen miles north of the settlement. (Utah State Historical Society)

suffering from the cold winds. Less than a month after their arrival, a cemetery site was selected approximately one-half mile northeast of the settlement and a burial took place for an elderly woman who had passed away.¹⁶

The original purchase consisted of 1,920 acres of land, of which approximately 200 acres were under cultivation. During the next few years, a total of 5,273 acres were purchased or acquired by the settlement company. From the canyons to the east, five streams were collected together, and a rock and concrete ditch was constructed to convey the water with minimal loss to the ranch. Later, a culinary water system was installed along each street and to each lot, with fire hydrants along the way. Also, a ditch supplied irrigation water to each lot.

A store was located where the ranch bunkhouse now stands, just south of the main existing farmhouse. The store later burned down and the Deseret Livestock Company built its bunkhouse at the same location. The store printed its own money for use in store purchases—a practice common with other early mercantiles throughout the territory at that time. The people were paid in that scrip for their work on the ranch; if purchases were made outside of the community, the local scrip would have to be exchanged for official U.S.

currency. A meetinghouse was constructed on the northwest corner of the community that served as a church building, school, civic meeting hall, and community social event center.

The town was named for Mormon leader Joseph F. Smith, using the Hawaiian pronunciation and spelling. For a time, the settlement prospered through the hard work of its inhabitants. One year the ranch foreman reported:

We have so far completed our new grainier, which has a capacity of 14,000 bushels of grain. We have of this years crop now in the grainier wheat, 1850 bushels, Oats, 1650 bushels, Barley 3700 bushels, for a total of 7200 bushels of grains. We have enough breadstuff to supply the Colony two or three years. The other kinds of produce harvested are Potatoes, 500 bushels, Corn, 200 bushels, Hay, 650 tons, Squash, and Pumpkins, 125 tons, along with other garden produce.¹⁷

A hayloft in a big barn at Iosepa was used as a dance floor. Men would ride horses from the Brown Ranch and other area ranches to dance with the Hawaiian girls. Health problems began to be common, however, as were also infectious diseases among the populace. Pneumonia was the greatest killer during the life of the colony; some deaths were caused by smallpox, and diptheria killed others. In addition, there were other common types of deaths, including childbirth complications and heart attacks. A small number of leprosy cases also existed at Iosepa. A one-story frame house was built in a field some distance from the town; leprosy victims were isolated there in an attempt to keep the disease from spreading. In 1899 a Dr. Lowell came to Iosepa claiming to have a cure for leprosy. Permission was granted for him to try his cure; however, his efforts were in vain, for by the end of the next year all the lepers had died.¹⁸

The growing homesickness of some and perhaps a certain disillusionment with the segregation effectively practiced by the Latter-day Saint white majority have been attributed as reasons why Iosepa was abandoned. But the abandonment also was facilitated by an announcement by Joseph F. Smith, then president of the Mormon church, that a temple was to be built in Hawaii. Church leaders



The "Iosepa Troubadours," about 1910. (Utah State Historical Society)

strongly encouraged the Hawaiian people to return to their homeland to help with the building of the temple.

The leaving of Iosepa was accompanied with much mixed emotion: many felt anxiety in returning to their homeland after having been gone for so many years, and there was some reluctance and regret in leaving a town which had been home to them for twenty-eight long years. By that time, many of the inhabitants had been born in Iosepa and knew no other life. Alf Callister, twelve years old at the time and son of the town blacksmith, was present when the main group departed. He reported that when the wagons were loaded and ready to leave for the Timpie railroad, fifteen miles to the north, the women refused to ride in the wagons; they were determined to walk the distance to the railroad. They followed the wagons on foot and with tears running down their faces they kept looking back at their homes and uttering, "Goodbye, Iosepa, Goodbye, Iosepa."¹⁹

One family, brothers Akoni, Ben, Neil, Johnie, and Pete Hoopiiana, did not return to the Pacific islands with the others; they stayed in Utah to make their homes and raise their families. Akoni, commonly called Connie, was the only one to remain in Skull Valley near and around Iosepa, where he farmed and ranched all of his life. He died in 1969 and was buried at his request at the Iosepa town



Constructing a sidewalk at Iosepa about 1910. (Utah State Historical Society)

cemetery, the last individual to be buried there, some eighty years after the first burial took place. Pete Hoopiiana died in October 1972, and with his passing the last of the brothers succumbed to the way of the soil. The few surviving original residents of the town who live in Hawaii have little remembrance of Iosepa because of their young age when they left. The story of Iosepa and of the important part the South Sea Islanders played in its colorful history will only be remembered by what written histories have recorded.

On 28 August 1989, the one hundredth birthday anniversary of the founding of the town, President Gordon B. Hinkley of the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints dedicated a monument at the cemetery during a celebration honoring the memory of those who had lived at Iosepa. The monument features a bust of a Polynesian warrior sculpted by Jan Fisher.

Skull Valley Goshute Reservation

The Indian Farm on Hickman Creek in Skull Valley was an allotment of 320 acres deeded to Tabby and Shiprus, Goshute Indian leaders who were encouraged by Mormon leaders to cultivate the soil. When the government land office opened in Salt Lake City, the two

men entered 160 acres each under the Homestead Act and began to fence and farm their land. Their descendants live there today. Later, in 1912, a small reservation was set aside in the valley. It grew over the years from 89 acres to 17,920 acres and straddles Utah Highway 108, ten miles south of Iosepa. By executive order on 17 January 1912, 80 acres were set aside; then on 7 September 1919 this was enlarged to 17,920 acres.²⁰

Tabby We-Pup, who was chief of the local band of Goshutes when the white settlers came, was called "a great diplomat, and always claimed to be a good friend of the whites."²¹ He signed with his mark a peace treaty of 12 October 1863, made at Tooele Valley. Indian Superintendent James Duane Doty signed for the government and Tabby, Adaseim, Tintsa-Pa-Gin, and Harvey-Nup signed with their marks for the Indians. William Lee was a witness. Part of the agreement included the Indians' pledge to leave the overland mail stations undisturbed.²²

The white newcomers were not fully aware of how different the Indians' concept of ownership was from their own. The Goshutes regarded the land, water, and food resources as belonging to everyone, not in the sense of communal ownership but rather of no ownership at all. As a result, livestock running free on the open range were regarded the same as any game animals—available to whoever appropriated them. It is to the credit of both local whites and their Indian neighbors that their differences and troubles were restricted to small skirmishes rather than the general open warfare which had regularly occurred elsewhere in Utah and the West in general. In any event, the superior numbers and technology of the whites soon led to the relegating of local Native Americans to increasingly restricted areas and a growing dependency upon the newcomers for basic food needs.

As long as Native Americans were generally peaceful, most Mormons adopted a benign paternalistic attitude towards them in contrast to an aggressively hostile desire to eliminate them. Some Mormons even adopted Indian children in their attempts to bring them to the ways of white civilization and Mormon church conversion. For example, Dave Eagle was adopted in Grantsville by the family of Mormon leader Heber C. Kimball. Years later, when Eagle died



Iosepa residents celebrating Pioneer Day c. 1914. (Utah State Historical Society)

at a ripe old age, he was buried according to tribal tradition in Skull Valley by his wife, Kate.²³ Other Mormons including Harrison Severe and Jacob Hamblin also adopted Indian children.²⁴

Although disparaging remarks had been made by early western travelers and fur trappers about the Goshutes of the area, these impressions have received serious modification in the past several years. The Goshutes actually had superbly adapted to living on the land; however, because they were much impoverished by white occupation of the most favored areas of their homeland they were often found (or mistakenly considered to have been) in destitute conditions. One early Tooele pioneer characterized the Goshutes as honest. Whenever he loaned a gun to one, he said he could depend that it would be returned in good condition. He added: "An Indian hates a liar. . . . If you lie and deceive him, he never forgets it."²⁵ Another Mormon pioneer said, "When the day of accounting arrives," the Indians "may loom up far better than we may have figured." Albert Lyman claimed to envy "the real charm of life as they lived it; . . . such novel partnership with the wind and the flowers and the trees."²⁶

As mentioned earlier, whether modern whites are charmed or not, local Goshute Indians are aggressively attempting to better their economic situation. With the backing of some Tooele County officials but the opposition of Utah Governor Mike Leavitt and many others in the state, the Goshute Tribe is studying the feasibility of siting a nuclear waste repository for spent nuclear reactor fuel rods. The governor has threatened to block any shipments along the existing state highway—Utah Highway 108—to the area, while the tribe is positioning itself to claim its own authority to make the decision for or against the repository or other waste dump, irrespective of state government wishes. The issue promises to be heated in the coming years. Whatever its outcome, it is certain that area Native Americans are determined to exercise political power to escape decades of neglect by the white neighbors who have heretofore rendered them dependent.

ENDNOTES

1. Howard Stansbury, *Exploration of the Valley of the Great Salt Lake*, 11, 109, 115–17.

2. Orrin Miller, ed., *History of Tooele County Vol. II*, 405; Ouida Blanthorn, "Skull Valley Originally Called Spring Valley," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 20 June 1985.

3. Leonard J. Arrington, "The L.D.S. Hawaiian Colony," *Improvement Era* (May 1954): 314; Mildred Mercer, ed., *History of Tooele County*, 300, 307.

4. *People of Vernon*, 507; Nicholas Van Alfen, *Orrin Porter Rockwell the Mormon Frontier Marshal* (n.p., 1964), 99; Ouida Blanthorn, "On the Chuck Wagon Trail," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 28 August 1964.

5. Phillip F. Notarianni, *Faith, Hope, and Prosperity: The Tintic Mining District* (Eureka, UT: Tintic Historical Society, 1982), 21, 45.

6. *People of Vernon*, 483.

7. See Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 100–2, 299–310.

8. Hiram Wallace Severe, "Pages from my Diary," 16.

9. Minutes, Tooele County Historical Society, 17 April 1985. See also Jack M. Brown, "Skull Valley Notes," 1–2. Brown believes the wild horses in the valley originated with the Standard Horse and Mule Company, which raised both horses and mules for the U.S. Army on both sides of Cedar Mountain. When the Taylor Grazing Act went into effect in 1934 the com-

pany went out of business, but some horses remained behind and became wild.

10. James Palmer, *James Palmer's Travels and Ministry* (Salt Lake City: Utah Printing Co., 1963), 134–36; Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 443–50. Also see Brown, “Notes on Skull Valley,” 1–2.

11. Mary Bevan Brown, “Who Killed the Gordons in Skull Valley?” *Deseret News*, 9 November 1955; Severe, “Pages from my Diary,” 6; *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 29 September 1964.

12. Donald J. Rosenberg, “The Rise and Fall of Iosepa,” *Salt Lake Tribune*, 13 June 1976.

13. Dennis Atkin, “History of the Polynesian Colony at Iosepa” (Master’s thesis, Brigham Young University, 1954), 1–15.

14. *Ibid.*, 10–12.

15. See plat of townsite, Tooele County Recorder’s Office.

16. *Deseret News*, 29 August 1989.

17. Rosenberg, “Rise and Fall of Iosepa,” 5.

18. *Ibid.* See also Brown, “Skull Valley Notes,” 1.

19. Alfred Callister, interview, 1966.

20. Severe, “Pages from my Diary,” 20. See Allen and Warner, “Gosiute Indians in Pioneer Utah,” *Utah Historical Quarterly* 39 (Spring 1971): 177.

21. Howard Egan, *Pioneering the West* (Richmond, UT: n.p., 1917), 166.

22. Minutes, Tooele County Historical Society, 9 March 1993.

23. *Tooele Transcript Bulletin*, 27 June 1930.

24. John A. Bevan, “Events in the Early History of Tooele,” 42.

25. *Ibid.*, 10.

26. See Howard Christy, “Open Hand and Mailed Fist: Mormon-Indian Relations in Utah, 1847–52,” *Utah Historical Quarterly* 46 (Summer 1978): 230; Allen and Warner, “Gosiute Indians in Pioneer Utah,” 162–77.

CHAPTER 13

RUSH VALLEY TOWNS— STOCKTON, CLOVER, ST. JOHN, AND VERNON

Stockton

Stockton is approximately seven miles south of Tooele, and is at a slightly higher elevation. It is about an hour's drive from Salt Lake City, and it is reached by exiting Interstate 80 west to Utah Highway 36, the road to Tooele.¹ Passing the east entrance to Tooele Army Depot, the road continues south. SR36 continues south to Rush Valley and then Vernon and on to Eureka.

Utah Highway 36 into Stockton from points north passes above the underground tunnel at Bauer, to the right of the highway. Within the tunnel many different mining passages branch out into veins of metal-bearing ores. Highway 36 follows closely the old route of the Overland Mail and the old Lincoln Highway. The Union Pacific Railroad line parallels the highway.

A rounded hill dominates the Stockton skyline. Known as Tabernacle Hill because of its resemblance to the Mormon Tabernacle on Temple Square in Salt Lake City, the formation is in the process of being changed because of the excavation and hauling of gravel from it by commercial contractors. To the west side of this



The General Merchandise Store at Stockton. (George Millward Collection)

hill and extending farther west to the Onaqui Range is a mesa known as the Stockton Bar. It is best viewed from the Stockton Lake area and was formed by ancient Lake Bonneville. The Union Pacific Railroad tracks severed the east end of the Stockton Bar when tons of gravel were dynamited and removed in order to lay track. This area has since been known simply as "The Cut," and it provides a good wind tunnel. Air currents cool the hot summers; icy blasts in winter can be very frigid. Strong, gusty winds provide recreation for summer's enthusiastic windsurfers on Stockton Lake and for occasional hang-gliders over the Stockton Bar area.

Stockton Lake (also known as Rush Lake) is west of the Union Pacific tracks. Throughout its history it has been a welcome sight for Native Americans, pioneers, settlers, residents and tourists. Situated on public land, the lake is several miles long, approximately a mile wide, and has a depth ranging from ten to forty feet. The lake is enlarged or declines according to the snow-pack run-off from the Oquirrh and Onaqui mountain ranges. Though appearing tranquil, it

can become turbulent and dangerous during storms. It has claimed drowning victims over the years. Today the lake provides boating, waterskiing, and windsurfing for many people. The lake has been called the "wind-surfer's capital" of Utah by many of those enjoying this sport.

Dry Canyon and Soldier Canyon are to the east of Stockton and Hickman Canyon is on the west. Dry Canyon is reached by a steep, dangerous road and was the site of an active mining camp in early settlement history. Soldier Canyon is the source of the city's water supply. Hickman Canyon is named after William A. Hickman, most likely the first white settler in Rush Valley.

Stockton is situated between two mountain ranges, the Oquirrh on the east and the Onaqui on the west. Its population of 1998 was about 500 people. Its altitude is slightly more than 5,000 feet above sea level, with summer temperatures normally in the nineties and winter temperatures dropping to as low as thirty below zero.

William (Bill) Adams Hickman was one of the Mormon ranchers living in Rush Valley in the 1850s. Hickman had been a territorial legislator appointed by Governor Brigham Young to represent Green River County, now in Wyoming, at the first legislative session in the new capital at Fillmore, Utah. In January 1855 Hickman was successful in getting passed a bill to give Rush Valley to himself, Luke Johnson, Brigham Young, Orrin Porter Rockwell, and a few other prominent Mormons. The original land grant was given to Hickman for his long service as a lawman and bodyguard to Brigham Young, Orson Hyde, and previously to Joseph Smith, Jr. He introduced a bill in the territorial legislature requesting the creation of Shambip County, which would include Rush Valley and extend south to Juab County. "Shambip" is said to be the Indian name for rushes, which are abundant by Rush Lake.² Luke Johnson was chosen as probate judge for the county, and George Hickman (Bill's brother) was notary public. Later, due to the area's limited growth, it was reabsorbed by Tooele County, and all the Shambip County records were turned over to Tooele County.³

Hickman's account says he went to Rush Valley in the summer of 1855 and "built log houses and a good coral." He also put up a large supply of wild hay. This is the earliest record of a white settler in Rush

Valley. At the 1857 legislative session the earlier generous gift of land to Hickman and the others was rescinded. Hickman, however, managed to leave his mark in Rush Valley: the largest canyon in the Stansbury Range is Hickman Canyon and its stream is called Hickman Creek.

Camp Relief was born with the entry of Colonel Edward Steptoe into the Rush Valley area with his detachment of United States soldiers, which consisted of a company of artillery, 85 dragoons, and 136 teamsters, herders, and tenders. They arrived 2 September 1854 and made camp on the shore of Rush Lake. In the process of keeping the peace with the Mormons, many of the soldiers made friends with the Indians, and trade between the groups resulted.

Camp Floyd was established in nearby Cedar Valley in Utah County by federal troops (Johnston's Army) under Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston as part of the settlement terms of the so-called Utah War of 1857–58. The bustling post was near southern Tooele County, which benefited economically by the proximity of the soldiers, although county and Mormon church leaders frowned upon the attendant temptations to the Latter-day Saints offered by merchants, prostitutes, and others who flocked to the area. The affair cost the U.S. government \$6 million in contracts to supply and keep the hundreds of soldiers at Camp Floyd. When Camp Floyd was closed because of the outbreak of the Civil War, an auction of war surplus is said to have sold \$4.9 million worth of supplies for \$100,000. Mormons benefited tremendously from the windfall, and many supplies were bought by local Tooele County people. Hickman wrote that he bought ten wagonloads full of goods. He also wrote that Brigham Young purchased fifty wagonloads of goods. These materials from the camp provided some of the basic building materials for many pioneer homes and farms throughout the valleys of Utah, including those of Tooele County.

The Faust Station or ranch was important to early day Tooele County and Rush Valley. It was on the Pony Express and Overland Mail routes and was manned (and named after) Henry J. Faust, as related elsewhere in this book. Reportedly the station and property was acquired by Orrin Porter Rockwell after Faust left the area in the early 1870s.⁴

A two-story adobe house on the west side of Rush Lake was built in 1861 by Bill Hickman. The area is now known as "Hoganville," named for Clyde Hogan and his extended family, who moved to the area in the 1950s to ranch. Others also came to the area, and Hickman's old home has continued to be occupied. Hickman could not have built it alone, as he was suffering from two gunshot wounds at the time. He was considered a hero by many after his exploits in the 1857–58 Utah War. This two-story house and ranch provided a place for some of his large family of wives and children and his entourage to live. One daughter, Leona Minerva Hickman Vanderhood, has left an account of living in this big home, which she says the family lived in for two or three years after her father built it.

Hickman was a sheriff and lawman for his first fifteen years in Utah Territory. However, after the Utah War he and others were said to have begun stealing goods and army horses. In June 1868 Hickman was excommunicated from the Mormon church and many of his wives and children left him.

William Hickman is credited with bringing General Patrick Connor the first ore from Bingham Canyon, which was the start of mining in Utah. In 1869 Hickman helped organize the Camp Floyd Mining District. Hickman left the territory for Wyoming in 1880. Part of his large family followed him to an isolated dugout eight miles northwest of Lander, Wyoming, where he died in August 1883. His tenth wife, Mary Jane Hetherington, called "Aunt Jane," returned to Stockton, where she obtained a reputation as a person to call in case of trouble or illness. She died in Tooele in 1923. Many of her descendants still live in Tooele and Rush valleys.

Many of the early settlers of the Stockton area were associated with the U.S. military. Richard James Shelton met up with Johnston's Army and worked as a tender of livestock in Rush Valley. He met his future wife and later moved to Stockton in 1862 and became a builder of homes. One of the couple's eleven children was Fred Shelton, who served eighteen years as a Tooele County commissioner. Johan Frederick Hiss came to the area during the Civil War with Patrick E. Connor's troops as a maker of military boots and had the first shoe shop in Stockton. He married Emma Bates and the couple were the parents of seven children.



A birthday party in Stockton in 1916. (Utah State Historical Society)

Joseph Carlton Reynolds enlisted in Salt Lake City on 5 April 1865. His military service was brief. Discharged at Camp Douglas on 6 May 1865, he married Jessie Frazier, a daughter of Isabella Frazier. The couple had several children, including Ada Estela, who married local resident George Brande, and Clara, who married Joe Hughs.⁵ Descendants of these and other soldiers still reside in and around the Stockton area.

W.H. Kelsey claimed that Lieutenant Edward Steptoe reported lead-silver ore in the area's mountains as early as 1855.⁶ In 1863 Bill Hickman made a mineral discovery and took some ore to show General Patrick Connor, who had become his close friend. The rocks showed a rich mixture of lead and copper ore. Things soon began to happen in the formerly sleepy area—a town was laid out and the streets were surveyed and given names. A new town, Stockton, was born.

Patrick Connor was a man of significance in Stockton's early history. He was also a controversial character to the people of Utah. To the gentiles, or non-Mormons, he was a popular leader and one of the founders of the Liberal political party. He was called by some the "Liberator of Utah." He was not nearly as popular with the Latter-day

Saints, especially as his hope was to create a mining boom in the area that would effectively displace the Mormons when thousands of fortune seekers and their retinue came to the region.

Connor was born in Kerry, Ireland, on 17 March 1820. He arrived in New York as a young man with little money and little education. It is said that he enlisted at age nineteen in a campaign to quell a Seminole Indian uprising. This seems to have been the spark that propelled him into his life of military affairs. He later joined some Texas volunteers and took part in the Mexican War. He then went to California and engaged in mining, surveying, exploring, and bandit hunting. He married in 1854 and with his wife, Johanna, had seven children.⁷

The California Third Regiment of Infantry was organized at Stockton, California, by 31 December 1861, and, during the month of July 1862, Colonel Connor was sent with this regiment to Salt Lake City to protect the Overland Mail and keep an eye on the Mormons, since regular army troops at Camp Floyd had all been called out of the area for Civil War service. Connor was promoted to brigadier general of the California Volunteers on 30 March 1863 and on 13 March 1865 to brevet major general. He was a man of action. His troops broke ground on 24 October 1862 on the northeast bench of Salt Lake City for the new army post of Camp Douglas, later to be Fort Douglas (named in honor of Illinois senator and presidential candidate Stephen A. Douglas). In Tooele County, Connor and his troops also made use of Colonel Edward Steptoe's former Camp Relief. There they found abundant food and water for their animals near Rush Lake.⁸

Colonel Connor lost no time putting his stamp upon the new town in Rush Valley. Stockton was the name chosen for the town; it is believed that Connor named it after Stockton, California.⁹ He laid out the streets according to the compass, naming the main street Connor Avenue. Other streets were honored with military names, including Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan, among others. Early records at the Tooele County Courthouse provide important information on some who purchased land at Stockton, including John Johnson, John Paxton, James Spaulding, and George Denton.¹⁰ The townsite itself was a one mile square area.

Connor was busy in Utah. His *Union Vedette* newspaper was on the streets as early as 5 January 1864, offering a counterview to that of the Mormon church paper, the *Deseret News*, established in 1850. The warring papers continued in public the antagonism between Brigham Young and Connor. Young cautioned his Saints to “plant and build” the things they needed most to survive in the isolated territory; Connor welcomed all non-Mormons in the belief that they could by their sheer numbers overwhelm the Latter-day Saints and their peculiar beliefs, among which the most controversial was the doctrine of plural marriage, commonly known as polygamy.

In 1863 Connor, with LDS bishop Archibald Gardiner, organized in the West Jordan area the territory’s first mining district. Then in 1864 in Stockton Connor found his great bonanza, a silver mine later called both the Great Basin Mine and the Honorine Mine.¹¹ The news of the strike was electrifying and could be recorded as the greatest day in Stockton’s history. The news spread throughout the nation, and eventually the nearby hills would be tramped from one range to another. The gentiles Connor had hoped for arrived by the hundreds. Houses, boarding houses, stores, and saloons sprang up almost overnight. The little town of Stockton was suddenly a very important part of Utah. The flow of precious metals continued and through the years enriched men from all over the United States. A street leading from the busy hills was named Silver Avenue.

Mines and leases soon covered the hills and mountains east of Stockton.¹² Small steam plants of up to 100 horsepower were found all about Stockton. Even with the crude pioneer equipment, in the thirty-odd years before the turn of the century the Stockton Mining District produced over 250,000 tons of ore. From 1870 to 1872 a narrow-gauge railroad was built from Salt Lake City to Terminal (later known as Bauer). The railroad did not extend beyond Bauer until the Salt Lake, Los Angeles and San Pedro (now the Union Pacific) went through the area in 1905 on its way to the Pacific Coast.¹³

Smelters were built by Connor and others (including Monheim and Johnson, Waterman and Smith, and the Chicago Silver Mining Company) during the boom time. Connor invested in and promoted the mining industry and became known as the “Father of Utah Mining.” By 1866 his holdings in the Rush Valley Mining District



The Stockton International Order of Odd Fellows Hall. (Utah State Historical Society)

were extensive. He purchased claims valued at \$5,000 and invested in twenty-six new mines, some in connection with General Grenville Dodge, chief engineer for the Union Pacific Railroad, which was on its way to Utah as part of the transcontinental railroad effort. General Connor and his family eventually left Utah, returning to California, where Connor engaged in many civic projects. Connor died in December 1891 and was buried with full military honors in the Fort Douglas Cemetery.

Stockton was known as a gentile town in its early days. Brigham Young counseled LDS church members to cultivate the land, build, and plant, avoiding mining. As a result, early mining towns in the territory filled with non-Mormons. The first church in Stockton was a fine Methodist church, built in 1886. It is recorded that the building cost \$1,280, a huge amount at the time. However, as mining declined, many Methodist families moved from Stockton and the church was vacated and was later sold. It eventually was destroyed by fire.

There are many unidentified graves in the Stockton cemetery; some perhaps are soldiers. Early known burials at the Stockton cemetery include Charlie Wilson (1875), Harriet Shelton (1876), Joseph Cash Miller (1879), Delia Connor (1879), Angie Connor (1881), and Sarah Connor (1881). Many were infants or young children. Tooele County records indicate that the Stockton cemetery was given to the town of Stockton by quit-claim deed for the sum of one dollar on 20 May 1902 by James P. Mitchner and his wife, Addie, in the presence of notary public Richard Gundry.

With the forming of Tooele LDS Stake in June 1877, a branch of the Mormon church was organized in Stockton. Members met in the Woodman's Lodge. An assessment of one dollar per month was paid, with half going for the janitorial services and half for heating. This building was used from 1877 until 1935, when a LDS chapel was made of the old Stockton schoolhouse. This would accommodate the local Mormons until 24 July 1960, when meetings were held in the first new LDS chapel in Stockton's history.

Perhaps the town's earliest news and mail carrier was Gus Stotenburg, who drove a stage from Salt Lake City to Ophir as early as 1864. After the railroad was brought as far as Bauer, Stotenburg carried mail and passengers from there to the different mining camps around Stockton. Samuel Bithell was another early mail carrier between Stockton and Ophir. With the establishment of a post office in Stockton in 1865, communication became more regular. Presently a brick post office built in 1966 serves town residents.

Many people opposed to Mormonism predicted that with the coming of the railroad the power of the Latter-day Saints would collapse. Some believed that the Latter-day Saints would oppose the railroad; but they were wrong. Church members needed jobs, and church authorities wanted better means of transportation to facilitate the immigration of new converts. Leaders also saw business opportunities with the new transportation system. In fact, their fear was that the railroad would bypass Salt Lake City. Brigham Young was determined that the tracks would reach Salt Lake, and with time and hard work it eventually happened.

Through the efforts of John Young, a son of Brigham Young, twenty miles of track to the shores of the Great Salt Lake were laid by

early January 1875. From Black Rock, the road then moved toward Stockton.¹⁴ The tracks were laid by the Oregon Short Line Railroad in 1902 and were an extension from the Bauer terminus. The Stockton depot itself was constructed around the year 1904. The line handled freight of all kinds: wool, mining equipment, and tons of ore.

The John Paxton family were early settlers in Stockton. Paxton is on record as purchasing land by 1865 in Soldier Canyon. His ranch was later known as the Scribner Ranch, when a daughter of his married Newell A. Scribner, who took over operations there. A grove of trees close to this property was for many years a favorite picnic spot for Stockton residents.

Alma Nephi Young and his wife, Sarah Matilda Ewing, took up homesteading in Rush Valley. They later bought additional land, raised cattle and sheep, and had a handsome windmill which pumped water for the farm. Young died in 1917; his last surviving son to live at the ranch, Bill, died in 1969 and the ranch was abandoned.

George Denton and wife, Margaret Jan Pears, were parents of ten children. They arrived in Stockton around 1872 and purchased property formerly part of Camp Relief. The Denton Ranch provided first jobs for many young men of Stockton. A lovely home with a large pond was shaded by tall trees. It was a well-managed ranch; but family members died or moved away and the place later was abandoned. The home burned, and today there is nothing left of Denton's Ranch but a monument beside Highway 36, adjacent to Rush Lake.

William Henry Wilson and his wife, Elizabeth Early, owned a fine ranch west of the Denton Ranch. It was bought in 1912 by Andrew Gustave Benson and wife, Lula Mae Sabin. Some 300 acres were used for a cattle range; there also were fields of alfalfa and a large orchard, as well as a large home of two stories and a smaller home with many farm buildings. Others subsequently owned the property, which is presently a sod farm.¹⁵

In 1884 the town featured a variety of blacksmith shops, livery stables, stores, saloons, billiard halls, and a hotel. The first telephone in Tooele County was installed in the Honorine Mine in 1890. The Honorine Mine, located in the foothills of the Oquirrh Mountains

about a mile northeast of Stockton, was the largest mine in the Rush Valley Mining District.¹⁶

Stockton was incorporated as a town on 5 August 1901. E.J. Raddatz was town president; William N. Gundry, James Collins, Thomas Conway, and Hans Peterson were trustees. A meeting of the board of trustees was held in the local schoolhouse on 17 August 1901. Richard Gundry was unanimously elected as town clerk, James Brown as treasurer, and James Spaulding as marshal and street supervisor. In 1903 the Clark Electric Power Company brought electrical power into the town, and the town installed several street lights.

Mary Jane Hickman and James Brown are credited with starting the first school in Stockton; it was located on Main Street. Early teachers included Hattie and Jessie Dunn. A second school was located on the corner of Grant Avenue and Silver Street and was used until 1912, after which it was used as the Stockton Opera House until it was demolished in the 1990s. A red brick schoolhouse was built in 1912 and later was used as an LDS chapel. Four grades were taught in the large west room, with the four upper grades taught in the east room. Heat was furnished by pot-bellied coal stoves. Toilets were outside. Playground equipment other than a baseball and a bat in the spring was largely unknown. Later, the school was upgraded with running water and drinking fountains, flush toilets, and a coal furnace in the basement.

Along with “readin, riting, and rithmetic,” Stockton’s children gained appreciation for martial music when John Philip Sousa’s marches were played each day as students marched back to class after recess. The little red schoolhouse was used until 1930, at which time a new school was built on what had been Methodist church property. In 1984 the Tooele School Board closed this school. Subsequently all area children have been taken by bus to Tooele schools.

Around 1900 a group of men formed the Honerine Mining and Milling Company, consolidating the group of mines at Terminal and changing the name of Terminal to Buhl. W.F. Snyder was named manager and E.J. Raddatz superintendent of the mine development. The group built a mill and dug the Honorine Tunnel. From 1904 to 1905, while still in the developing stage, the mine produced over

43,000 tons of ore. Through subsequent management changes and consolidations the mine is still known locally as the Honerine.

About 1906 the Honerine Mining and Milling Company sold the property to the Bullion Coalition Mines Company headed by B.F. Bauer, and the new company changed the name of the camp from Buhl to Bauer. When the Combined Metals Reduction Company took over in 1925, J.H. Buehler was made mine superintendent. In 1973 the mine was dismantled and the Anaconda Corporation became the property owner. The American independence bicentennial year of 1976 saw the Bauer mill torn down. From November 1974 to the 1990s Ivan Droubay has been the only resident of Bauer.

The smelter known as the Chicago Works was located at Rush Lake in order to obtain an ample water supply, necessary for the furnace operation. The smelter was built by William Godbe and B.Y. Hampton. Work commenced in May 1873 and was completed that August. It consisted of two vertical blast furnaces. The building which housed the furnaces was 75 by 48 feet. Adjoining the buildings were two water tanks with a capacity of 14,000 gallons. All of this was erected within one hundred feet of the east shore of the lake and six feet above the water level. In the rear of the furnaces were the fuel sheds, in which a supply of 20,000 bushels of charcoal and forty tons of coke was stored. Charcoal was obtained under contract from men working in the adjacent mountains who produced the material chiefly from pine delivered at the works for about twenty-one cents per bushel. Coke was obtained from Pennsylvania at a cost of thirty-six to forty-two dollars a ton.

A tramway was built up Soldier Canyon to convey ore from the mines up the canyon. At the mouth of the canyon a few saloons and houses known as Martinville (or Slagtown) flourished for a while. A short distance from the fuel sheds were the ore houses and the stables. The ore sheds held 1,000 tons. They were constructed with an inclined floor and an automatic chute for loading a small car running upon an inclined plane to the furnaces. Stables were capable of housing some forty horses and about thirty mules which were employed in the transportation of ore from the tramway to the furnaces. The average load was one ton. South of the works were situated the office, officers' quarters, and a boarding house.



Vehicles passing through Stockton. (Utah State Historical Society)

Northeast of Rush Lake and three miles from the Chicago Works and one mile from the village of Stockton was the Waterman Smelter. The Jacobs Smelter was a short distance east of Stockton; it was erected in 1872 under the direction of John D. Willis. Ore used at this smelter was obtained mostly from the Fourth of July and Kearsage mines, which were situated on the north side of Dry Canyon and owned by Lilly and Leisenring of Pennsylvania. These mines were joined in the area by the Yankee Doodle Mine.¹⁷

Stockton's growth can be attributed in great part to the hard-working old-time miners, such as John Aaron Painter, who was born in England, went to Idaho, to Pine Canyon, and then to Stockton. Painter then never left Stockton, raising twelve children in the small town in a small house near the railroad tracks. He and others like him found their dreams in Stockton. A monument to Stockton's miners was officially dedicated at a celebration on 5 July 1976, erected by the Stockton Bicentennial Committee on the grounds of the town plaza.¹⁸

Although the ore bodies were gradually depleted and mining activity greatly reduced, Stockton has survived through the years, and presently continues to issue several building permits per year. Businesses include cafes, gas stations, auto mechanic shops, beauty

shops, and other retail and service establishments. Natural gas was provided to Stockton residents in the fall of 1991 by Mountain Fuel Supply Company. A modern fire station was built in 1988 on Main Street; there is also a town hall (housing a museum and library), a post office, and an LDS chapel, among other structures. A well-kept ball park is located east of Stockton, with a magnificent view of Rush Lake and the Onaqui Mountain Range.

Stockton experienced notoriety in 1989. A group of five adults and twenty-five boy scouts from the Kearns, Utah, area entered the Hidden Treasures Mine, abandoned in 1930, situated in the east hills above Stockton. On 22 September the group entered the mine and ten-year-old Joshua Dennis became separated from the group. Lost in the blackness of the tunnel with not even a flashlight, Dennis was alone with his fright and later the damp cold, hunger, and thirst.

Stockton and Joshua Dennis soon were on local and national television and radio news reports. Into the hills above Stockton went reporters, cameramen, and search-and-rescue teams from Tooele and Salt Lake City. Hundreds of volunteers also came, and church groups served food to the rescuers. For five days the search went on, until a miner's grandson appeared. John Skinner explained that his grandfather had been superintendent of the mine and that he himself was familiar with the inside of the mine. He joined the search. Within thirty minutes the searchers heard a faint sound. Joshua Dennis was found alive and within 500 feet of where he was last seen.¹⁹

Many cherished landmarks in Stockton have vanished, some by fire, some demolished, and others moved away. The Stockton Depot, constructed around the year 1904 was hauled away in 1959. To the youngsters of Stockton, the depot was a place of wonderment, the quietness inside its walls broken only by the click of the telegraph instrument. The upper story of the Odd Fellows Hall was used for Christmas celebrations, card parties, and weekly dances. The old opera house on the corner of Silver and Grant Avenues is gone, as is the early schoolhouse, which was used for traveling shows, plays, movies, and other activities. The entire west side of Main Street, home to the Connor Hotel, Joe Hames's grocery, saloons, and much more has vanished.

Landmarks still existing include the old jail on west Clark Street

and the little home on east Main which saw the birth, printing, and publishing of the *Stockton Sentinel* newspaper. Published weekly beginning in 1898 on Wednesdays by Frank L. Connor, the *Sentinel*, which sold for \$1.50 per year, carried news from Mercur, Grantsville, and Stockton. The newspaper discontinued publication about 1917, although the exact date is not known.

Situated in the circle of Dugway Proving Ground, Tooele Army Depot, and Deseret Chemical Depot, Stockton has shared in the growth of the area, and now shares the impact of a great reduction in personnel with the downsizing of the Tooele Army Depot work force. Thousands of workers, many from Stockton, have been affected by this. Through the years Stockton residents have witnessed the end of the mining bonanza, the closing of the Tooele Smelter, the demise of the Combined Metals Reduction Plant at Bauer, and the downsizing of the Tooele Army Depot. Whatever the future holds, Stockton residents will doubtless continue to work and hope for the future while taking pride in past accomplishments.

Clover and St. John

John Bennion of Taylorsville recorded in his journal entry for 19 October 1855 that he “went to see Porter Rockwell about keeping a herd” on the old Steptoe military reserve. When Bennion “concluded to move to Rush Valley,” he found the families of William Hickman and Luke S. Johnson already settled near the lake. Hickman was a good friend of Johnson and was married to his daughter Sarah Elizabeth. Bennion recorded that they “consented I should build near the north east spring.”²⁰

John J. Child and Enos Stookey also reported finding the log cabins of Hickman and Johnson in the fall of 1855. They also came from the Taylorsville area after hearing tales of the good grass in Rush Valley. Luke Johnson received them hospitably and was anxious for them to come there to live, as it was hardly considered safe for so few to be there alone.²¹ The settlement was originally commonly called Johnson’s Fort or Settlement and then Shambip during the brief existence of the county of that name.

Others gradually came to the area. The wife of Enos, Jemima Stookey, wrote: “At last he [Enos] got enough poles from the canyon



The Ophir mills in 1903. (Utah State Historical Society)

to build a cabin. . . . Enos made a six-light window sash out of a pine box with his knife, and put in some glass we had brought with us, chinked and daubed up the cracks, made a roof out of more old boxes, scattered rushes on the floor, which was the ground, and we gladly moved in.”²²

The following February concern for their safety because of Indian troubles forced the Rush Valley settlers to move to Tooele. When they returned to the valley in April 1856 they chose a new loca-

tion, about eight miles from their old home farther along a creek bottom (Clover Creek) at the base of the mountains.²³ Surveyor Jesse W. Fox in 1858 gave the distance from Great Salt Lake to Johnson's Fort as 51.58 miles, from the old Steptoe military barracks to Johnson's Fort on Clover Creek as 8.22 miles, and from Tooele City to the barracks as 8.91 miles.²⁴ Clover Creek issues from a large spring and runs through a bottom of good agricultural land averaging about one-quarter of a mile in width. The banks of either side were covered with fine cedar groves, according to surveyor G.S. Craig in 1856.

The following men and their families arrived in the settlement, soon known as Clover, in December 1856: James I. Steele, William Greenwood Russell, and Francis De St. Jeor. The following spring David and Isaac Caldwell, Robert Miller, and James F. Jordan came. William McIntosh and his brother John were in the area by December 1859. The original water claims on Clover Creek were made by Luke S. Johnson, John Childs, Griffith Davies, Evan G. Morgan, George Childs, Enos Stookey, Robert Caldwell, William Morgan, Francis De St. Jeor, a Captain Russell, James I. Steele, Robert Miller, James Jordan, James Caldwell, David H. Leonard, William McIntosh, George Burrige, William Haslem, and Richard Fraiser.²⁵

The town became part of short-lived Shambip County, which included Rush Valley. Luke S. Johnson was appointed probate judge to organize the new county.²⁶ Clover was designated by Johnson as the county seat and renamed Shambip. After Johnson's death the county's existence ended. The fact that only 162 people lived in the county was probably the main reason the county was reabsorbed by Tooele County in 1862. Tooele County's boundaries were redefined on 17 January 1862 to include Shambip.

At Clover a one-room log school/meetinghouse was built for community use and protection. It was barricaded with the largest cedar posts available, and in time of danger the colonists came inside this makeshift fort.²⁷

Although Luke Johnson had formerly been an LDS apostle,²⁸ Rush Valley was under the spiritual direction of Bishop John Rowberry, who advised the Clover settlers to change their location in 1867 to a safer place, called St. John, three miles to the north and east. Under his direction, most of the people complied; but a few refused

to move. As a result, disagreement over water became a source of contention between those who left and those who stayed. In 1877 the struggle came before the high council of the Tooele LDS Stake, with that body favoring those who had complied with the move. One former resident reflected about the water trouble when writing in his diary in May 1893 after he had removed from St. John to Sanpete County: "Where we lived formerly we had severe trouble about our water ditches. We had it before arbitration and before the High Council 3 times. It is not threly [thoroughly] settled yet and I am sorry that I was one of that party it is better to suffer wrong than to do wrong."²⁹

An LDS ward was formed on 24 June 1877 in St. John (named for John Rowberry), with George W. Burrridge as bishop. Six years later a stone church costing \$2,700 was built.³⁰ A two-room log school was built in St. John in 1871. A yellow-brick school building was built in Clover with local brick in 1879, and a frame addition was built onto it about 1890, around which time the Clover and St. John school districts were consolidated, with classes held at the Clover school. Students were transported to St. John in the spring of 1947. In Clover the schoolhouse became the LDS ward chapel when the Dugway Proving Ground Chapel was moved and attached to form a recreation hall, Relief Society room, and kitchen. In 1971 the students from St. John and Clover were bussed to Tooele's West Elementary School.³¹

The Clover LDS Ward was formed 21 July 1882, with Francis De St. Jeor as bishop. The local school building served the community as a church until 1907 when a brick church was built. The stone church built in 1883 in St. John eventually was replaced by a chapel built for \$95,000, the groundbreaking taking place on the old site on 31 August 1959, with the first service being held on 8 January 1961.³² The two LDS wards of St. John and Clover were merged on 27 September 1970; and the cultural hall in Clover was moved alongside the St. John chapel. The new ward was designated as the Rush Valley Ward.³³

The mountains surrounding Rush Valley were home to many small mining camps over the years as well as the substantial towns of Mercur and Ophir, mentioned elsewhere in this history. Mercur, as

mentioned, has periodically been revitalized and abandoned. Ophir has continued through the years and remains a pleasant little settlement in the mountains. In 1990 only 25 people called the town home, down from 42 in 1980 and a twentieth-century high of 522 in 1920. Other settlements were found near the canyons exiting the mountains. For example, Knowllen (Nowlenville) was a short-lived branch of the LDS church at the mouth of Ophir Canyon when that mining town was in its heyday, from the late 1870s to the early 1890s. Up to a dozen LDS families constituted this branch of the St. John LDS Ward at one time.

Center (Ajax)

A small community midway between Clover and Vernon called Center was established in 1863 by a few Mormon families who attended church services in St. John. An huge underground store was later excavated in the area by William Ajax to serve miners, travelers, and area residents. It was more than 80 by 100 feet, with its dirt roof shored up by huge timbers, and it served the area from the early 1870s until the closing of Mercur in 1913, at which time it too was closed. A post office for the area was established for a time at the store. Lodging and meals were provided for travelers and more than 100 animals could be sheltered in the stables. Though it was separate from Center, the Ajax Underground Store for a time gave its name—Ajax—to the whole area. A monument marks the site of the Ajax store, which later burned.³⁴

Vernon

Vernon is a small community with about 180 residents in 1990, although it has had as many as 365 inhabitants at the count of the 1910 census. The town is in the southern portion of Rush Valley and was settled in 1862 on the bottomlands around Vernon Creek. The creek and town were named for Joseph Vernon, who had first settled on the creek in about 1857 but was shot and killed that summer by a local Indian named Tabby Weepup.³⁵

Early settlers soon prospered in the rich area from livestock (particularly horse) raising as well as some agricultural and mining enterprises. Lars Larsen was appointed by Bishop John Rowberry the first



The Ophir City Hall. (Utah State Historical Society)

presiding elder of the LDS branch at Vernon. The area was along the Pony Express and Overland Mail lines, and some early residents were connected with freighting and transportation. More than 100,000 horses were estimated to have grazed the Vernon winter range around the turn of the century and some area ranchers and feed growers became wealthy. Among them was John Sharp, appointed Mormon bishop of the Vernon Ward on 24 June 1877.

A post office was established in the town in 1872 and John Sharp was the first postmaster. Sharp built an impressive two-story house in 1888, and the LDS church built a new meetinghouse between 1892 and 1894. The Mormon community was active through the years, but not all members of the town were Mormons. In fact, some of the most prominent mining and ranching men were non-Mormons, but the community was prosperous and generally at ease until after the first decades of the century, at which time overgrazing of the region began to take a toll. That, coupled with the decline in nearby mining, brought a gradual decline in population to the area. Some reclamation efforts, including the Benmore Soil Conservation Project, were successfully instituted in the late 1940s and the area began to slowly attract new residents.³⁶

Vernon was part of the large town of Onaqui, created in the Rush Valley area in the 1930s as a bureaucratic measure to facilitate the coming of electricity to the area; but Vernon was far from the other parts of the new town—Clover and St. John. On 22 February 1972 Vernon was granted incorporation as a separate town. In 1980 there were eighty-one residents of the town, and that number more than doubled by 1990 with the addition of one hundred more. A post office is still active in the town.

Following the coming of Deseret Chemical Depot to Rush Valley, the small farming communities of St. John and Clover expanded, and they were still commonly referred to by those names even though they were technically part of the official incorporated town of Onaqui, which remained more a bureaucratic entity than a socially recognized town. The Clover post office closed in 1943 after some forty-two years of operation, but the area was still served by a post office in St. John.³⁷ Many area residents worked at the Tooele Army Depot and others moved to the area for such employment. If employment was not readily available there, it often was in adjoining Great Salt Lake Desert area where the army built Dugway Proving Ground.

Many of Rush Valley's present citizens have worked at nearby defense installations, a fact which contrasts sharply with earlier times when the livestock industry was the economic mainstay. The livestock were shipped from a depot three miles east of St. John, which also shipped tons of ore from Mercur and Ophir. A market also existed for wood and charcoal when the smelters at Stockton were operating.³⁸ The St. John Depot functioned until 18 October 1968, when all operations were transferred by the Union Pacific Railroad to its Tooele Warner Station. The depot building burned on 14 December 1968. A post office has been located in St. John from 1872 to the present.

Rush Valley City (Onaqui)

After the Rural Electrification Administration was formed during the Great Depression to help provide electricity to rural areas an electric line was completed to Rush Valley in 1935 and the Onaqui Power Company was organized. To obtain the electric line, the town

of Onaqui was mentioned on 19 February 1934 when it was granted a license to erect and maintain electric power poles and other facilities. It was large—thirty-three square miles—and consisted of Vernon, St. John, and Clover. Raymond L. Pehrson was the first mayor.³⁹

Onaqui Town was changed to Rush Valley City on 22 February 1972 when Vernon residents petitioned for separate incorporation.⁴⁰ The city of Rush Valley has subsequently become the center of Rush Valley activities and had an official population of about 550 in the early 1970s. That number has subsequently decreased to about 350 in recent years with the downsizing of the Tooele Army Depot. Still, civic facilities are steadily improving; for example, Mayor Odell Russell cut the ribbon on 10 August 1993 for a new fire station. Though the area could be said to have somewhat of an identity crisis with so many names for the individual units and larger entities, Rush Valley, by whatever name, has been and remains important to Tooele County history and life.

ENDNOTES

1. Much of the material on Stockton was originally prepared by Zettie Painter Garcia as a chapter for this book.

2. *Brief History of Stockton, Utah* (Stockton, UT: Stockton Bicentennial Committee, 1976), 4.

3. Hope A. Hilton, *Wild Bill Hickman and the Mormon Frontier* (Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1988), 53.

4. Mildred Mercer, ed., *History of Tooele County*, 326–28.

5. *Brief History of Stockton*, 77.

6. Orrin P. Miller, ed., *Mining, Smelting, and Railroading in Tooele Co.*, 20–21.

7. M.R. McCarthy, *Patrick Edward Connor, a Closer Look* (Salt Lake City: Fort Douglas Military Museum, 1983), 2–5, 35.

8. *Ibid.*, 15; William Fox, “Patrick Edward Connor ‘Father’ of Utah Mining” (Master’s thesis, Brigham Young University, 1966), 21, 22.

9. *Brief History of Stockton*, 6–7.

10. Early Records of Section 24, Township South 4, Range 5, Deeds and Abstracts Book A, Tooele County Recorder’s Office, Tooele.

11. *Brief History of Stockton*, 9.

12. A list compiled by Lester Nielsen can be found in a *Brief History of Stockton*, 27.
13. Miller, *Mining, Smelting, and Railroading*, 21.
14. Robert G. Athern, *Union Pacific Country* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1976), 94, 278.
15. *Brief History of Stockton*, 86–88.
16. Miller, *Mining, Smelting, and Railroading*, 21.
17. *Brief History of Stockton*, 32, 33.
18. Miners listed on the Stockton monument: A. Anderson, B.E. Bauer, J. Beaman, A. Benson, W. Bracken, J. Brazier, H. Boothe, J. Brown, Mr. Buhle, Mr. Weir, E. Clarey, J. Collins, J. Connor, J. Conway, G. Denton, A. Donaldson, B. Eatough, T. Edwards, J. Frank, F. Frailey, W. Fuller, R. Gundry, J. Hames, E. Henefer, H. Hickman, F. Hiss, J. Hollow, M. Holt, J. Hughes, H. Jackson, J. Johnson, J. Kelley, J. Kirk, E. Mackinson, A. Maze, W. McFarlane, C. McKendrick, A. McCloud, J. Meli, F. Mills, W. Mills, E. Mitchner, J. Murray, J. Nielson, J. Painter, H. Peterson, J. Quinn, E. Raddatz, M. Raddatz, M. Reese, G. Remington, J. Reynolds, Riley, J. Robinson, R. Shelton, W. Snyder.
19. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 26 September 1989, 28 September 1989.
20. John Bennion, *Journals*, 1:18–19, Utah State Historical Society. For the entire trip west, Luke Johnson sat in a leather boat mounted on a wagon frame and used it to help other pioneers ford streams. See Keith Perkins, "A House Divided," *Ensign* (February 1979): 54–59.
21. Ouida Blanthorn, Sarah Davis Green, and Gwenevere Anderson Stookey, *History of Clover* (Tooele: Tooele Transcript Bulletin Press, 1960), 2.
22. Jemima E. Stookey, *Autobiography*, 2–3, Brigham Young University. A descendant, Noel Paul Stookey, achieved a measure of fame in the 1960s and beyond as a member of the folk-singing trio Peter, Paul, and Mary.
23. *Ibid.*, 2.
24. *Tooele, Utah Stake History* (Tooele: Tooele Transcript Bulletin Press, 1977), 40.
25. William McIntosh, "Diary of Wm. McIntosh: 1857–1898," 43, Brigham Young University Library; Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 108.
26. Hilton, *Wild Bill Hickman*, 53. Both Hickman and Johnson left imprints on the valley, with a canyon, pass, and dry-farm bench named for Hickman, and the settlement and mountain pass above named for Johnson.
27. Kate B. Carter, *Our Pioneer Heritage* (Salt Lake City, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1966), 9:416.

28. Luke S. Johnson was cut off from the Mormon church in Missouri in April 1838 but was rebaptized in Nauvoo in 1846.

29. McIntosh, "Diary," 129.

30. *Tooele, Utah Stake History*, 197.

31. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 2 April 1971

32. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 6 January 1961.

33. *Deseret News*, 11 March 1972; *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 22 September 1970.

34. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 360–62.

35. *Ibid.*, 358–60.

36. Ward J. Roylance, *Utah, A Guide to the State* (Salt Lake City: Utah Arts Council, 1982), 500.

37. John S. Gallagher, *The Post Offices of Utah* (Burtonville, MD: The Depot, 1977), 55–56.

38. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 17 December 1968.

39. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 280–82; *The People of Vernon*, 404. The Works Progress Administration book on Tooele County, *Inventory of County Archives of Utah: Tooele County*, published in 1939 lists 1931 as the date for the creation of Onaqui town, but it is likely an error due to the fact that its reason for creation—the facilitation of electrification of the area by the federal government—would not exist until after 1933 and the New Deal programs of the Roosevelt administration.

40. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 282.

CHAPTER 14

DEEP CREEK COUNTRY, WENDOVER, AND THE GREAT SALT LAKE AND ITS DESERT

Ibapah and the Deep Creeks

Ibapah is located on the extreme west side of Tooele County, near the head of Deep Creek. Ibapah is located in a valley bisected by several streams that run through the valley to form Deep Creek. Possibly the earliest recorded trip to the area was in December 1852 by Major Howard Egan of the Mormon Nauvoo Legion. After exploring that part of the county, he settled down there, using the Deep Creek Valley as his headquarters during the 1860s.¹ A year later, Lieutenant E.G. Beckwith with his surveying party came down Skull Valley to Orr's Ranch, turned due west, traveling through the Cedar Mountains, and headed for the Deep Creek Mountains. He left a descriptive account of the valley.

The hub of activity in the valley during the nineteenth century was the Howard Egan Ranch. In the 1860s this ranch was a stage station between Salt Lake City and Carson, Nevada, and was also used for the Pony Express. When telegraph lines were strung across the valley from Salt Lake City on the route to California, Howard Egan became the area's first telegraph operator.² Egan had mapped out a

suitable route for George Chorpensing for the overland stage from Salt Lake City across present-day Nevada; in his honor it was called by many "Egan's Trail."

Brigham Young was granted water and land rights for herding and farming in the Deep Creek Valley in January 1858. That same year Young called James Worthington to teach the Indians in the area farming techniques, one of the numerous attempts by both the Mormon church and the federal government to control Native Americans throughout the territory and teach them the ways of white civilization.³ In the early spring of 1859 a settlement was commenced by Wilford Hudson, Harrison Severe, and James Worthington in Ibapah. An Indian farm had been established for the 200 Goshutes there by the federal government; and a year later Hudson wrote a glowing account of the valley and settlement; but he also commented that Harrison Severe "had sown the wheat on the Indian Farm at his own expense because the government had abandoned it."⁴ When James Worthington left Ibapah in the 1860s his ranch was used as the Indian farm.

James Ferguson trailed sheep back to Deep Creek Valley from California in the 1860s. After his death, his widow married Edgar Bonnemort. After Bonnemort died, Elizabeth Bonnemort successfully continued running the sheep business, becoming known as the "Sheep Queen of Utah."⁵

In 1873 William Lee was sent out by the Mormons to work with the area Indians. A local branch of the LDS church had been established in 1874. It itemized the labor donations on the Indian farm, noting that potatoes, squash, corn, and sugar cane were being raised.⁶ In 1878 it was reported the "farms were doing well," and that the Indians were industrious, worked with a will, and liked their "new mode of life."⁷ William Lee, who was well liked by the Indians and spoke their language, was called to formal leadership over the LDS Deep Creek Mission to the Indians when it was reorganized on 27 March 1883.⁸

Benjamin Lewis Bowen was one of the Mormon missionaries sent to Ibapah. He sold his farm to get a team and money enough to sustain him, leaving for Deep Creek in June 1883 in the company of Owen Barrus and John A. Erickson. They arrived at Ibapah in a

wagon on 14 June after traveling the 160 miles in six days. Bowen soon returned for his family. When they arrived "there were two log granaries for them to live in. One was used for a kitchen and one for a bedroom." The Indians were taught to read and write in a day school, and, Bowen noted, "They were a good and trustworthy people."⁹ The Indians were located on one part of the Indian farm and the missionaries on another. The Indian farm was purchased by the LDS church for the use of area Indians and water rights were acquired. One historian reported that the church later deeded the 1,000-acre property to the Indians, "which immediately invited unscrupulous whites to encroach upon their rights."¹⁰

On 23 March 1914 the federal government set aside 34,500 acres of land for the Ibapah Indian Reservation, building log cabins, a log school, and an assembly hall for the local Indians. Additional frame homes were built in the late 1970s. A community center and complex was started in 1969. The reservation was expanded in 1939. Today it occupies the northwestern corner of Juab County and extends over the state line to northeastern White Pine County, Nevada.¹¹ The federal government furnished agents to help the Goshutes, and the Ibapah Indian Agency was the National Headquarters for all western Shoshone tribes at one time.

Area Goshutes have received some job training and employment opportunities through their own Goshute Enterprises, established in 1969. Some have left the Goshute Reservation in recent years and moved to urban areas, where they reside and earn a living.¹² Goshute women are skilled in the art of basket weaving, winning awards for their art. The shapes of the split-willow winnowing baskets, gathering baskets, and rounded willow-lidded baskets are most distinctive.

The first post office in Deep Creek was established in 1883, with John Devine as postmaster. When the post office was established, Edward Ferguson, a telegraph operator, suggested Ibapah—the name being an anglicized form of the Goshute word meaning "white clay water."¹³ The names Ibapah and Deep Creek have been used interchangeably through the years for the area. John Devine also had the first store in the area. It was subsequently operated by Owen Sheridan and then by Melba Nicholes. Devine reportedly "operated a saloon next to the store, complete with wooden barrels of whiskey and poker

tables.”¹⁴ Other area stores were operated by James Hendry and John Erickson, who brought his wife, Hilda, with him as a missionary in 1883. She became famous in Utah history as a midwife and lived to be Utah’s oldest resident.¹⁵

An irrigation and electric power company called the West Deep Creek Irrigation Company was organized on 14 June 1928 in Ibapah with John U. Hicks as president.

When the Deep Creek LDS Indian Mission was reopened in 1883 a district school was established there for the Native American children. The log building school burned in 1963, but soon afterwards the local Indian children began attending the Ibapah Elementary School. The brick schoolhouse that was built in 1904 in Ibapah burned in 1950; a new school was dedicated on 31 January 1961.¹⁶ The area school today features kindergarten through sixth-grade classes. Older Indian and white children in the area are bussed sixty miles away to school in Wendover.

Grazing has always been important to the valley. Sheep are trailed to the area, which provides good grazing. Local sheep herds as well as outside herds wintering in the area provide a market for locally grown hay and grain. Those who herd the animals also buy some groceries and supplies from the local stores.¹⁷

The area has seen some growth since the 1970s, and people now reside in the old nearby mining hamlets of Gold Hill and Callao, depriving them of ghost-town status. It was not until the 1970s that electricity was brought to the area from Ely by power lines; before that time, power was generated by individual gasoline or other fuel-powered generators.¹⁸

Today the ranches in the area are generally owned and operated by the descendants of the early settlers, not all of whom were Mormons. Early settlers came to the area from California, Pennsylvania, Nova Scotia, Montana, Kansas, Ohio, Iowa, and North Carolina, among other places. One writer wrote that in the late twentieth century Ibapah “is a quiet, peaceful valley with ranches dotting the terrain. . . . The peace and quiet are part of the charm of Ibapah and along with the clean sharp air, have an immediate calming effect on the mind of a visitor. Nobody is in a hurry.”¹⁹



Early Wendover. (Utah State Historical Society)

Wendover

The town of Wendover was not founded as a ranching community, but began in 1907 as a railroad community. The altitude of Wendover City is 4,232 feet above sea level. It is located at the extreme west end of the county and the state; in fact, there are two separate communities—West Wendover, Nevada, and Wendover, Utah. Planned to become a service and supply point for the Western Pacific Railroad, the town was named for a surveyor employed by the railroad, Charles Wendover. Snuggled against the Toana Range, which rises 5,000 feet above the desert floor, it is bordered on the northwest by 10,000-foot Pilot Peak, named by Captain John C. Frémont, who crossed the salt desert in the 1840s guided by the mountain. South of town are the Goshute and Deep Creek mountain ranges.

Transcontinental communication by telephone was effected on 17 June 1914 when the final pole of the system was raised at Wendover. A plaque commemorating the event is in the museum of the Utah State Historical Society in Salt Lake City. Twenty-eight years later an all-weather buried telephone cable also was joined in

Wendover. The written word periodically has appeared in various newspapers that deal with the area, including the *Salt Flat News*, *Wendover Relay*, and *High Desert Advocate*.

During its early history, Wendover was merely a rest station on the Victory Highway (as it had effectively supplanted the more southern Lincoln Highway) and a station on the railroad line. With the legalization of gambling in Nevada in the early 1930s the history and nature of the town began to change dramatically. Wendover's oldest hotel casino, the State Line, dates from the 1920s when W.T. Smith purchased a gas station on the Victory Highway at the Nevada-Utah state line. Smith expanded the operation into a cafe and motor lodge, and in 1931 he received one of the first gambling licenses issued by the state of Nevada.²⁰

The U.S. military also looked favorably on the desert site with the coming of World War II, as detailed in an earlier chapter. Wendover's salt flats, once the bottom of prehistoric Lake Bonneville, proved ideal in 1941 for training bombing crews, as the area receives little rain and only light snow, which seldom remained long enough to interfere with air traffic during the winter months.²¹ The crew that dropped the atomic bomb over Hiroshima, Japan, in August 1945 trained for the mission at Wendover.

Wendover, Utah, was incorporated 25 October 1950 with 149 qualified voters and a population of fewer than 500 people. Various auto services, restaurants, and lodgings are available for tourists, most of whom come for the neighboring gambling casinos on the Nevada side of the state line dividing the town. The State Line Casino maintains an RV park on the Tooele County side. Wendover became a third-class city on 25 March 1982, with a population in 1980 of 1,099 people. By 1990 its population had reached 1,626 and the city claimed an area of 8.5 square miles. Besides the tourist business, Wendover is also a supply center for ranchers, who range thousands of head of sheep and cattle within a fifty-mile radius of the city. Two parks are available, one located on the Tooele County side of town.

In recent years, increasing developments on the Nevada side have catered to the gambling tourist trade of cross-country travelers and residents of Utah's populous Wasatch Front communities. This has led to extensive commercial growth—particularly in Nevada—how-

ever, many workers at the casinos and other Nevada businesses live on the Utah side of the town, where living accommodations are generally less expensive. Business growth of motels, gas stations, and other businesses also has spilled over to the Utah side of the line, although tax revenue shortfalls are always a problem. Most money spent in Wendover falls on the Nevada side of the line yet support services and infrastructure are necessary in Utah.

Water has always had to be collected and transported to the town, as groundwater in the area is of a poor quality. The Western Pacific Railroad had piped water in order to operate its steam-operated, diesel-powered engines. The U.S. Air Force brought water from the Nevada side thirty-two miles in a pipeline in 1943; and when it relinquished Wendover Field, the water system was sold in July 1976 to Wendover City. Part of the base itself was transferred to the city on 15 August 1977, soon after it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.²² This water and two sections of ground were sold to Wendover City for \$90,000. Water is the key to Wendover growth, one of the few limiting factors to the currently booming Wendover economy—particularly the Nevada side.

The other element necessary to the area's growth has been traffic through the area, first brought in substantial numbers by the Victory Highway after Salt Lake City officials approved the Wendover route over the Lincoln Highway's proposed route through the southern part of the county. The locale received a further boost when this route was chosen for Interstate 80, part of the great national interstate freeway system built since the 1950s. The area's first interstate highway construction project was the Low interchange to Interstate 80, finished in September 1959. Other completion dates for sections of the freeway were: Low to Delle, December 1966; Wendover to Knolls, December 1969; Knolls to Clive, June 1971; Clive to Low, October 1971; Delle to Timpie Junction, October 1971; and Timpie Junction to Lake Point, August 1972. Interstate 80 passed Wendover on the north side of town.

The former air force field—Decker Field—which lay dormant for many years has become a municipal airport that mostly services daily flights for Nevada casinos, in part due to a \$1.3 million grant from the Federal Aviation Administration. This project is part of a multi-

million dollar plan to renovate the former field.²³ The plan received a setback in early 1998 when the Utah legislature refused to budget \$7 million to help refurbish the airport and its runways. Without these improvements to the airport a loss of air traffic is expected, and Wendover city officials have feared that the city faces bankruptcy because of this, as it had counted on tax revenues from the airport to help fund the many civic services and improvements needed in the rapidly growing area. Air shows have also been a very popular attraction at the airport in recent years, so officials hoped that a solution to improving the airport facilities could be found quickly, and, in fact, in mid-1998 Tooele County agreed to help fund the airport restoration.

A number of religious denominations are represented in Wendover; they include a Mormon ward as well as Catholic, Baptist, and Christian Fellowship churches. West Wendover, Nevada, and Wendover, Utah, now share a junior high school and high school on the Utah side and an elementary school in Nevada, with the Elko and Tooele school districts paying each other tuition for the students attending from across the state line. The two communities also share local law enforcement, as police officers can make arrests on either side of the state line. In addition, fire fighting is handled in concert. Because of recent increased enrollment, however, Nevada's Elko School District wants to build its own high school, ending its cooperative agreement with the Tooele School District.²⁴

Although most visitors to the area are interested in the glitter and promise of the gambling casinos, the area also attracts desert lovers and history buffs, including those interested in archaeology at nearby Danger Cave and other important sites in the county. A geographical claim to fame is that from a vantage point west of Wendover the curvature of the earth can be seen looking across the salt flats.

The Great Salt Lake and Desert

Northeast of Wendover, where the salt beds compacted, a natural speedway for racing cars has been established. The Bonneville Speedway is nineteen miles northeast of Wendover, reached by way of a marked freeway exit. No permanent buildings have been erected at the site, which attracts racing enthusiasts and competitors from



Auto racing on the salt flats near Salduro about 1915. (Utah State Historical Society)

around the world. The speedway has been the setting for numerous world land-speed records. Land speeds in excess of 600 miles per hour have been reached, and numerous world records of many classes and types of racing vehicles have been set and broken at the site through the years.

The Bureau of Land Management manages the Bonneville Salt Flats, but the area currently is being reassessed because of the salt's gradual disappearance, which has greatly affected the racing surface, threatening to end it as a racing venue. A proposal is underway to move salt from abandoned ponds on Reilly Industries' property to 33,000 acres of the salt flats by a system of ditches.²⁵

Twenty-six miles east of Wendover on Interstate 80 on the edge of the Bonneville Salt Flats is an eighty-five-foot concrete-and-steel sculpture by Swedish artist Karl Momin, who called his creation the "Tree of Utah," describing it as "a hymn to our universe." Costing \$2 million, which was raised by the artist, the sculpture was dedicated on 18 January 1986 on land donated for the purpose by the state. Though not all viewers approve of the work, it stands out grandly in its desert setting.

Tooele County Salt

Historically, because of its easy accessibility and suitable terrain, the south shore of the Great Salt Lake has been the best area for salt production. While Inland Salt in Salt Lake County continued to grow and to acquire other companies, a few companies established operations in Tooele County soon after the turn of the century. In 1918 Morton Salt acquired a potash plant at Burmester and became a serious competitor. In fact, in 1923 Morton purchased a controlling interest in what by then was called Inland Crystal Salt Company and reincorporated under the name Royal Crystal Salt. After the merger, salt continued to be produced from the Tooele County site, although the refining was done at Saltair. Some new companies started but failed to survive in the 1930s and 1940s. However, in the 1950s and 1960s, Deseret Livestock Salt Company and Stansbury Salt Company gained a foothold on the south and southwest shores of the lake.²⁶

Stansbury Salt was established at a location sixteen miles north of Grantsville and south of Stansbury Island following a failed attempt by its predecessor Crystal White Salt to survive at that location. The company later became American Salt Company. The present American Salt Company is a subsidiary of the Cudahy Company, and in the 1990s is a major national producer of salt.

The other major site for salt production in Tooele County is at Lakepoint, close to Exit 99 on Interstate 80. Weir Salt began operating in 1901 with a solar evaporation process. The location remained dormant for half a century because of the difficulties the company encountered with excavating the underground strata and with leakage from their ponds. In 1949 Deseret Livestock reactivated the site, and the resulting operation under the name Deseret Salt established a successful company which continued to operate into the 1990s under a number of owners. Leslie Salt acquired the operation in 1958 but divested the company in 1965. Former American Salt manager Jim Palmer with financial backing purchased and managed the company and formed Lakepoint Salt Company in 1977.²⁷

A Canadian Company, Domtar, acquired Lakepoint Salt just prior to the Great Salt Lake flooding of the early 1980s. The flooding raised the water level so high that Union Pacific was forced to open a



Salt works in Tooele County. (Utah State Historical Society)

culvert through its railroad base, flooding out the salt company's ponds. For a year, the company purchased raw salt from Amax (now Magnesium Corporation of American, or MagCorp), which had operated its magnesium plant since the late 1960s west of Stansbury Island. The arrangement worked out so well that Amax bought out Domtar. Diamond Crystal Salt bought the Lakepoint plant and acquired the right to build a new salt plant at Timpie with the intent to restore some on the ponds plus build an advanced facility.²⁸

A European company, AKZO, acquired the Diamond Crystal operations and in 1993 was proceeding with a multimillion-dollar development at Timpie covering 35,000 acres at the south end of the Stansbury Basin. In the early 1990s this company was producing over 100,000 tons of salt annually and projecting large increases from the new facility. The Tooele County competitor, American Salt, was producing over 200,000 tons annually.²⁹ A small amount of salt is also produced at Kaiser Chemical at Wendover, rounding out Tooele County's present salt-producing efforts.

Towards the end of the twentieth century, salt production from the Great Salt Lake seems as secure as ever, with a statewide produc-

tion of 1.6 million tons in 1990—up from 1 million tons in 1980.³⁰ However, the factors of weather, the level of the lake, and the huge “dam” which divides the lake will continue to affect the industry’s successful harvesting of salt in the south arm. The dam, more precisely the Southern Pacific Railroad causeway, caused continual commercial warfare during the 1970s and 1980s. The battles of that “war” were carried into the courts, strategies were mapped in corporate board rooms, and the fight eventually was taken to the Utah State Legislature.

Magnesium and Potash Mining

Potash (potassium sulfate) mining was spurred around the shores of the Great Salt Lake during World War I, when the United States went to war against its former supplier of the mineral, Germany. This led to the brief existence in Tooele County of Burmester, a station on the Western Pacific railroad line north of Grantsville that flourished in the 1920s only to disappear by the 1930s during the Great Depression. It was named for Frank Burmester, who was a promoter and developer of the town. According to the 1920 census 159 people lived in what was called the Burmester precinct. Salt Lake Chemical, a subsidiary of Diamond Match Company built a potash plant there. A small store serviced the area and residents went to Grantsville for other goods and services. The receding of the lake caused the shutdown of operations according to one resident. After the closing of the plant in May 1933 the town’s residents soon went elsewhere. The railroad station itself burned on 18 January 1975.³¹

Salduro, some twelve miles east of the Bonneville Salt Flats, was another potash plant town. Its precinct numbered 194 according to the 1920 census. It too was based around a station on the railroad line. When the economy of the 1930s made potash production unprofitable the plant was shut down and dismantled. What remained was destroyed by fire in 1944.³²

By the 1960s, the rich mineral content of the Great Salt Lake had attracted the interest of companies convinced that profits were to be made from extracting magnesium and potassium sulfate (potash) besides sodium chloride. National Lead Corporation developed an

operation at the southwest corner of the lake, west of Stansbury Island, known as the Stansbury Basin. Meanwhile, the Great Salt Lake Minerals and Chemical Company in Ogden moved ahead in the construction of potash facilities on the lake's northeastern shore.³³

The development of Tooele County's magnesium industry was far from easy. Problems included acquiring the site, acquiring at reasonable prices the electricity necessary in the production process, and reacting to impacts of the Southern Pacific causeway management. It also required large expenditures of time and energy from the Tooele County Commission.

Acquiring the site required that the company and Tooele County officials take on the U.S. Department of Interior, which advanced the argument that the State of Utah not only did not own lakeshore areas between the lake's surface and the surveyed "meander line" but did not own the lake bed itself. The Interior Department claimed the lake was not "navigable" at the time of statehood; if it was determined that was the case, Utah would not own the bed of the lake. Thanks to some behind-the-scenes lobbying by Senator Frank Moss, President Lyndon Johnson was persuaded to sign the Great Salt Lake Land Act, which allowed development of mineral industries to proceed on the lake until either the state paid the federal government for the disputed land or successfully litigated its claim of ownership in the U.S. Supreme Court.³⁴

Eventually, the U.S. Supreme Court not only conceded that Utah owned all of the lake bed but also awarded all lands below the so-called "meander line" to the state. The line followed surveys of the lake's surface elevation done over a period of years, and is between 4,200 feet and 4,212 feet.

National Lead originally had planned to evaporate their salts at the lake but transport them to Oregon for refining. Utah Governor Calvin Rampton asked them to consider the total operation for Utah. But getting electricity at a price to make the operation feasible presented a huge obstacle. Tooele County Commissioners Sterling Halladay, Willis Smith, and George Buzianis, working with the company and state officials, convinced Utah Power to agree to provide electrical power.

No challenge was any greater than the Great Salt Lake itself—its

destructive flood potential and the changing makeup of its brines. In 1959 Southern Pacific's earthen-fill causeway between Lakeside on the west and Promontory Point on the east was completed. Concern had already been expressed that the causeway would change the chemical composition of the lake. Two fifteen-foot culverts had been placed within the length of the new railroad fill in order to maintain some circulation and access through the causeway.

True to the concerns of critics of the causeway design, by the early 1970s, circulation between what were referred to as the north and south arms of the lake was not balanced—the south waters became more diluted. Dr. Armand J. Eardley, dean of the College of Mines and Minerals Industries at the University of Utah raised questions concerning the future of the lake as a “chemical deposit.” Eardley worried about a “pile up of salt on the north end of the lake” and suggested the construction of a forty-mile canal around Promontory Point carrying fresh water from the Bear River into the north arm of the lake.

Ogden's potash operation saw the more concentrated brines of the lake's north arm much as a rock miner would view a rich vein of ore—it was a better “mine” than the south-arm waters. National Lead asked the courts to determine whether Southern Pacific Railroad was liable for creating a condition on the Great Salt Lake which denied the company the opportunity to profit in the production of magnesium. The court responded that any mineral extraction company had the right to “put its straw into the pond” from whichever part of the lake it wished for minerals but that the state had no obligation to maintain the pond in a manner that was equal to all extraction companies. Legislation then was drafted, supported by Governor Calvin Rampton, which would force the railroad to open the causeway. After a tough, nonpartisan fight, the bill failed by three votes.

One consideration given to the south-shore industries during the mid-1970s was an acknowledgement that the two fifteen-foot culverts within the causeway should remain free from accumulated debris. The 1978 legislature passed a law that required that Southern Pacific Railroad clean the two culverts. Southern Pacific had found since the causeway's completion in 1959 that it faced unanticipated maintenance problems: the rock which supports the roadbed keeps

sinking into the lake. In order to maintain the railroad, the company was forced to continually dump materials, even including old railroad cars, along the causeway for rip-rap and to keep it at its designed elevation. Some of that material was dumped at the culverts.

As the Great Salt Lake continued to rise during the late 1970s, concern grew more intense that the lake's brines not only were becoming more diluted but also that the higher lake waters, resulting from above-average precipitation, posed a real threat to the dikes and ponds of the south-shore industries. That threat was exacerbated by the causeway holding the south arm of the lake at a higher level than the north arm. In the early 1980s that differential increased to almost four feet. Discussions began in earnest about the possibility of spreading the high waters over a much greater area and thereby reducing the lake's level by pumping the brine to the west.

Above-average precipitation fell in northern Utah beginning in the late 1970s, peaking with huge amounts in 1983 and 1984. The rapidly rising levels of the Great Salt Lake threatened businesses around the lake, including those in Tooele County, as well as the railroad tracks and Interstate 80 in Tooele County. Conceivably, rising waters could even threaten the Salt Lake International Airport. Worried civic and government leaders began to seriously consider ways to control the Great Salt Lake's water levels.

In the summer of 1983 Governor Scott Matheson called a special legislative session to deal with conditions which he described as "Utah's statewide flooding disaster." The unusually high precipitation in Utah continued through the winter of 1984 and the lake continued to rise. Great Salt Lake Minerals continued to oppose breaching the causeway, even though doing so would bring relief to their own dikes. They would not sacrifice their heavier brine in the lake's north arm to an assured dilution which would occur if the causeway were breached. That company campaigned even harder for the pumping plan. Meanwhile, many rural legislators could not buy the "crazy idea" of pumping salt water to the west desert and dreamed instead of building additional dams in the mountains to contain runoff waters before they entered the Great Salt Lake. Eventually, when comparing the options of pumping (with an expenditure of over \$50 million), to the \$100 to \$200 million for developing more upstream

storage, Utah lawmakers found the breach option (costing less than \$4 million), more attractive. It was narrowly approved by the legislature in the 1984 session.

The actual breaching of the causeway, later in the summer, bought time for more preparations against the tremendous damage wrought by the lake. It did not, however, spare Amax and Great Salt Lake Minerals from losing their main dikes as the waters rose to their highest levels in recorded history (4,211.85 feet above sea level). Had the breach occurred earlier, and a decision to pump the lake's water into the west desert had been agreed to earlier, perhaps those damaging events could have been avoided.

The Utah Legislature finally approved the installation of pumps to transport lake water to the west deserts under the urging of Governor Norman Bangert. The cost was some \$60 million. By the time the pumps were installed and the pumping begun in 1987, however, the lake had done most of its damage, flooding large sections of Interstate 80, the railroad bed around the southern portion of the lake shore, and disrupting transportation for months as crews worked to elevate the roadways and repair the damage. The pumps operated for over two years—until June 1989—and they did reduce the lake's surface much more quickly than if they had not been installed. Critics have called the project a huge waste of taxpayer money, particularly in light of the fact that the lake levels generally have lowered in subsequent years. The pumps currently remain "in mothballs" as a control mechanism for some future wet cycle in the Great Basin and as insurance against possible future damage to lake-side facilities.

Those in favor of the pumps point to the huge losses and expenditures brought about by the flooding of Interstate 80 and the railroad tracks through Tooele County and the great expenditures of money and labor to elevate the various roadbeds and repair the damage. If in the future the pumps spare the area that kind of damage they will have been well worth the money spent to build, install, and maintain them.

With the destruction of Amax's main dike and the flooding of its Stansbury Basin pond system, serious doubts were heard as to whether the Tooele County magnesium producer could survive. Even

though Amax had not supported the west desert pumping project, it now found a way to make it work to the company's advantage. The idea was developed and finally implemented to bring lake brines from the new west desert Newfoundland Evaporation Pond to a new evaporation pond in the area of Knolls. Amax officials claimed that their being able to remain in business, and therefore pay taxes, more than reimbursed the state for the costs of pumping. Great Salt Lake Minerals claimed the pumping assured its investors that the lake level would be controlled in the future, making possible an additional \$12 million investment in its ponds.

In August 1989 Renco Group Incorporated acquired the Rowley Plant, and the magnesium company operated under the name of Magnesium Corporation of America, or Magcorp. In 1993, production at the Magcorp facility was over 36,000 tons of magnesium annually. Magcorp produces chlorine as a by-product of its reduction process, but a poor market made the disposal of Magcorp's excess chlorine difficult. The resultant pollution has brought criticism and threats of action against the company, whose Tooele County plant has been considered for numerous years by some government agencies and environmental groups as one of the major polluters in America. The company currently promises to make significant strides in improving the quality of its air emissions, although thus far the state of Utah has taken no serious action to force the company to clean up its emissions, claiming that no standard has been set for chlorine emissions. In 1992 the company accounted for about 23 percent of domestic production of magnesium and about 10 percent of world production.

More than a century of mineral production on the Great Salt Lake has challenged those who have tried to make a profit from the inland sea. Some succeeded; many failed. The future of mineral extraction for south shore industries is likely to continue to be a hazardous activity due to the largely uncontrollable forces of weather and lake level plus the still unsolved problem posed by the Southern Pacific Railroad causeway. In 1993 the lake remained "two lakes" as to the richness of its mineral brines. In December 1992 the lake's salinity in the south arm was measured at 17 percent, while the north arm reading was 27 percent (close to saturation). By 1993 the lake's

decline left the causeway breach at Lakeside only as a “release valve” for when the lake rises again.

Brine Shrimp

Commercial activities on the Great Salt Lake include the brine shrimp industry. In 1993, eleven companies were active in shrimp-harvesting operations throughout the south arm of the lake. Probably the major company in 1993 was the Salt Lake Brine Shrimp Company, which has a warehouse in Grantsville.

The industry began in the 1950s with netting of the tiny shrimp, which are an important part of the lake’s ecology and are an important part of the food chain for the region’s fauna. They were used as a tropical fish food, but later the industry evolved to the business of harvesting shrimp eggs. The producers clean them, dry them, and package them—usually for export for aquaculture in the feeding of larger shrimp in Asia for human consumption.

Although the harvesting was done originally by raking the eggs on Great Salt Lake beaches, the activity in the early 1990s was done mostly from boats, owing to disagreements with shoreline property owners. Salt Lake Brine Shrimp, a Tooele County company, continues to operate in a crowded market. Although the industry is a multimillion dollar one, it is a business that is dependent upon the right environmental conditions. When the brines become saturated, as they were in the north arm in the early 1970s, only the south arm provides the right salinity for productive harvests. However, should the south arm become as diluted as in the early 1980s, harvest of the eggs will be inefficient and possibly unprofitable. The Great Salt Lake has yielded harvests of brine shrimp eggs totalling 14.7 million pounds in 1995–96 and in 1996–97, but the harvest was restricted to 4.5 million pounds in 1997–98 due to poorer conditions and the desire to avoid “overfishing.”

A long term drop in the brine shrimp numbers would be not only an economic blow to Tooele County shrimp harvesters but would threaten the existence of millions of shore birds who depend on the insects and other creatures that feed on the shrimp. Efforts are underway to try to more fully equalize the salinity of both arms of

the Great Salt Lake, because currently the north arm is too salty for the creatures and the south arm is becoming too diluted.³⁵

Thus, the Great Salt Lake remains a vital, but fickle, element in the Tooele County story. Its elevation and brine content can affect multimillion dollar industries and the transportation corridors of the county and state. In great part because of the lake, Tooele County has one of the larger mining and industrial economies in the state, but trying to control it will remain a challenge to state and county leaders and residents as long as there is a Tooele County.

ENDNOTES

1. Ronald R. Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections* (n.p., 1984), 17; *Deseret News*, 19 December 1852.

2. Mildred Mercer, ed., *History of Tooele County*, 312.

3. Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections*, 47, 175. See page 97 for the names of those who followed the Egans, Hudsons, Severes, and Worthingtons to the settlement. See also Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 311–25, for more detailed stories and names of early residents of the area.

4. Quoted in Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections*, 51.

5. *Ibid.*, 413; Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 325.

6. Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections*, 180.

7. *Ibid.*

8. *Ibid.*, 181.

9. "History of Benjamin Lewis Bowen," 2.

10. Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections*, 140

11. See Helen S. Carlson, *Nevada Place Names* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1974), 124–25; Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections*, 284, 295–97; James B. Allen and Ted J. Warner, "Gosiute Indians in Pioneer Utah," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 39 (Spring 1971): 177.

12. Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections*, 297.

13. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 316, 322; John W. Van Cott, *Utah Place Names*, 197.

14. Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections*, 109.

15. Ouida Blanthorn "On the Chuck Wagon Trail with the Bit and Spur Group," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 28 August 1964.

16. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 325; Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections*, 297.

17. Bateman, *Deep Creek Reflections*, 412.

18. Orrin P. Miller, ed., *History of Tooele County*, Vol. II, 438.
19. Margaret Van Noy, "Ibapah Retains Pioneer Flavor," *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 20 September 1979.
20. Deke Castleman, "Historic Hotels," *Nevada Magazine* (Sept./Oct. 1991): 51.
21. Dale Stevens, ed., *The Great Salt Lake Desert: A Geographical Survey*, M10.
22. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 191.
23. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 25 February 1993, 4 March 1993.
24. "West Wendover Growth May End Utah-Nevada School Accord," *Deseret News*, 20 February 1993.
25. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 30 October 1990; Carlson, *Nevada Place Names*, 189.
26. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 146.
27. *Ibid.*, 148–49.
28. *Ibid.*
29. *Salt Lake Tribune*, 4 March 1993.
30. *Salt Lake Tribune*, 13 November 1992.
31. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 385–87.
32. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 394.
33. Gwynn, *Great Salt Lake*, 223.
34. *Ibid.*, 15.
35. *Salt Lake Tribune*, 24 May 1998, E1.

CHAPTER 15

GRANTSVILLE AND OTHER TOOELE VALLEY TOWNS

Much of the discussion in earlier chapters has centered on Tooele City, seat of county government, first settled, and largest of Tooele County communities. For this reason, the following discussion of Tooele Valley communities will focus on other settlements in the valley, only marginally dealing with Tooele City itself. Aside from Grantsville, most of the valley's communities are in close proximity to the Oquirrh Mountains and to each other, in many ways making them little more than suburbs or satellites of a growing Tooele City (which remains the commercial center of the entire area), although, as will be seen, residents of the various towns and enclaves have a strong sense of pride and independence, and moves are being undertaken to try to maintain the separate identities and independence of many of the valley's smaller settlements.

Grantsville

Grantsville is the largest settlement in Tooele County other than Tooele City and is situated in the northern part of Tooele Valley just a few miles south of the Great Salt Lake.¹ In 1850 the James McBride

and Harrison Severe families arrived in the area, sent by LDS church leaders to make their homes. They were the vanguard for other families that would follow.

Now, as then, Grantsville looks out upon sagebrush and rabbitbrush flats and the Oquirrh Mountains to the east. To the south is South Mountain, a short stretch of east-west-oriented low hills. In that direction and also to the west are sage and rabbitbrush, prickly pear cactus, and other sticky and thorn-laden desert plants, as well as washes that were worn into existence by drainages from the mountains to the west. Cedar trees appear on the Stansbury foothills and the mountains above, which begin a few miles south of the Great Salt Lake and extend south beyond Tooele Valley. To the north are natural meadows and willow patches, then saltgrass and salt flats, then the Great Salt Lake itself, with Stansbury Island rising into the northern horizon. On a clear day, mountain ranges beyond the lake are visible.

When the first white settlers arrived, there was an outstanding feature that is no longer visible: South and North Willow creeks ran through their canyons of the Stansbury Mountains, then flowed north through the valley, ending in the area where Grantsville would soon rise, and also creating wetlands in the northern part of that location. That water has played a very important part in Grantsville's development, but it no longer courses openly across the landscape.

That water, a most rare commodity in much of the West, also had drawn others to this place. It had been a camping site for Indian tribes, explorers, and adventuresome pioneers who were heading farther west. The site was known variously as "Twenty Wells" and "Willow Creek."² Informed travelers knew that the Great Salt Lake Desert was located approximately twenty-five miles to the west, that Salt Lake City was forty miles to the east, that any other water that was available within that distance was brackish, and that water in the desert was undrinkable. "Willow Creek" also provided provender for animals. When McBride and Severe arrived, there was a small log house in the area where Thomas Ricks and Ira Willis lived. These men were herding cattle that were owned by many stockmen in Salt Lake City. However, the McBride and Severe families were the first to come with the intention of establishing permanent homes.³

In ensuing years they, and those who joined them, suffered

Indian raids as well as other problems. Most were eking out a living by farming the land. Poor growing seasons and an invasion of grasshoppers brought some famine in the years of 1855 and 1856.

The settlement of the Grantsville area was instigated by the LDS church, and for some time leadership of the area settlers was provided by the church headquarters in Salt Lake City, with the first presiding elder (local church leader) being Benjamin Baker. Many incidents that occurred during those early years have been gleaned from biographies of Grantsville people recorded in the *History of Tooele County*. They give some insight into the dedication, courage, and spirit of those people during the early days of settlement.

John Pehr and Matilda Anderson owned the first organ in Tooele County and would haul it by wagon throughout the county to church meetings and conferences. Louisa Cooke Hale, the wife of Aroet Hale, reportedly owned the first sewing machine and the first kerosene lamp in Grantsville.

John Peter Lund walked all the way to Utah, arriving in Grantsville in October 1862. The first winter he froze his feet and was forced to stay indoors, where he made horn combs, buttons, wooden trays, and spoons. He later took up carpentry. Thomas Quirk died in 1888 and was the first person to be buried in the Grantsville Cemetery in a "boughten" casket. He brought the casket with him across the plains and kept it under his bed.

Elijah Nicholas Wilson came with his parents to Grantsville. In August 1856 he left his home to live with a band of Shoshoni Indians for two years. He became very attached to the Indians and later published a book entitled *Uncle Nick Among the Shoshones*. Charles Johnson, born in 1835, emigrated from Sweden to America in 1863. He lived with his family in Grantsville, and was a carpenter by trade.

Wilford Heath Hudson enlisted as a young man in the Mormon Battalion at Council Bluffs, Iowa, in July 1846. He marched with the battalion to California, and after it was disbanded at Fort Moore in Los Angeles in July 1847 Hudson and Sidney S. Willis remained and took a contract to dig a millrace some distance up the American River. While they were there gold was discovered. Hudson stayed until he had dug out about \$1,700 worth of gold; he then left for Salt

Lake City, arriving in September 1848. He later settled in Grantsville, where he lived out his life.

Many of the early settlers of Grantsville were people who were converts to the LDS church. Most had emigrated from England and Sweden. The English emigrants settled mostly in the area south of Main Street or along Main Street in the east end of town in the area that became known as "Stringtown." The Swedish people made their homes almost exclusively in the area south of Main Street in the western part of town. This area was locally referred to as "Swedenburg." There were some ethnic clannishness and bad feelings, but mostly it was friendly rhetoric.

Hilda Anderson was born in 1859 in Sweden. Her family converted to the LDS church, and in 1866 they immigrated to America, eventually coming to Grantsville. She married John A. Erickson in 1882. The couple were called on a LDS mission to Deep Creek, Utah, to the Ibapah Indian Reservation. She was a tailor and made the uniforms for the Grantsville brass band. She also studied obstetrics, delivered many babies, and even pulled teeth for the people in the area. She and her husband established a ranch and also operated a general merchandise store in Grantsville. They had two children, Amy and Perry. John died in 1943 at age 83; Hilda lived to a much-publicized 108 years of age.

Mary Ann Farnes House was a doctor of obstetrics who practiced in Grantsville beginning in the 1860s. She delivered more than 700 babies in Grantsville without the death of a single mother.

It was reported that Grantsville had the first bored well in Utah, drilled by J.W. Cooley and George Carter.⁴ New residents were continually arriving, and a viable nucleus was being formed for what would become a thriving community. The people were almost entirely dependent upon themselves or others in the community for their food, clothing, care of the sick, needy, and deceased, and for their recreation.

The area had been called Willow Creek but was being referred to as Grantsville as early as March 1852. The name was chosen in honor of George D. Grant. As an officer of the Nauvoo Legion, he had led a company of men to aid the Willow Creek settlers as they defended



Grantsville High School. (Utah State Historical Society)

themselves against Indian raids in 1851. Grant also directed the surveying of the townsite in 1853.

In January 1867 a petition was made to the legislative assembly of the Territory of Utah to obtain a charter for the city of Grantsville. The petition was processed by the legislature, and on 9 January 1867 territorial governor Charles Durkee signed approval of the incorporation. The first officers of the new city were: Mayor Cyrus W. Bates;

Aldermen William Jefferies, James Wrathall, and Aroet L. Hale; Councilmen Emery Barrus, Edward Hunter, W.C. Martindale, John Felt, and Wm. C. Rydalch; and Justice of the Peace A.W. Sabin. At present, a mayor and five council members are elected for four-year terms to administer the running of the city.

The Grantsville City Council did not have a building of its own until 1918. The first city hall was built in 1918 at 34 West Main Street. It consisted of a council room, office, jail cell, and entrance hall.⁵ By 1966 that building had been outgrown. The city was able to acquire a former LDS seminary building for \$20,000 under a four-year interest-free agreement. The old city hall was razed in 1973 and the site was landscaped and converted into a mini-park. The property was purchased by Key Bank, which is continuing to maintain the park.

A 1968 letter to the citizens informed them that the city attorney would maintain an office in the building, as would a dentist. Until that time, Grantsville had not had a dentist practicing within the city for some years. The city's population has nearly doubled in the time since the city hall was acquired. That growth and the resulting increase in personnel caused extreme crowding in the building, and a larger facility was built in 1996.

From the incorporation of Grantsville City in 1867 to 1993 forty-four mayors have held office. Six of the mayors have resigned before their term was completed; seven have been appointed to hold office until the next regularly scheduled election, and one, Otto Johnson, died during his term in March 1931. On 19 October 1939 the citizens held a mass meeting and sustained all city officials in office at the time for another term, thus saving the expense of an election during the Great Depression.⁶

One mayor was removed from office, a direct result of an animal control problem. In 1982 a group of citizens began a campaign to establish injection euthanasia as the only means of destroying unwanted dogs; this was in opposition to the policy of police shooting such dogs. The subject became the center of controversy, and the media gave the matter considerable publicity. In August 1983 a Grantsville police officer picked up four dogs after people had complained about barking dogs roaming their neighborhood. The police chief ordered the dogs to be taken to farm property owned by Mayor

J. Keith Brown. The police chief said that he shot three of the dogs and the fourth was shot by the mayor. Angry citizens filed a petition for judicial removal of the mayor and the two police officers. An eight-person jury later ruled that the mayor be removed from office, the only Grantsville mayor so removed.⁷

The act incorporating the City of Grantsville lists the powers and duties of the city council.⁸ Until 1968 a part-time recorder and a part-time treasurer took care of city office duties. The city hall office was opened all day beginning in 1968. The city has grown, and so has its staff. Employees now include a recorder/city manager, deputy recorder, treasurer, utility/zoning specialist, court clerk, municipal court judge (part-time), police chief, police officers, police department office staff, maintenance department workers, and others.

In 1972 there were between 850 and 900 homes in town. All the accounting actions, including addressing, computing, and billing, were done by hand. In that year mechanization began in the office with the purchase of a posting machine for utility billing. In 1985 the computer age was joined. In 1990 critical city records were micro-filmed.

At the city's first council meeting, held on 25 June 1867, the first business license granted by the newly incorporated city was to John W. Cooley for the operation of a store.⁹ A review of the biographies of Grantsville people discloses a large variety of occupations of the pioneers. Following is a list of occupations for the years prior to incorporation of the city ("F" by the occupation denotes that it was performed by a female; and the number in parentheses denotes how many were participating in the occupation): sawmill (3), building furniture (1), carpenter (11), mortician (1), tailor (3), teacher (2), making burial clothes (F) (1), wheelwright (1), molasses mill (1), street sale of matches (F) (1), blacksmith (2), mason (1), sewing (F) (1), selling butter (F) (1), butcher (1), merchant (3), hotelier (F) (1), shoemaker (1), washing clothes (F) (1), weaving carpets, (F) (2), spinning and weaving (F) (1), obstetrics (F) (2), dentist (F) (1), watchmaker (1) nurse (F) (1), building coffins (1), making horn combs, buttons, wooden trays, and spoons (1), cabinet maker (1), stair builder (1), freight (2), livery station (1), preparing deeds, records, and writing letters for people (1), candymaker (1), truck gar-

dening (1), fruit orchard (1).¹⁰ This is undoubtedly not a complete list of every occupation carried on, but it offers a look at the entrepreneurs of that time. As years passed, more and more needs of people were provided by local residents.

A more recent list of home businesses now licensed would include a tremendous variety: from fencing to hair salons to private investigator to hot tub rental to child care to word processing and more—the huge variety of occupations of any thriving small city. The only industry presently (1996) based within Grantsville is Salt Lake Brine Shrimp, which harvests, processes, packages, and distributes brine shrimp from the Great Salt Lake to a worldwide market. Though businesses are numerous, the business community's growth and development is somewhat hampered by its proximity to the shopping centers of Salt Lake City.

On 5 October 1892, with the granting of a franchise by the city council to Bell Telephone Company, phone service came to Grantsville. Two services were connected, one to Sutton Brothers and the other to Robinson's Store. On 14 October a public station was installed at the Grantsville Co-op, which was also located in the same general area.¹¹ As late as the 1930s telephone connections in Grantsville were still somewhat of a rarity. Children often ran to a neighbor with a phone message or brought the neighbor to their home to answer a phone call. By the 1940s party lines were in use all over town, with some phone lines serving as many as eight parties. This required a complex ringing system, and one could pick up the phone and hear anyone else on the line and even join in. The heavy use of each line often made it very difficult to make a call. In 1954 Mountain Bell increased the number of lines and established a substation in town, also installing the dial phone system.¹² More recently the touch-tone system became available.

In 1905 electric power came to Grantsville. City officials approved a petition from Clark Electric Power Company of Ophir (and later of Tooele) for a franchise to provide electric power to the city. On 1 January 1914 Utah Power and Light Company took over the system.¹³

In December 1964 Mountain Fuel Supply Company offered natural gas service if 85–90 percent of the city's households would sign

to use gas for at least one appliance.¹⁴ The city subsequently entered into a fifty-year franchise agreement with Mountain Fuel Supply.

The water in the Grantsville area that inspired the name "Twenty Wells" by which the area was originally known was located in the northwest part of the town. This lower area of the townsite had many springs and (later) flowing wells. Still later, electrically pumped wells were installed. As the town extended southward there were many residents who did not have the luxury of water in their backyards, let alone "inside plumbing." Others filled cisterns from open irrigation ditches and used that water for culinary purposes. The cistern method was unsanitary and became a serious health problem as the population grew.

In 1890 James L. Wrathall had petitioned the city council to grant him rights-of-way so he could install a piped water system for domestic use. The water would be supplied from the Stansbury Mountains' Magpie and Pope canyons. The system was never installed, however.¹⁵ Eva Sandberg, a schoolteacher who lived in the area serviced by cisterns, became so concerned about that water source that she contacted the Utah State Board of Health in 1932 and requested that it investigate. The findings of the board showed that the water was not fit for human consumption. Some area wells were also failing.¹⁶

City records do not show any attempt to correct the culinary water problem until 1938, however, when Mayor James R. Williams took office. This was fifty-two years after Wrathall's petition and six years after the grim report from the state board of health. North Willow Irrigation Company was in the process of installing a new pipeline, taking its water from North Willow Canyon to Grantsville. Mayor Williams approached the officers of the irrigation company with a proposal that the city would pipe water from Davenport Creek to the mouth of North Willow Canyon and add that water to the irrigation company's water. The city would then take some of the water from the terminus of the company's line for a culinary water system. An engineer estimated that the city's cost of materials would be \$40,000. Mayor Williams struggled with the city council and was finally able to get them to approve hiring an engineer for the pro-

posed project in April 1938. A bond election was held in July 1938, and the proposal was approved.

The project also had to have approval of the irrigation company. The company meeting was held in September 1938. The city made arrangements for transportation of the ill and aged stockholders to the meeting. The required percentage of stockholders was in attendance, and a vote of approval was given for the city's proposal. Approval was also required from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and the Farm Security Administration due to the aid they were giving to the North Willow Irrigation Company in its pipeline project. Their approval to proceed was given.

A 130,000-gallon underground concrete storage tank was constructed, from which the water would be fed into the pipe lines. The materials paid for by the city cost \$43,000, which was very close to the original estimate. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) employed many local people and provided \$40,000 worth of labor.¹⁷

The area faced other severe water-related problems during the Depression years, as has been mentioned elsewhere. Grantsville was in the midst of the dust bowl that developed in the mid-1930s as a result of extended drought and years of land mismanagement and overgrazing. By 1935 dust storms were so severe that residents were advised not to travel in the area and animals died from the choking dust. Federal reclamation projects were instituted, after some predictions were made that Grantsville might have to be abandoned to human habitation. These programs, along with the even more important return of wetter weather, helped restore the area to the point that such dust-bowl conditions have not returned.

Originally the water delivered to Grantsville residents was not metered; however, meters later were installed and people paid for the amount they used. Still later a chlorinator was installed, but its use subsequently was discontinued. City water is now pumped from three deep wells, and another storage tank has also been added. In 1989 the city could boast that it had a state-approved water system. Grantsville is one of a few cities in the state with an approved unchlorinated water system. By the mid-1990s the city is facing a need to enlarge its water storage so it can meet state requirements, which are based on population. Grantsville had grown to 4,500 people by the

1990 census, and growth continues. Plans include a new well, with a new 1-million-gallon storage tank.

In 1958, under the leadership of Mayor James R. Palmer, the city had begun a study of sewer needs. In 1962 a preliminary study determined that a sewer system was essential. City officials applied for funds from the U.S. government to defray costs of plan preparation, and on 14 August 1963 an announcement was made that \$3,500 had been approved for that purpose.¹⁸

Plans for the sewer system were still in their infancy when Teryl Hunsaker became mayor in 1966. Engineers reported in June 1967 that funds probably would not be available until the Vietnam War ended, but they would continue with preparation of preliminary plans. The next official mention of a sewer system occurred when an ultimatum was given by the FHA in 1969.

On 8 January 1969, representatives from the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) met with the Grantsville City Council, Grantsville Planning and Zoning Commission, and property developers and informed them that in many areas of the city the ground had reached the saturation point and immediate action was needed to solve the problem by installing a sewer system. The city's disposal of waste matter at the time was through cesspools, pools, and septic tanks. The FHA stated that it would cease issuance of home building loans until the problem was corrected. The agency also warned that the Veterans Administration (VA) would probably follow suit.¹⁹ These were two of the most-used lending agencies for new homes built in Grantsville.

A bond election was set for 3 November 1970; it passed, and at the 16 November city council meeting engineers were given authorization to proceed with the project. The system was completed and became operational on 4 December 1971. The cost of the project was slightly more than \$1 million. By 1993 Grantsville was faced with a major necessary improvement of its sewer system. The city council approved bonding for the project at its 6 October 1993 meeting.

Twice interstate highways have traversed Grantsville. The Lincoln Highway entered Grantsville from the east and then continued northwest through the town. Later, U.S. Highway 40 essentially followed the route of the Lincoln Highway. When Interstate 80 was con-

structed some miles north of the city, Highway 40 was taken over by the state and is now Utah Road 138. Moving the federal highway out of Grantsville was an economic blow to several local businesses, particularly the motels, gasoline stations, and restaurants. There is presently one motel in town, but its business usually consists of people who are temporarily working nearby; out-of-town highway traffic is now extremely limited.

Grantsville's older roads are wide. At the city council meeting of 16 July 1867 opening of a new road which would be seven rods wide (115.5 feet) was approved. There are several city streets that are 130 feet wide, and numerous streets that are 66 feet wide. There are approximately forty miles of roads within the city.

In the "Act to Incorporate the City of Grantsville" of 1867 it is written:

it is hereby made the duty of every able male resident of the city, over the age of eighteen and under the age of fifty years, to labor not to exceed two days in each year upon the streets, but every person may, at his option, pay two dollars for the day he shall be so bound to labor, provided it be paid within five days from the time he shall be notified by the Street Supervisor.²⁰

Perhaps the city fathers got a glimpse of the scope of work and money that would be required to take care of the roads and decided that some extra hands would be required to accomplish that task. The men of Grantsville are no longer required to fulfill that extra duty.

James Kearn was the first superintendent of streets; he was appointed at the initial city council meeting in 1867.²¹ A road sprinkler was the city's first road equipment, purchased in 1916.²² In 1950 the Grantsville Lion's Club undertook the project of getting street signs at road intersections. New materials were purchased by the city in 1966–67, and the signs were replaced.²³ In 1986 new posts and reflective green metal signs were installed. Grantsville became eligible for Class C Road Funds in 1971, when the population reached 2,500. These funds come from state gasoline taxes, and are distributed to counties and cities based on road mileage and population figures.

In 1912 and 1913 the first recorded attempt was made to have

better walkways for pedestrians. It was a joint project carried out by the "Parents Class" of the local LDS Sunday School and the city to grade and gravel walkways. Men and boys hauled and laid gravel; women prepared dinners and served them to the workers in the LDS Relief Society Hall.²⁴ In 1917, plans were made to divide the city into districts in which concrete sidewalks would be installed.²⁵ There have been several improvement projects completed for curb, gutter, and sidewalks since that first project, and subdivision developers are now required to construct those improvements.

There is a long-told story of a Grantsville man who had passed on to his reward. It is said that at his funeral the only good thing about him that could be brought forward was that he was a good irrigator. That this story endures indicates that a local person thought to have such a meager supply of grace is indeed unusual. The land originally set aside for the Grantsville cemetery is located on the east side of West (originally Cemetery) Street, between Main and Clark streets. There subsequently have been three additions of land to the cemetery. As an incorporated city it was necessary for officials to provide the necessities of internment in the city cemetery. This included grave preparation, providing conveyance to the cemetery, and keeping burial records. The cemetery was surveyed and lots were staked off in 1870. It was fenced that same year with a wrought-iron fence.²⁶

In 1912, fifty-two citizens petitioned the city council to purchase a fitting hearse. The city purchased a hearse from a Mr. Olsen of Ephraim, Utah, for \$635. A "hearse house" was erected at the cemetery. The hearse was white, and was drawn by two white horses. C.J. Stromberg drove the impressive outfit, took care of the equipment, and was paid three dollars for each funeral.²⁷

In 1962 a man was hired to plant trees and grass at the parks and the cemetery.²⁸ A 1968 letter to the citizens reported, "The cemetery has been completely renovated. Headstones were reset and the ground leveled. The cemetery is now in lawn and a sprinkling system has been installed. A research and record system has been made and grave sites recorded on plats."²⁹

Grantsville's law enforcement for many years consisted of a city marshal. When the automobile became a part of life, the city council hired a motorcycle patrolman to catch speeders who disobeyed the

speed limit. A 1925 ordinance also decreed that any motor vehicle must have suitable lights if it was used on the road at night. By 1935 it was deemed necessary to purchase a patrol car with a siren and spotlight.³⁰

To keep up with the needs of enforcing the law, a full-time deputy was hired in 1958. In 1964, approval was given for a staff of two full-time marshals. The first police reserve officers were approved in 1968. In 1974 there was a chief of police and two officers, and the staff has subsequently increased; by 1993 it consisted of a chief, four officers, and a part-time reserve officer.³¹ Grantsville ceased to use the jail in the old city hall and, by agreement with Tooele County, has used the county jail facilities and dispatch service, for which it pays a set fee to the county.

After a 1986 dispute in which three of the four police officers resigned, an alternative was discussed to hire the county sheriff department. Though this cost would be less than the current police budget, the loss in revenue from fines would make the total cost to the city greater. The council members determined that they would stay with their own police department. That same night, Ronald Skinner was hired as police chief.³²

The mayor appoints a local justice court judge (called a justice of the peace until 1992), with the consent of the city council. Until 2 January 1987, the Grantsville judge heard any cases from the county sheriff's department when the citations were issued within the city limits or on I-80 to a specified area north of Grantsville. On that date all city records were turned over to the county.

In 1921 the *Deseret News* reported a devastating fire in Grantsville that destroyed several business buildings. The estimated loss was \$60,000. The article stated that there was no way to fight the fire "as there was no water in the ditch," and the city had no fire-fighting apparatus.³³ The ditch referred to would have been one of the open irrigation ditches, which would contain the only water sufficient to fight a fire.

Five years after the 1921 fire the city purchased for \$1,600 its first fire-fighting equipment. A volunteer fire department was organized at that time, but the organization only lasted for about a year. In 1940 the city council created a committee to work toward setting up a new

volunteer fire department, which was established in 1941. Charles Sample, who operated an automotive garage, provided leadership for this organization, and much help was received from the Tooele City fire department. Sample was installed as fire chief, LeRoy Soelberg was secretary-treasurer, and Alvin Anderson acted as trustee.³⁴ This fledgling fire-fighting group had a membership of twenty men.

The Grantsville culinary water system was being installed at this time, and several fire hydrants were installed, making another big step forward in the city's ability to fight fires. The city council approved payment of one dollar per month to each member; however, the firemen decided to turn this small stipend back to the department to help improve the equipment. In 1998 there were forty-three volunteer firemen. They are paid a total of \$648.00 per quarter and are still generously turning that payment over to the department for fire-fighting equipment.³⁵

The Grantsville Volunteer Fire Department enjoys a very good reputation. Many of its members are (or have been) full-time firemen at the Tooele Army Depot or other government facilities. The city also has a safety net of fire protection through reciprocal agreements with Tooele City, Tooele County, North Tooele County Fire District, and Tooele Army Depot. In 1959 plans for a new fire station were approved, and much of the construction work was done by members of the department.

The Grantsville Pavilion was a large, open-sided wooden structure developed by the LDS church in the nineteenth century. It was a very popular place for civic as well as church celebrations and activities, and constituted the first park in the community.³⁶ Old-time residents told of Fourth of July celebrations that took place at the pavilion. They included games and homemade ice-cream and root beer. For a nickel one could get a large package of pink candy popcorn, and included with that was a Japanese paper parasol to provide shade from the hot summer sun.

The Pavilion building was torn down in 1939. Grantsville City never owned the property but did become involved with the property after Tooele County acquired it.³⁷ The county began development of the property for county stock shows in 1974. In 1976 the Grantsville City Council entered into an agreement with the county

wherein the city would maintain the grounds and schedule use of the buildings. This has made the facilities available for other group activities.

A couple of miles northwest of Grantsville is a group of naturally warm saltwater pools. This site traditionally was a favorite swimming hole and a place that inspired grand plans for many years. In 1913 Mayor Frank Burmester was instructed by the city council to do everything he could to purchase the pools. In 1917 forty acres of land, which included the largest of the pools, was purchased. The city expended funds to build concrete bathhouses and later had a concrete pool built that was filled with water from a nearby natural pool. The buildings deteriorated rapidly, however, and in time the place became unsightly and unsafe. In 1938 city officials determined that they would spend no more to keep the place usable for the public. It was then leased out at times, but no private venture succeeded. The pools finally became so unsanitary that very few people dared to enter them.³⁸

In 1987 Neptune Divers, a scuba-diving company located in Salt Lake City, approached the city and expressed interest in purchasing the land and pools. In 1988 city officials agreed to the sale at a price of \$13,500.³⁹ The company cleaned and developed some of the pools for scuba-diving purposes and planted some tropical fish in the pools. The water is nearly the same salinity as the ocean and is also warm enough that the fish can remain there year round. The complex is now named Sea Base.

The building that houses the only museum in Grantsville sits on the southwest corner of the Cooley and Clark streets intersection. It was built in 1861 to replace a log structure which was the first schoolhouse built in Grantsville. The new building was referred to as the Adobe School House, and it was also used for a chapel and recreation hall. The Adobe School House was outgrown in later years and in 1894 was purchased by Grantsville City. It was used for a city hall until 1917. In following years it became the property of J. Reuben Clark, Jr. In 1950, Grantsville's centennial year, Clark had the building restored, and on 8 October he presented the deed and key to the president of the Grantsville LDS Stake. He urged that other historical buildings and monuments be brought to the site and that the

grounds be beautified. He wanted the building to be used for women's civic and religious organizations. The building was later transferred to the ownership of the Grantsville LDS First Ward, and then, in 1965, to the city.⁴⁰

In 1976, the bicentennial year of the independence of the United States, grants were made available by the federal government for projects commemorating the event. Grantsville qualified for a bicentennial grant and also for state funds that would be used to improve the Adobe School House and to make it into a better museum. The project was accomplished under the leadership of city councilmen Farrel Butler and Gary Callister. A monument was erected proclaiming the building to be the Donner-Reed Pioneer Memorial Museum, named after the ill-fated pioneer emigrant party that passed through the area in 1846, its members abandoning many of their possessions in the future county as they struggled to cross the Great Salt Lake Desert and mud flats.

Donner-Reed artifacts can be found at the museum, many of them found by Wendell Bell and Vern Hammond, Grantsville High School students at the time. They turned those artifacts over to the high school in 1931, where they were displayed in glass cabinets in the school hallway.⁴¹ When a new high school was built, the collection was moved to the museum, which has one of the best collections of Donner-Reed party artifacts. Native American, pioneer, and other memorabilia from this area are also housed at the museum.

Other buildings at the museum site include a jail built entirely of steel bars that were riveted together by John Lars and Gustave Anderson in the early days of settlement. There is also a log cabin of Thomas Henry and Charlotte Gaily Anderson that was one of the earlier homes in town, and there is an old log shop and a covered area containing an antique sled and wagons.⁴² Members of the Grantsville Willow Creek Chapter of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers voluntarily catalog, arrange, care for the artifacts and the interior of the museum, and conduct tours through the building by appointment.

In 1983 the Grantsville City Council applied for a Community Development Block Grant from the state for a senior and handicapped citizens center. In April 1984 it was announced that the funds had been approved. With cooperation and work from the city, local

senior citizens, and the Tooele County Housing Authority, the building was completed in 1984. On 16 October 1991 ownership of the Senior Citizen Center was transferred to Tooele County. By agreement, Grantsville City performs all care of the grounds and provides water and sewer service. Since the completion of the center, a large senior/handicapped housing complex has been built just to the east, and a medical clinic is next door.

Bookmobile service of the Tooele County Library started in Grantsville in 1959. The Grantsville City Council and Mayor James Palmer resolved at a meeting held 28 October 1964 to donate space in the Grantsville City Hall to store excess books and provide clerical space. Grantsville City also agreed to furnish heating and lighting. This proposal was accepted by Nellie Paulick, chair of the Tooele County Library Board, on 13 February 1965.

The Tooele County bookmobile headquarters moved along with the Grantsville City offices when Grantsville City Hall relocated from its Main Street address to the Park Street address in early 1968. In the fall of 1980 Grantsville Mayor Keith Brown and the city council provided the old post office building as the bookmobile headquarters. The building provided a larger area and also provided convenient parking and a better loading and unloading area for the bookmobile.⁴³

Academy Square is located on the northeast corner of the Main and Center streets intersection. In 1892 the LDS church constructed a two-story adobe building with basement there for use as a church academy. The building was never used as originally intended, but it did serve as the Grantsville School after the Adobe School House at Clark and Cooley streets was outgrown. The first Grantsville High School graduates attended school there, and the building was used as a school from 1892 until 1927.

The building later had several other uses, including use for LDS church meetings. Still later the building, then owned by Hilda Erickson, was divided into apartments. During the Depression several families, including that of Hayden Anderson, lived in the building. Anderson was a talented violinist who organized an orchestra consisting of himself and other local musicians. The building became a place for informal musical gatherings. Oscar Anderson and family



The Stansbury Mountains. (Utah State Historical Society)

lived in the basement. A son, Charlie, had acquired a knowledge of electronics, and he built a radio station which would broadcast the musicals. The station, out of ignorance of requirements for broadcasting, was being run without proper licensing, however, and soon was closed down.⁴⁴

In 1956 the building was razed. Grantsville City now owns the property, where a fire station and the Tooele County bookmobile headquarters are located. Both buildings are back from the Main Street frontage, leaving a fair-sized piece of land vacant. In 1988 the Grantsville Beautification League requested that the site to be set

aside as a town square. The request was approved and a dedication ceremony was held on 24 April 1989 in which the site formally received the name Academy Square.

Grantsville's only park built to be used for daily recreation needs is the Cherry Street Park, located across the street from Grantsville High School on property purchased in 1958. In 1973 a letter to the citizens from the city council stated that a sprinkler system, bleachers, playground equipment, additional trees, a concession stand, announcement booth, and fences had been installed and that three ball fields had been improved.

The Grantsville Western Boys Baseball Association (WBBA), whose activities are carried on at the park, considers the 1971 world series to be one of its biggest successes, although a Grantsville team did not qualify for participation. Under the leadership of Derald (Dee) Stice, Grantsville became host of that event. One hundred boys baseball all-stars from Utah, Idaho, and California played in the series. They were housed in Grantsville homes. At the request of fellow workers in that organization, and because of his efforts in the WBBA program, on 21 June 1989 the Little League part of the Cherry Street Park was officially named the Dee Stice Memorial Park.⁴⁵

Now located at the park are two covered patio picnic areas, restroom facilities, and areas for soccer, softball, and volleyball. Fourth of July fireworks and celebrations are also held there, as are many organized youth team sports and family gatherings. A recent addition to the park is four tennis courts.

Any city newly adopting planning and zoning regulations faces opposition. Many citizens, especially in small communities, consider that such regulations are taking away their inalienable American property rights. On 25 May 1970 a zoning ordinance was adopted by Grantsville City, reflecting the growth of the area and the increased need for better safety management.⁴⁶

Utah Transit Authority (UTA) bus service was proposed in 1990. Citizens approved a 1/4 of 1 percent sales-tax increase for this service.⁴⁷ In 1993 the Grantsville Baptist Church installed benches at Main Street bus stops for the convenience of passengers.

Local civic and service organizations have done much to enhance and promote the community. They include the Boy Scouts of

America, Future Farmers of America, and the Grantsville Historical Preservation Commission, which was organized in 1991.

The 125th birthday of Grantsville City occurred on 12 January 1992, and locals organized a four-night celebration. Grantsville people also pay tribute to local citizens who have endured the hardships of war or have lost their lives while serving their country. Each Memorial Day the city administration makes sure that a flag is placed at the grave of every veteran. Each spring Grantsville also hosts its traditional Old Folks Sociable, which has been part of the community for well over 100 years—the first sociable being held in 1884.

Erda

The rural unincorporated community of Erda is approximately four miles north of Tooele City.⁴⁸ It lies within an area bordered on the east by the Oquirrh Mountains, on the north by Stansbury Park, and on the northwest by Utah Highway 138. The southern border of Erda lies south of the Grantsville-Erda Highway. The land gently slopes from the mountains at an average altitude of about 4,400 feet.

Erda's climate is similar to Tooele's. Average annual precipitation for the area is approximately 18.5 inches. Summertime high temperatures range in the high eighties or low nineties, with wintertime lows in the teens. However, temperatures sometimes climb above a hundred degrees in the summer and drop below zero in the winter. The average growing season is 164 days, from average last frost on 3 May to first frost on 15 October.⁴⁹

When the Mormon pioneers arrived in 1851, Erda was a grassy rangeland with areas of rushes fed by springs. In 1851 Ormus E. Bates drove his stock and some belonging to his brother-in-law Orson Pratt into the valley. He located a ranch at Tule (or Tuillia) Springs, a large quicksand spring, approximately three miles south of E.T. Benson's mill. Bates and his sons lived in a wagon for the first year.⁵⁰

The next year, the Bates family built a home east and a little south of Tule Springs using adobe and logs from Bates Canyon. They surrounded the home and springs with an adobe mud fort—the first in Tooele Valley—for protection against raiding Indians. The north wall, bordered by standing water, was never completed. The courtyard of the fort was six by five rods and the walls were twelve feet high and

eighteen inches thick.⁵¹ In 1855 the Utah Territorial Legislature granted "Ormus E. Bates, Orson Pratt sen., and their associates the right of ground for herding and other purposes."⁵² The land grant included most of the east part of present-day Erda. The Bates family was the only family in that part of the valley for several years.

The Philip DeLaMare family arrived in the valley in 1854. DeLaMare described the area from Stockton Pass to the shore of the Great Salt Lake as "a waving mass of grass three to four feet high which provided natural forage for deer and antelope."⁵³

When Mormon pioneers arrived, Goshute Indians inhabited the area. They were considered by the whites to be a poor tribe barely subsisting on vegetable seeds and roots, small rodents, reptiles, crickets, and grasshoppers. The settlers' arrival in Tooele Valley reduced the Indians' already meager resources, creating relations that were strained at best. Although the Goshutes frequently raided settlers' livestock, Ormus E. Bates made friends with them and earned their respect. His grandson Ormus A. Bates reported, "though they raided the herds of others in Tooele . . . no critter branded with the 'OB' brand ever came up missing."⁵⁴ The Indians were effectively restricted by the settlers to designated hunting lands while the settlers had family allotments in the choicest areas of the valley.

Bates's fort was designated "Rose Springs Forting District" by the Tooele County Commission on 1 November 1855.⁵⁵ The writer of an early LDS stake history explained:

The Tooele County Commissioners set aside several "forting districts" when the county was organized. Batesville was called the "Ormus E. Bates forting district," extending from the fort north to a line just south of the head of the Mill Pond, east to the base of the Bates Canyon Bench, south along the foot of the mountain taking in the Rose Springs (Bryan Springs) and west to the fort."⁵⁶

In 1855 the Tooele County Court convened at Benson's Mill in E.T. City. John Rowberry was designated probate judge. Ormus E. Bates succeeded him in 1859 and was elected to the post in 1860.

About 1855 William Pickett settled at the foot of the mountains near Rose Springs, about 2.5 miles east of Bates's fort. George W. Bryan arrived in 1858.⁵⁷ Reddin A. Allred and a few others later

claimed lands near the fort. Few other families moved to the area before 1860. In 1866 only two families lived in the area, which was then known as Batesville.⁵⁸

In 1858 when Johnston's Army threatened Utah, Brigham Young instructed the Latter-day Saints to move southward, leaving their homes to be burned, if necessary. Marantha Bates Tolman, daughter of Ormus E. Bates, described her family's flight:

We packed all we had in father's one wagon and waited for the command to leave. At night we lay down to sleep not knowing when word would come of the army which we thought was coming to destroy us. Mother went about the house placing everything in order and mending every bit of clothing we could find, for we knew that the time would come when we might be in great need of food and clothing.

There was a large number of we children in our family. We put away all of our playthings because we were too frightened to do anything but follow mother and father from place to place waiting for some word of comfort and cheer from them.

One morning father told us we were to leave that evening. There was packing and baking of bread that day. In the middle of the day, father scattered straw and leaves all through the house; and I heard him say, "Nevermind, little daughter, this has been our home, but it will never be theirs."

Then we joined the people on the road and learned that all was to be burned if the army attacked us. That night we camped on Willow Creek, and at ten o'clock everyone in the company knelt in prayer. Mother said our homes would not be destroyed—and they were not.⁵⁹

The families returned to their homes after the troops reached an agreement to establish Camp Floyd in Cedar Valley. In 1860 the land was opened for homesteading and other settlers claimed land near the fort district. These settlers included the families of Benjamin Hiskey, Orson Bates, James Simpson, John Hillstead, William Hiskey, William Dykes, Moses Warr, a Mr. Chandler, a Mr. Wheelock, James W. Tillman, Kenneth Bates, Leonard Smith, Joseph Rowberry, Robert Skelton, Hyrun Hill, Clark Higley, Cyrus Bates, Samuel K. Orme,

Barney Weyland, Lydia Rands, the Jesse Maine family, the Taylor family, and the Jefferson Huff family.⁶⁰

Early Tooele settlers hand-cut wild hay from the Rose Springs Fort area to store and feed their animals during the winters. During the summer herds of horses, cattle, and sheep grazed in grasslands.⁶¹ Herds of livestock belonging to general authorities of the Mormon church and other individuals roamed free in Tooele Valley in the early years of settlement; but the early Tooele settlers were apparently unwilling to turn their animals in with them. They hired Peter M. Clegg to take their small flocks of sheep to the Erda area by day and return them to their corrals at night.⁶² Early settlers in Batesville raised flocks of sheep and herds of cattle and horses.

Peter A. Droubay (Pierre A. de Roubaix) is credited as the first in Tooele County to try his hand at dry farming, attempting it in about 1870.⁶³ On his 160-acre homestead in Batesville he successfully dry farmed a variety of wheat that originally came from his homeland in France. Eventually he became the supplier of "Droubay Wheat" to farmers throughout the state. Droubay also introduced a French variety of alfalfa (then known by most people as lucerne) to the area amid other farmers' concerns that it was a noxious weed. It proved itself and became a mainstay in the farming industry of Erda. Droubay also successfully raised vineyards and orchards.⁶⁴

In 1875 Junius Jensen, using a sledgehammer and weights, drove the first artesian wells on the Bates property at a place where the water table was high.⁶⁵ Artesian wells subsequently supported irrigated alfalfa, clover, wheat, feed corn, and other grains. Fall-planted wheat was the major crop on most dry farms, which developed farther away.⁶⁶ While dry farms lay fallow every other year, irrigated land could be planted annually.

The advent of electric- and gas-powered pumps in the 1950s made irrigation possible on what had been dry-farm land. Much new land was put into the production of alfalfa hay, grains, feed corn, and other crops. The county's principal dry-farming areas now are south of Erda.⁶⁷

The first railroad in Tooele County was the Utah-Nevada Western Railroad, a narrow-gauge line, begun in 1874. Heber C. Kimball and John W. Young completed the line from Lake Point to

Bauer by 1883. It passed from Lake Point through Batesville where Utah Highway 36 now lies. The train hauled ore from the mines in Stockton, Dry Canyon, and Ophir.⁶⁸

The San Pedro-Salt Lake Railroad constructed a standard-gauge line along the Oquirrh Mountains to Batesville in 1900. In 1905 the Union Pacific Railroad Company completed a line from Salt Lake to Los Angeles via Tooele County and acquired the San Pedro-Salt Lake Railroad. The section from Lake Point to Juab County included a station which the company named Erda, the name being later given to the town of Batesville.⁶⁹

The original Mormon settlers of the Rose Springs district attended church meetings either in Tooele or in E.T. City. In 1873 Batesville was organized as the Bates Ranch Branch with Orson Pratt Bates as president, acting without counselors after 1877. The branch held regular, well-attended meeting at the home of Ormus E. Bates and at the schoolhouse, which was built in 1873.

Eliza R. Snow, Emmeline B. Wells, and prominent women of the Tooele LDS Stake organized a branch women's Relief Society in September 1880 with Mrs. Charlotte Hillstead as president. By 1884 Batesville had a Sunday School and a Mutual Improvement Association (MIA) where boy and girls met together. The Young Ladies MIA was organized separately on 5 November 1893, with Elizabeth A. Bates as president. Auxiliary meetings took place on Sundays. The Primary association for young children was organized in 1892 with Charlotte H. Woods as president.

In a meeting at the schoolhouse in April 1899, Tooele LDS Stake leaders organized the Batesville Ward. Charles Alvin Orme from Tooele was called as bishop.⁷⁰ Four years later, the Batesville Ward built a church with a large chapel and a stage and two small classrooms attached. Pot-bellied stoves provided heat.

In 1938, town residents tore down the schoolhouse and used the bricks to add classrooms, a kitchen, and restrooms to the church. Joseph L. Wirthlin dedicated the chapel in 1944. The ward name was changed from Batesville to Erda, reflecting the name change made by the railroad. The Grantsville LDS Stake was organized in January 1944 and included Erda Ward. By 1959 the population had grown and the ward was completely organized. Donated labor remodeled

the church again, adding closets, a large new chapel with an overflow area, and two new classrooms.

Rapid population growth led to the third and final addition under Bishop LeRoy G. Rose. Members donated their labor to create more classrooms, a bigger, improved kitchen and a large recreation hall. The addition was dedicated on 20 February 1977. In 1978 stake leaders divided the Erda Ward into two wards—the Stansbury Ward and the Erda Ward. In 1980, the stake again realigned the ward boundaries, creating three wards: Erda First Ward, Erda Second Ward, and Stansbury Ward.

Continued population growth again soon rendered facilities at the church building inadequate. In July 1992 Hale Construction Company broke ground for a new building on Erda Way, just west of Highway 36. The building, designed by LDS church architects, was the first of its particular design. On 18 July 1993 the new Erda church was dedicated.⁷¹

The first families in Erda were educated at home. In 1873 a frame schoolhouse lined with adobes was built in what was then called the Rose Springs School District. Nathaniel Woodbury was the first teacher, conducting classes during the winter of 1873–74.⁷² In 1883 the school building was moved about a mile southeast. It was sold at public auction in 1899. In 1896 a new brick schoolhouse was built on Utah Highway 36.⁷³ The building served for school grades one through eight as well as for community social and church events. This building was torn down in 1938, residents using the bricks to build an addition to the Erda Ward building. Older students went to high school in Tooele, traveling by buggy or on horseback. Some lived in Tooele during the week and came home for the weekends. In 1915 the Tooele County School District was organized, absorbing the Erda school.⁷⁴ After 1929 the district provided buses to transport elementary students to Tooele Central School.

Tom Warr drove the Erda school bus for thirty-four years. In very bad weather he would sometimes take children to his home, provide them with a place to stay, and see that they got to school the next day.⁷⁵ The students from Erda attended Tooele Central School until the spring of 1979. In September 1979, Stansbury Elementary School

opened and Erda students from kindergarten through sixth grade rode buses to Stansbury Elementary.

Erda was hard hit by the Great Depression of the 1930s, but, owing to the agrarian lifestyle, area people were to a large extent able to provide food for themselves. Those who lived in Erda during the Depression recall a feeling of community. Residents helped their neighbors and sometimes provided food or work to transients. Weekly dances at the Erda schoolhouse or at Pine Canyon or Lake Point drew crowds from throughout the area. Many farmers survived from bank loan to bank loan, paying off one loan just in time to take out another for the next year's crops. Others declared bankruptcy during the period but were able to hold on to their farms and make a comeback later.

Droughts during the 1930s were devastating to dry farms, and subsequent dust storms wreaked havoc. The lush pasture land that was in Tooele Valley when the pioneer settlers arrived had made it a favorite range for sheep ranchers, and Tooele Valley was on a route to both winter and summer ranges. By 1910 huge herds of sheep belonging to local and outside ranchers grazed the area. Although the situation had been developing for years, the grazing problem came to a head in 1929 and the 1930s. Overgrazing had reduced the grasslands to stubble and intermittent winds picked up huge clouds of soil, creating "Utah's Dust Bowl." Between 1929 and 1935 the dust bowl area had increased from 320 acres to nearly 46,000 acres.⁷⁶

Grantsville was hardest hit by the dirt and dust, but Erda felt its effects, too. Winds blew cut hay off fields before it could be gathered and filled stacked hay with dust, rendering it inedible for animals. Farmers resorted to doing their farmwork at night when the winds died down. One storm in April 1935 killed animals in the county; then, as the winds blew eastward, the sky in Salt Lake City assumed twilight conditions at mid-day. Department of Agriculture officials reported that unless measures were taken to control the dust Grantsville would have to be abandoned within two years.⁷⁷ The combined efforts of local farmers, the Bureau of Land Management, the Soil Conservation Service, and Utah State University Extension Service gradually rectified the problem through various reclamation projects and by restricting land use.

World War II brought relief from the economic woes of the Depression years. Young men from Erda marched off to war, and, after the war was over, some returned to the farms. Others continued in the service, pursued an education, or went to work in other areas. During World War II, two military installations built in Tooele County—Tooele Ordinance Depot and Dugway Proving Ground—brought jobs to Tooele County, and many from Erda got jobs there to supplement their farm incomes.

While agriculture remained an important occupation in Erda after World War II, the population of non-farm families in the area increased. Statistics show that there were 118 people in the town in 1950; by 1990 the population had grown to 1,113 residents. Many who liked the rural lifestyle moved to the area; others worked at the military installations and elsewhere.

In 1979 a group of citizens presented a petition to the Tooele County Commission to incorporate Erda. The issue caused considerable controversy in the county and never reached the voters. On the eve of the election, judges ruled that the county commission had not conducted an adequate investigation of the issue. They questioned how the petitions were presented, the number of residents in the proposed area, the exact boundaries of the town, and the number of legitimate names on the petition.⁷⁸ Erda remains unincorporated at the time of this history, although residents of it along with those in Lake Point, Lincoln, and Stansbury Park in the 1990s are all considering incorporation in the fast-growing county, either to get improved services for their tax revenues or to have a stronger say in the management and direction of their various areas.

In 1976, Fassio Egg Farms, previously established in Salt Lake Valley, expanded its operations into Erda. The company purchased a brooder farm where it could brood 120,000 baby chicks. In 1977 and 1978 it added two laying units housing 120,000 birds each in the northeast area of Erda. Fassio added a feed mill in 1981 on a siding of the Union Pacific Railroad. The state-of-the-art operation produced about 168,000 eggs per day, with automated feeding, egg gathering, packaging, and coop cleaning.⁷⁹

Disposing of the 30 to 35 tons of chicken manure produced daily was a major hurdle. The manure provided a breeding ground for

flies, and the fly problem festered for several years until in May of 1987 residents of Erda, Stansbury Park, and Lake Point protested about the hoards of flies that swarmed over the area. They took their complaints to the Tooele County Building and Zoning Board.⁸⁰ The problem lingered for several years while the county public health department worked with Fassio to solve the problem. Cooperating with the county environmental health department, Fassio agreed to treat chicken feed with an insecticide and use a fly predator in the coops to keep fly populations in check. The company also agreed to require manure to be plowed six inches into the soil within several hours of dumping.⁸¹ Fassio added more laying units on West Erda Way in 1992.

In 1969 the Tooele County Commission, under the direction of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), commissioned a site-selection study for what would become the Tooele Valley Airport. A 119-acre area was selected on West Erda Way approximately twenty-two miles south and west of the Salt Lake City International Airport. Construction began in the early 1970s, directed by the FAA, the Utah Department of Transportation and Tooele County.⁸² The airport boasted a single asphalt runway 75 feet wide and 5,500 feet long, a parallel taxi system, a fuel area, hangers, and aircraft parking aprons.

In 1991 Salt Lake City Corporation acquired the Tooele Valley Airport from Tooele County "to use as a prime training facility and to provide a fully developed general aviation airport in the western section of the region."⁸³ Most airport traffic consisted of training operations originating at the Salt Lake City International Airport and Salt Lake City Municipal Airport II. Local aircraft and, to a lesser extent, aircraft associated with the Utah Army National Guard and Tooele Army Depot also used the Tooele airport.

Between 1986 and 1993, airport operations increased about 127 percent. In 1993 a master plan was prepared to project potential growth and suggest plans for expansion over a twenty-year period. Potential plans include the purchase of 144 acres of land adjacent to the airport to extend the runway, add additional aircraft and automobile parking, and add executive hangers.⁸⁴

These recent developments indicate that Erda (and Tooele Valley in general) are in the midst of changes, developing both large-scale

agricultural operations and more urban lifeways while others continue to value the area's more traditional rural lifestyle. The area's growth promises to make the balancing of all these concerns important in the coming years.

Lake View (Lakeview, Lincoln, Pine Canyon)

Pine Canyon was the first canyon opened in Tooele Valley for the purpose of cutting timber. A few families settled for a short period during 1850 on Pine Creek as it flowed from the Oquirrh Mountains. The Leavitt brothers—Lamuel, Dudley, and Thomas—built a log cabin at the mouth of nearby Leavitt Canyon. Dudley Leavitt left Tooele Valley in September 1855 with his wives, sisters Mary and Maria Huntsmen. He subsequently was an important figure in the settling of southern Utah.⁸⁵

James McBride and Harrison Severe soon moved to the area from Grantsville because they were too few in numbers to protect their families and property there from Native American raids. In Pine Canyon they worked getting out logs, which they took to the E.T. Benson sawmill.⁸⁶ They had to go nearly to the head of the canyon to obtain good timber. When McBride and Severe left Pine Canyon to return to Grantsville in December 1851 they were accompanied by the James Benjamin Baker family and by Perry Durfey.⁸⁷

The "Tooele LDS Stake Manuscript History, Lake View Ward," indicates that in 1852 "some who lived in Tooele and owned land near Middle Canyon moved temporarily to [the] Pine Canyon settlement and took water rights with them for the land which they had claimed there."⁸⁸

In March 1860 lots were drawn by the people of Tooele City to see who would move to Pine Canyon due to the shortage of good farming land in Tooele. Brothers Archibald C. Shields and Robert C. Shields, another set of brothers, John B. Smith and Adam Smith, James I. Steel, and Moses Martin then moved on to Pine Creek from Tooele. George Marshall and Orson Pratt are also listed as 1860 settlers.⁸⁹ Orson Pratt, a Mormon church apostle, had sent his brother-in-law Ormus Bates into the northern end of Tooele Valley to herd livestock belonging to him. Bates was experienced at handling livestock, and, after spending a year in the valley in the temporary

shelter of a covered wagon, he decided to settle permanently near Tuilla Springs (present Erda).⁹⁰

Pine Canyon experienced its greatest growth with that 1860 exodus from Tooele. Wrote one historian: "For the first few years the 'exiles' spent the summer in the new location and wintered in Tooele City; but soon permanent homes were constructed; and they remained in Pine Canyon."⁹¹ Archibald Shields and his wife Ellen built a home in the new settlement and, as their family increased in size, they made up a rhyme to remember their seventeen children's names:

Johnny, Archie, Peter and Jim;
Martha, Belle, Ag and Prim;
Robbie, Nell, Will and Marvin;
Art and Liz to bind the bargain.
Catherine, Charles and little May
All have previously passed away.⁹²

A little ditty which was sung in the county went something like this:

Grantsville for money
Tooele for blood
Pine Canyon for babies and
E.T. for mud.⁹³

By way of explanation, the Grantsville sheepmen generally were prosperous, while Tooele was proud of its pioneer heritage and Mormon church leaders from the town. The other lines need no explaining, even if only the Shields family was counted in Pine Canyon.

Archibald Shields and his brother Robert developed the first brick-making business in Tooele County. They made the bricks on their farm and fired them in kilns they constructed for that purpose. The kilns were dome-shaped structures, about thirty feet high and twelve feet in diameter. Many of the finished bricks were hauled to Stockton for construction of a smelter about 1869; others were sold throughout the valley to those people who wanted to build brick homes. When the Stockton smelter became operational, Archibald

Shields built charcoal kilns to make charcoal to be used by the smelter.⁹⁴

The magnificent view of the Great Salt Lake and the gorgeous sunsets over the Stansbury Mountains caused the residents on 28 April 1876 to change the name of their town from Pine Canyon to Lake View. The local LDS ward which was organized on 24 June 1871 took the new name, becoming known as the Lake View Ward. In 1904, however, when the town received a post office, it was designated Lincoln, possibly after the Lincoln Highway, which passed within a few miles of the town. Lincoln remained the name commonly used by many even after the post office was discontinued in 1913.⁹⁵ Lincoln remains the official name of the area at present even though Lake View is probably more common due to its use as the name for the local LDS ward. Others still like the historical flavor of Pine Canyon.

The silk industry was promoted in Pine Canyon at an early date. However, after four years the Lake View settlers had to give it up because the climate was not right to cultivate the silkworms. The experiment did result in the planting of five acres of mulberry trees for the silkworms to eat.⁹⁶ In 1994, on the site of the silkworm farm, Kennecott Copper Corporation granted \$50,000 for the renovation of two Boy Scout training buildings.

William Wallace Sagers established a store in the front part of his home which stocked groceries, household supplies, fabrics, clothing, hardware, and farm supplies, providing a valuable service to the community through 1907.⁹⁷

The International Smelter stood for sixty years on the bench east of Lake View and many men from the town worked at the smelter. Its smoke drove some area farmers from the area; others settled with the company, as mentioned elsewhere in this book. The International Smelter bought some area farmlands that were being damaged by smoke emissions; for example, Robert Bruce Sagers sold his property in 1916 to the company and bought a ranch in St. John. By the end of 1974, however, the smokestacks and building were gone. The company which owned the smelter, Anaconda, later built a concentrator in the steepest part of Pine Canyon and farther up the canyon dug mine shafts. The Carr Fork project had an expenditure of over \$200

million dollars and was operational by the fall of 1979 but lasted only three years.⁹⁸

Flora Amussen Benson and Belle Smith Spafford were two notable women with Pine Canyon roots. Belle Smith Spafford was the granddaughter of John B. and Margaret Smith, who came to Pine Canyon during the 1860 exodus from Tooele. She became the general president of the LDS Relief Society. Flora Amussen Benson's grandmother Elizabeth McIsaac was the wife of Adam Browning Smith. They came to settle in Pine Canyon in 1860. Flora's mother was Barbara Smith Amussen. Flora Benson was honored as Utah Homemaker of the Year in 1955. Her husband, Ezra Taft Benson, a direct descendant of the early county leader, served as Secretary of Agriculture in President Dwight D. Eisenhower's cabinet and was later president of the LDS church.

Electricity was brought to the town by 1930 and culinary water was piped in from springs in Middle Canyon by 1935. In 1959 the population of the town was about 250 people.⁹⁹ Ezra Taft Benson dedicated the Lake View LDS Ward Chapel on 11 December 1977.

Stansbury Park, Lake Point, and the Future of County Growth

Unlike most Utah towns, Stansbury Park was not founded by settlers called by Mormon church leaders; rather, it was a planned recreational development, conceived by Terracor, a land-development company formed in 1969 in Salt Lake City. Stansbury Park was one of five major projects of the company covering a four-state area. It is located north of Tooele near the point of the Oquirrh Mountains in the area of former E.T. City (also known through the years as Mills, Mill City, and Richville). Franklin D. Johnson, a Salt Lake City businessman, was the company president and was joined by two brothers-in-law, Roger Boyer and Ellis Ivory, to form Terracor.¹⁰⁰

Approval for building a village complex in the northern end of Tooele Valley was given by Tooele County officials on 2 September 1969, and neighborhoods were laid out in three sections on Terracor's 7,000 acres—Millpond, Lakeview, and Country Club. Five model homes were designed to highlight the planned golf course, and a five-mile stretch of waterfront homesites was plotted.



The Stansbury Park Golf Course. (Ouida Blanthorn)

One of the builders—Norman Bangerter—later became governor of Utah.¹⁰¹

The development was named for U.S. government surveyor Howard Stansbury. In one year's time, nine miles of pipe—sewer, water, irrigation, and storm drain—had been laid and 450 new circuits were made available by Mountain Bell Telephone Company from Tooele to Stansbury Park. By the next year a 110-acre sailing lake had been carved out in the area of the old Millpond. The company set up a sales office on a houseboat on its sailing lake.

By late 1970, \$5 million in capital improvements—streets, gutters, underground utilities and water systems—had been installed. Lombardy poplars, now a Stansbury Park landmark, were planted by the spring of 1971. There were seven home plans, all of which had a distinctive California flavor (they were designed by B.A. Berkus and Associates of Los Angeles), and the streets were oiled to 1,052 home sites.¹⁰²

By June 1972 nine holes of a 7,000-yard-long golf course were in place. By 1973 an olympic-size swimming pool was operating year-round under an inflated bubbletop. A tennis court adjoined the

swimming pool. The two-story clubhouse of 9,000 square feet housed a cafe, lounge, meeting room, and exercise room.

The Stansbury Village Protective Land Use Covenants called for architectural control over homeowners installing fences, walls, swimming pools, or other construction. In order to make a homogeneous community, they also limited building materials, roof heights, wall or shrub plantings, and other matters. Only wind- or manual-powered craft were allowed on the lakes. The committee was also to review initial building or remodeling plans to determine their adherence to community standards.

Despite what seemed to some to be too-restrictive limitations, many others were attracted by the concept, and the development began to grow. The company employed aggressive marketing and promotional strategies that attracted a number of affluent people to the area, taking advantage of its proximity to Salt Lake City without the accompanying congestion and other less-than-desirable aspects of urban life. One of the first residents was LaDell Anderson, coach of the Utah Stars professional basketball team in the early 1970s. A volunteer fire department was soon formed. In 1987 a service district, which included nearby communities as well as Stansbury, was approved.¹⁰³

The first get-together for Stansbury residents of all ages occurred in the summer of 1974, and, since that time, residents celebrate an annual "Stansbury Days" in August with parades, games, fire truck and trolley rides, and barbeques. In the 1980s a community theatre group presented variety shows and theatrical productions.

A Stansbury Park observatory, sparked by Bruce Grim and Pat Wiggins, was completed in March 1977. Terracor offered the site, and members of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society went to work on construction. The public today is able to get spectacular views of planets, star clusters, and galaxies through regular viewings or star parties at the facility.

Many land developers fell on hard times in the 1970s, and Terracor was no exception. A reorganization failed to help, and Continental Mortgage Investors (CMI) of Coral Gables, Florida, which had backed Terracor, assumed total control of the company. A new company, which was formed by CMI's principal creditors, forced

Terracor into Chapter 11 bankruptcy in February 1981 until it could devise a plan for paying off its debts.¹⁰⁴

A plan which was devised in February 1983 for paying off Terracor's debt called for its assets to be transferred to two new Tooele County service districts and also added a 14-mill levy to existing taxes. One service district maintained land for public use between cul de sacs, greenbelts, and parkways; the other district maintained the clubhouse, golf course, tennis courts, and lake. In 1982, under the bankruptcy agreement, Terracor turned the water and sewer systems over to Stansbury Park, operating under authority from Tooele County.

The Stansbury Park Improvement District was responsible for the storm-drainage system. Stansbury Park also was conveyed water rights to serve its residential development area. This water has always been plentiful; in fact, surplus water has always been sold out of the district to other users. However, future development of the land may require additional water rights. The present water system includes two culinary wells, each with a pumping capacity of 2,800 gallons per minute. The system includes a 1.6-million-gallon reservoir on the bench east of Stansbury Park.¹⁰⁵ Golf course irrigation water at first was taken from the sailing lake, which was connected to the golf course ponds by a recirculating system. In 1984, however, the golf course was converted to the culinary system. Water is also sold to the commercial establishments at Lake Point and at nearby Great Salt Lake beaches.¹⁰⁶

The construction of Anaconda's Carr Fork, built in nearby Pine Canyon in 1979, brought many new families to Stansbury Park. When the mine complex was dismantled in the 1980s, however, Stansbury felt a great impact.¹⁰⁷

Many prominent people and others have called Stansbury Park home. Frank D. Wicks, for example, moved to the area in 1979; he oversaw the initial construction of the Getty gold mine in Mercur and then became its manager. He especially helped to improve the recreation facilities of the local park; his company donated the street lighting in the clubhouse area and upgraded the playground.¹⁰⁸

An elementary school of 49,500 square feet was built in 1979. Organizations have been formed in Stansbury Park to meet social

needs. A chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority has been formed, as has a golf association and a tennis association. Most religious activities have been centered in neighboring towns, although an LDS ward that included east Erda was formed in 1978 and has since grown and divided.

Construction activity in Stansbury has been great in the 1980s and 1990s, with new homes going up regularly. Many residents of Stansbury Park and other Tooele Valley communities commute to work and shopping in Salt Lake City, taking advantage of the area's proximity to the capital city. Growth was projected in 1998 to grow to 46,474 people by 2010. City and county officials are scrambling to keep pace and attract industry and commercial growth to the area to help provide a tax base for the county in the face of Tooele becoming a bedroom community of Salt Lake City.

Water has always been and remains a precious commodity in Tooele County, and it will doubtless be a limiting factor on the amount of growth possible in Stansbury Park, Tooele City, and other rapidly developing parts of the county, which have grown markedly in the boom economic times of the 1990s even with the downsizing of the Tooele Army Depot. In the late 1990s Tooele City began to develop a plan to require developers of land to acquire water rights before they could begin development, government officials hoping by this means to help regulate growth and assure water to inhabitants of the city during drought years that are sure to come.¹⁰⁹

Growth has brought controversy to the county in recent years, and many county citizens, especially residents of Tooele Valley, have expressed growing discontent with county government—sometimes for markedly different reasons. In the mid-1990s residents of Stansbury Park have considered incorporating due to a perceived lack of county services, but are uncertain that they could support their own government without a greater commercial presence and tax base.

On the other hand, residents of nearby Lake Point (formerly known as E.T. City) have also been considering the option of incorporating in order to have a greater voice in establishing zoning and other ordinances. In their case, many residents of the small town of about 180 families oppose a large new planned residential develop-

ment nearby of 2,000 or more homes, fearing the new development will destroy their rural lifestyle of open spaces, animal rights, and large lots.¹¹⁰

Tooele County's proximity to the booming Wasatch Front has brought its own population boom that citizens will be grappling with for the foreseeable future and into the next century. The county has been able to boast of its rural lifestyle yet convenient access to nearby metropolitan areas. Those values are being increasingly discovered, but, in the process, some of the quiet, open character of the county threatens to disappear forever, particularly in Tooele Valley. Tooele, throughout the twentieth century has been characterized by a few periods of rapid growth (especially in the 1940s, 1960s, and 1970s), a couple of slumps (the 1930s and 1980s), and modest growth in most other decades. With the county recovering nicely at the time of this writing from the downsizing of Tooele Army Depot, it is likely that the turn of the century will see a sizeable increase in county population from the 32,697 people counted in 1997.

Growth in Tooele County will doubtless always be somewhat limited by the vast arid spaces, still largely inhospitable to much life, even with the technology of the modern age. Those areas that do support people, however, will most likely be increasingly utilized, and residents will have a struggle to manage the limited resources like water if growth of the area is to continue or a favorable quality of life maintained. Like many Utahns, county residents will doubtless increasingly learn that you can't have growth without losing some other benefits—trying to manage growth will doubtless be a concern of all county residents in the next century.

ENDNOTES

1. Much of the material on Grantsville was originally prepared by Patricia Hunter as a possible chapter for this book.

2. Alma Gardiner, "The Founding and Development of Grantsville, Utah 1850–1950," 6.

3. *Ibid.*, 11–12.

4. Virgie Cooley, "Early History of Grantsville," 25.

5. Gardiner, "Founding and Development of Grantsville," 228, 235, 240, 259.

6. Ibid., 445–46.
7. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 1 September 1983.
8. Gardiner, “Founding and Development of Grantsville,” 437–44.
9. Cooley, “Early History of Grantsville,” 23.
10. See Mildred Mercer, ed., *History of Tooele County*, 483–507.
11. Gardiner, “Founding and Development of Grantsville,” 287–88.
12. Minutes, Grantsville City Council, 16 November 1964.
13. Gardiner, “Founding and Development of Grantsville,” 262–64.
14. Minutes, Grantsville City Council, 16 December 1964.
15. Gardiner, “Founding and Development of Grantsville,” 274–75.
16. Ibid., 276.
17. Ibid., 276–86.
18. Minutes, Grantsville City Council, 9 June 1958, 28 March 1962, 14 August 1963.
19. Minutes, Grantsville City Council, 8 January 1969.
20. “An Act to Incorporate the City of Grantsville,” Section 19.
21. Minutes, Grantsville City Council, 4 June 1867.
22. Gardiner, “Founding and Development of Grantsville,” 257.
23. Ibid., 328; Minutes, Grantsville City Council, 30 November 1966, 15 February 1967.
24. Gardiner, “Founding and Development of Grantsville,” 259–60.
25. Minutes, Grantsville City Council, 17 May 1917–10 August 1917.
26. Gardiner, “Founding and Development of Grantsville,” 252.
27. Ibid., 253.
28. Minutes, Grantsville City Council, 11 April 1962.
29. Letter, Grantsville City to its citizens, 1968.
30. Minutes, Grantsville City Council, 17 August 1925, 5 June 1935.
31. Minutes, Grantsville City Council, 16 February 1964, 16 April 1974, 14 July 1979, 14 May 1986.
32. Minutes, Grantsville City Council, 19 March 1976.
33. Gardiner, “Founding and Development of Grantsville,” 270.
34. Ibid., 270–71.
35. Ibid., 274.
36. Ibid., 143–44.
37. Minutes, Grantsville City Council, 4 September 1974.
38. Gardiner, “Founding and Development of Grantsville,” 257–68.

39. Minutes, Grantsville City Council, 18 November 1987, 6 January 1988.
40. Gardiner, "Founding and Development of Grantsville," 419–20.
41. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 13 November 1931.
42. *Grantsville Gazette*, 23 July 1987.
43. Orrin P. Miller, ed., *History of Tooele County Vol II*, 302.
44. Iris Anderson, interview with Patricia Hunter.
45. *Grantsville Gazette*, 14 June 1988.
46. *Grantsville Gazette*, 25 May 1989.
47. *Grantsville Gazette*, 5 September 1990.
48. Much of the material on Erda was originally prepared by Diane Sagers as a possible chapter for this book.
49. Gaylen L. Ashcroft, Donald T. Jensen, Jeffrey L. Brown, *Utah Climate* (Logan: Utah State University, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Utah State Extension Service, and Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, 1992), 84, 101.
50. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 262.
51. Ormus Bates, letter in possession of Tooele County Daughters of Utah Pioneers; *Tooele Utah Stake History 1847 to 1900* (n.p., 1977), 139.
52. Quoted in Juanita Brooks, ed., *The Diary of Hosea Stout* (Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society, 1964), 557.
53. George W. Tripp, *Early Tooele Documented Chronology Vol. I 1849–1866* (n.p., 1993), 18.
54. Ormus A. Bates, "Ormus Ephraim Bates, Pioneer 1851" typewritten paper in possession of Tooele County Chapter of Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.
55. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 96.
56. *Tooele Utah Stake History*, 139.
57. Emma Bethel Bryan, "Sketch of the Life of George Woodward and Margaret Simpson Bryan—Pioneers of 1842–1866," manuscript in possession of Joel Ray Bryan.
58. *Tooele Utah Stake History*, 140.
59. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 263, 264.
60. *Ibid.*, 264, 265.
61. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 156.
62. *Ibid.*, 156–58.
63. *Inventory of the County Archives of Utah, No. 23 Tooele County*, 32.
64. Jeanetta Droubay Brown, "History of Pierre Appollinaire Droubay," paper in possession of Tooele County Daughters of Utah Pioneers.

65. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 267.
66. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 158.
67. Ibid, 156–58.
68. Ibid., 345, 346.
69. Ibid., 117; Miller, *Mining, Smelting, and Railroad*, 133.
70. *Tooele Utah Stake History*, 140–45.
71. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 16 July 1992; 22 July 1993, 6, 8.
72. *Tooele Utah Stake History*, 140.
73. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 265, 142.
74. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 392.
75. Nina Warr, interview with Diane Sagers, Erda, Utah, 25 October 1992.
76. See B.W. Allred, compiler, “Conservation History of Tooele County” (Tooele: Soil Conservation Service, n.d.); *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 4 May 1989, 20.
77. Adrian Liddell, interview, Erda, October 1993; *Inventory of County Archives, Tooele County*, 33–34.
78. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 1 January 1980, 1; 16 October, 1979; 11 September 1979.
79. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 162.
80. *Deseret News*, 20 May 1987, B-1.
81. Vickie Rolfe, interview, Tooele, Utah, October 1993.
82. Barnard Dunkleberg & Company, “Tooele Valley Airport Master Plan Update Tooele County, Utah, Draft Report,” (1993), 1.
83. Ibid.
84. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 3 August 1993, 1.
85. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 16 January 1903; Thomas Keith Midgley, “Early Exploration and Settlement of the Tooele Area, Utah” (Master’s thesis, Brigham Young University, 1953), 37. See Juanita Brooks, *Dudley Leavitt, Pioneer to Southern Utah* (n.p., 1942), 21–22.
86. Midgley, “Early Exploration,” 16, 17.
87. Gardiner, “Founding and Development of Grantsville,” 18.
88. “Tooele Stake Manuscript History, Lake View Ward,” 1852, Archives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.
89. Ibid.
90. Ormus A. Bates, “Memoirs of Ormus A. Bates,” (1941), 2; Ormus A. Bates, “A Biographical Sketch of the Life of Ormus Ephraim Bates,” 1, 2.
91. Midgley, “Early Exploration,” 44.

92. Ella S. Swanson, *The Sagers Clan* (n.p., 1980), 132.
93. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 13 January 1983.
94. Swanson, *Sagers Clan*, 132.
95. *Ibid.*, 126.
96. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 74, 75.
97. Swanson, *Sagers Clan*, 189.
98. Miller, *Mining, Smelting, and Railroad*, 63, 71, 72, 79.
99. Mercer, *History of Tooele County*, 260.
100. *Deseret News*, 1 April 1981, 22 January 1994; Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 281.
101. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 313; *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 14 October 1970; 14 August 1973.
102. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 312.
103. *Ibid.*, 314.
104. *Ibid.*, 315; *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 30 November 1982.
105. Bill Whitham, "Water and Sewer," *Stansbury Park Chronicle*, January 1992.
106. *Stansbury Park Chronicle*, March 1993.
107. Miller, *History of Tooele County*, 316.
108. *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*, 26 July 1983.
109. See *Salt Lake Tribune*, Progress Edition supplement, 3 May 1998, N-46.
110. See *Salt Lake Tribune*, 21 June 1998, B1.

Selected Bibliography

- Allen, Dora. "History of Naomi Chappell Gillett."
- Allen, James B. "The Evolution of County Boundaries in Utah," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 23 (Summer 1955): 261–78.
- Allen, James B., and Ted J. Warner. "Gosiute Indians in Pioneer Utah." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 39 (Spring 1971): 177.
- Allred, B.W., comp. "Conservation History of Tooele County." Tooele: Soil Conservation Service, n.d.
- Anderson, Ruth. "Music on the Move." *Overland Journal* 5 (Spring 1987): 30.
- Arrington, Leonard J. *Great Basin Kingdom*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1958.
- . "The L.D.S. Hawaiian Colony," *Improvement Era* (May 1954): 314ff.
- Arrington, Leonard J., and Thomas G. Alexander. "Sentinels on the Desert: The Dugway Proving Ground (1942–1963) and Deseret Chemical Depot (1942–1955)." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 32 (Winter 1964): 32–43.
- . "They Kept 'Em Rolling." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 31 (Winter 1962): 3–25.

- . "World's Largest Military Reserve: Wendover Air Force Base, 1941–63." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 31 (Fall 1963): 324–35.
- Ashcroft, Gaylen L., Donald T. Jensen, Jeffrey L. Brown. *Utah Climate*. Logan: Utah State University et al., 1992.
- Athern, Robert G. *Union Pacific Country*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1976.
- Atkin, Dennis. "History of the Polynesian Colony at Iosepa." Master's thesis, Brigham Young University, 1954.
- Bancroft, Hubert H. *History of Utah*. San Francisco: History Company, 1899.
- Barnett, William. "The First Overland Letter to California." *The Overland Journal* 2 (1993): 25.
- Barney, Beth Lee Park. "The History of the Lee Family during the Colonization of Tooele County."
- Bateman, Ronald R. *Deep Creek Reflections*. Salt Lake City: n.p., 1984.
- Bates, Ormus A. "Memoirs of Ormus A. Bates," 1941.
- . "Ormus Ephraim Bates, Pioneer 1851."
- Behle, William H. *The Birds of the Deep Creek Mountains of Central-Western Utah*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1955.
- Bell, Maud S. "History of Elizabeth Orr Severe."
- . "History of Jane Brown Bell."
- Berry, Della. "History of Mary Garner De St. Jeor."
- Bevan, John A. "Events in the Early History of Tooele City." 1922.
- Bick, Kenneth F. *Geology of the Deep Creek Mountains, Tooele and Juab Counties*. Salt Lake City: Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey, 1966.
- Blanthorn, Ouida, Sarah Davis Green, and Gwenevere Anderson Stookey. *History of Clover*. Tooele: Tooele Transcript Bulletin Press, 1960.
- Brief History of Stockton, Utah*. Stockton, UT: Stockton Bicentennial Committee, 1976.
- Brooks, Juanita. *Dudley Leavitt, Pioneer to Southern Utah*. N.p., 1942.
- Brooks, Juanita, ed. *The Diary of Hosea Stout*. Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society, 1964.
- Brough, R. Clayton, et al. *Utah's Comprehensive Weather Almanac*. Salt Lake City: Publishers Press, 1987.
- Brown, Jack M. "Skull Valley Notes."
- Brown, Jeanetta Droubay. "History of Pierre Appollinaire Droubay."
- Bryan, Emma Bethel. "Sketch of the Life of George Woodward and Margaret Simpson Bryan—Pioneers of 1842–1866."

- Bullock, Kenneth C. *Minerals and Mineral Localities of Utah*. Salt Lake City: Utah Geological and Mineral Survey, 1981.
- Burnham, Robert C. "The Climates of Utah." Master's thesis, University of Utah, 1950.
- Butler, B.S., et al. *The Ore Deposits of Utah*. Washington, D.C., 1920.
- Carr, Stephen L. *The Historical Guide to Utah Ghost Towns*. Salt Lake City: Western Epics, 1972.
- . *Utah's Ghost Rails*. Salt Lake City: Western Epics, 1989.
- Carter, Kate B. *Our Pioneer Heritage*, vol. 9. Salt Lake City, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1966.
- . *The Story of Telegraphy*. Salt Lake City: Utah Printing Co., 1961.
- . *Utah and the Pony Express*. Salt Lake City: Utah Printing Co., 1960.
- Christy, Howard. "Open Hand and Mailed Fist: Mormon-Indian Relations in Utah, 1847–52." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 46 (Summer 1978): 216–35.
- Chronic, Halka. *Roadside Geology of Utah*. Missoula, MT: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1990.
- Clark, Matilda R. "History of Jane Huntington Eastham."
- Cohenour, Robert E. *Sheeprock Mountains, Tooele and Juab Counties*. Salt Lake City: Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey, 1959.
- Cole, Jim. *Utah Wildlife Viewing Guide*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press, 1990.
- Cook, Douglas R., ed. *Geology of the Bingham Mining District and Northern Oquirrh Mountains*. Salt Lake City: Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey, 1961.
- Cooley, Virgie. "Early History of Grantsville."
- County and City Data Book, 1993: A Statistical Abstract Supplement*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1983.
- Craven, W.F., and J.L. Cate, eds. *The Army Air Forces in World War II*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1953.
- Cronquist, Arthur, et al. *Intermountain Flora: Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, U.S.A.* New York: Hafner Publishing Company, Inc., 1972.
- Curran, Harold. *Fearful Crossing*. Las Vegas: Nevada Publications, 1982.
- Czerny, Peter G. *The Great Salt Lake*. Provo: Brigham Young University Press, 1976.
- D'Azevedo, Warren L., ed. *Handbook of the North American Indians: Great Basin*, vol. 11. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1986.
- DeVoto, Bernard. *Across the Wide Missouri*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1957.

- Dunn, Effie. "History of Susannah Elizabeth While Dunn."
- Egan, Howard. *Pioneering the West*. Richmond, UT: n.p., 1917.
- Flake, Chad J., and Vaughn P. Stephenson. "Shambip County." *Utah Holiday* (December 1986): 86–88.
- Foster, Robert H. "Distribution of the Major Plant Communities in Utah." Ph.D. dissertation, Brigham Young University, 1968.
- Fox, William. "Patrick Edward Connor 'Father' of Utah Mining." Master's thesis, Brigham Young University, 1966.
- Fremont, John C. *Report of the Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains in the Year 1842, and to Oregon and North California in the Years 1843–1844*. London: Wiley & Putnam, 1846.
- Gallagher, John S. *The Post Offices of Utah*. Burtonville, MD: The Depot, 1977.
- Garrard, Colleen, et al. *Lake Point Through the Years*. N.p., 1986.
- Gardiner, Alma A. "The Founding and Development of Grantsville, Utah: 1850–1950." Master's thesis, Brigham Young University, 1959.
- Gilbert, Grove Karl. *Lake Bonneville*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1890.
- Groves, Leslie R. *Now it Can Be Told, The Story of the Manhattan Project*. New York: Harper and Row, 1962.
- Gwynn, J. Wallace, ed. *Great Salt Lake: A Scientific, Historical and Economic Overview*. Salt Lake City: Utah Department of Natural Resources/Utah Geological and Mineral Survey, 1980.
- Hafen, LeRoy R., and Carl Coke Rister. *Western America*. New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1941.
- Hansen, Mary Kirk. "History of Jane Gilette Crosand Dew Bowan."
- Harris, Beth Kay, and Frank C. Robertson. *Boom Towns of the Great Basin*. Denver, CO: Alan Swallow, 1962.
- Hawkins, Bruce R., and David B. Madsen. *Excavation of the Donner-Reed Wagons: Historic Archaeology Along the Hastings Cutoff*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1990.
- Hilton, Hope A. *Wild Bill Hickman and the Mormon Frontier*. Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1988.
- Inventory of County Archives of Utah: Tooele County, No. 23*. Washington, D.C.: Works Progress Administration, 1939.
- Jennings, Jesse. *Danger Cave*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah, 1957.
- Jenson, Andrew. "Tooele, Utah Stake History, 1847–1900."
- Johnson, David F. "The History and Economics of Utah Railroads." Master's thesis, University of Utah, 1947.

- Johnson, Virginia Barrus. "History of Cyrus Tolman."
- Kelly, Charles. *Salt Desert Trails*. Salt Lake City: Western Epics, 1969.
- Knowlton, Ezra C. *History of Highway Development in Utah*. Salt Lake City: Utah State Road Commission, 1959.
- Korns, J. Roderick, ed. "Journal of Edwin Bryant." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 19 (Winter 1951): 43-107.
- . "Journal of James Clyman." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 19 (Winter 1951): 21-42.
- Launius, Roger D. "Home on the Range: The U.S. Air Force Range in Utah." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 59 (Fall 1991): 332-60.
- Leigh, Rufus. *Five Hundred Place Names*. Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1961.
- Lewis, Anna Viola. "The Development of Mining in Utah." Master's thesis, University of Utah, 1941.
- Lyon, T. Edgar. "This is the Place." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 27 (Summer 1959): 202-7.
- McBride, Ralph L. "Utah Mail Service Before the Coming of the Railroad." Master's thesis, Brigham Young University, 1957.
- McCarthy, M.R. *Patrick Edward Connor, A Closer Look*. Salt Lake City: Fort Douglas Military Museum, 1983.
- McCormick, John S. "Silver in the Beehive State," *Beehive History* 16 (1990): 7-11.
- McCustion, Marabelle. "History of Gertrude Isabelle Parker."
- McGlashan, C.F. *History of the Donner Party*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1968.
- McIntosh, William. "Diary of Wm. McIntosh: 1857-1898."
- McMillan, Calvin. "A Taxonomic and Ecological Study of the Flora of the Deep Creek Mountains of Central Western Utah." Master's thesis, University of Utah, 1948.
- Madsen, Brigham D. "John W. Gunnison's Letters to His Mormon Friend, Albert Carrington." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 59 (Summer 1991): 264-85.
- Madsen, Brigham D., ed. *A Forty-Niner in Utah*. Salt Lake City: Tanner Trust Fund/University of Utah, 1981.
- Madsen, David. *Exploring the Fremont*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Museum of Natural History, 1989.
- Marcosson, Isaac F. *Anaconda*. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1957.
- Midgley, Thomas Keith. "Early Exploration and Settlement of the Tooele Area, Utah." Master's thesis, Brigham Young University, 1953.

- Miller, David E. "The Great Salt Lake: Its History and Economic Development." Ph.D. dissertation, University of Southern California, 1947.
- Miller, David E., ed. *Utah History Atlas*. Provo: Brigham Young University Press/Weber State College, 1968.
- Miller, Orrin P., ed. *History of Tooele County, Vol. II*. Tooele: Tooele Transcript Bulletin, 1990.
- . *Mining, Smelting and Railroad in Tooele County*. Salt Lake City: Tooele County Historical Society, 1986.
- Morgan, Dale L. *The Great Salt Lake*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1973.
- . *Jedediah Smith*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1953.
- . *Overland in 1846*. Georgetown, CA: The Press, 1963.
- Muir, John. *Steep Trails*. Dunwoody, GA: Norman S. Berg, Publisher, 1970.
- Naylor, Harry. "The Western Pacific Railroad in Tooele County."
- Nolan, T.B. *The Gold Hill Mining District, Utah*. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper no. 177. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Geological Survey, 1935.
- Notarianni, Phillip F. *Faith, Hope, and Prosperity: The Tintic Mining District*. Eureka, UT: Tintic Historical Society, 1982.
- Ostler, Rebecca. "History of Emma Johnson Atkin."
- . "History of Sarah Matilda Utley Atkin."
- Palmer, James. *James Palmer's Travels and Ministry*. Salt Lake City: Utah Printing Co., 1963.
- Papanikolas, Helen Z. *The Peoples of Utah*. Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society, 1976.
- . "Toil and Rage in a New Land." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 38 (Spring 1970): 100–203.
- Parkinson, Dana. "Report to J. Cecil Alter, Establishment of Utah National Forests." 1930.
- Peck, Joseph H. *What Next Dr. Peck?* Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1959.
- The People of Vernon, A Compilation of Life Stories*. Tooele, UT: Transcript-Bulletin Press, 1983.
- Perkins, Keith. "A House Divided." *Ensign* (February 1979): 54–59.
- Peterson, Charles S., and Linda E. Speth. *A History of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest*. Logan: Utah State University Press, 1980.
- Poll, Richard D., ed. *Utah's History*. Provo: Brigham Young University Press, 1978.

- Porter, Maggie Tolman. "Memoirs."
- Powell, Allan Kent. *Splinters of a Nation*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1989.
- Powell, Allan Kent, ed. *Utah History Encyclopedia*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1994.
- Ransom, Jay Ellis. "Wendover: Home of the Atomic Bomb." *Northwest Rural Light* (November 1973): 24.
- Rice, Helen. *History of Ogden Air Materiel Area, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, 1934-1960*. N.p., 1963.
- Richins, Fannie J., and Maxine R. Wright. *Henefer Our Valley Home*. Salt Lake City: Utah Printing Co., n.d.
- Ricks, Joel E. *The History of a Valley*. Salt Lake City: Deseret News Publishing Company, 1956.
- Rigby, J. Keith, ed. *Geology of the Stansbury Mountains, Tooele County*. Salt Lake City: Utah Geological Society, 1958.
- Roylance, Ward J. *Utah, A Guide to the State*. Salt Lake City: Utah Arts Council, 1982.
- Sagers, Harriet Love. "History of Agnes Templeton Smith."
- Schaeffer, Frederick E., et al. *Geology of the Silver Island Mountains*. Salt Lake City: Utah Geological Society, 1960.
- Severe, Hiram Wallace. "Pages from my Diary."
- Severe, Wallace. "Sharing the Past." 1956.
- Sigler, William F., and Robert Rush Miller. *Fishes of Utah*. Salt Lake City: Utah State Department of Fish and Game, 1963.
- Simpson, James H. *Report of Explorations Across the Great Basin in 1859*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1983.
- Sloan, Robert W., ed. *Gazeteer*. Salt Lake City: Herald Printing Co., 1884.
- Smart, William B. *Old Utah Trails*. Salt Lake City: Utah Geographic, 1988.
- Spence, Mary Lee. "The Fremonts and Utah." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 44 (Fall 1976): 286-302.
- Stansbury, Howard. *Exploration and Survey of the Valley of the Great Salt Lake*. Reprint, Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1988.
- Statistical Abstract of Utah, 1993*. Salt Lake City: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 1994.
- Stevens, Dale, ed. *The Great Salt Lake Desert: A Geographical Survey*. Provo: Brigham Young University Department of Geography, 1975.
- Stokes, William Lee. *Geology of Utah*. Salt Lake City: Utah Geological and Mineral Survey, 1986.
- Stookey, Jemima E. Autobiography.

- Stookey, Walter M. *Fatal Decision*. Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1950.
- Sutton, Emma. "History."
- Swanson, Ella S. *The Sagers Clan*. N.p., 1980.
- Thompson, George. *Utah's Ghost Towns and Lost Treasures*. Salt Lake City: Dream Garden Press, 1982.
- Thorton, J. Quinn. *The California Tragedy*. Oakland: Biobooks, 1945.
- Tobler, Douglas, and Nelson Wadsworth. *History of Mormons in Photo and Texts*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1989.
- Tooele County 1993 Visitors' Guide and Business Directory. Tooele: Tooele County Chamber of Commerce, 1993.
- "Tooele Stake Manuscript History, Lake View Ward," 1852.
- Tooele, *Utah Stake History*. Tooele: Tooele Transcript Bulletin Press, 1977.
- Townley, John. *The Pony Express Guidebook*. Sparks, NV.: Great Basin Studies Center, 1945.
- Tripp, George W. *Early Tooele Documented Chronology Vol. I 1849–1866*. N.p., 1993.
- . "Tooele—What Is the Name's Origin?" *Utah Historical Quarterly* 57:273–76.
- Tullidge, Edward W. *History of Salt Lake City and its Founders*. Salt Lake City: Tullidge, 1886.
- The United Methodist Church, The First Century of the Methodist Church in Utah*. N.p., 1970.
- U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population: 1950, Part 44, Utah*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Commerce, 1952.
- Utah Agricultural Statistics*. Salt Lake City: Utah Department of Agriculture, 1982.
- Van Cott, John W. *Utah Place Names*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1990.
- Webb, Henry J. "Edwin Bryant's Trail Through Western Utah." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 29 (Spring 1961): 128–35.
- Whitehouse, Stanley. "The Rise and Fall of the Tooele Smelter."
- Whitney, Orson F. *Popular History of Utah*. Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1916.
- Williams, Terry Tempest. "A Year with the Great Salt Lake." *Salt Lake Tribune*, 28 December 1992.
- Woodbury, Angus M., ed. *Ecological Check Lists, The Great Salt Lake Desert Series*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah, 1956.
- Young, Levi Edgar. *The Founding of Utah*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1923.

Index

- Ackerman, Janet, 184
Adams, Cheryl, xii
Adams, Mary Tuttle, 194
Adams, Tom, 216–17
Adams, William B., 194
Adaseim, 42, 282
Adobe Rock, 55
Adobe School House, 346–47
Advanced Health Systems, 208
Agriculture, 226–37
Airis, E.H., 143
Ajax, 305
Ajax Underground Store, 305
Ajax Variety, 167
Ajax, Ivor, 160
Ajax, William, 305
Akzo Salt, Inc., 222, 321
Aldous, Tura, 206
Allen, Elaine, xi
Allen, Ron, xii
Allen's Cash Store, 215
Allred, Reddin A., 352–53
Amax, 326
American Barrick Resources
 Corporation, 150
American Legion, 190
American Red Cross, 207
American Salt Company, 320–21
Amezcuca, Martha, 184
Anaconda Copper Company, 212, 298
Anderson, Alvin, 345
Anderson, August, 207
Anderson, Charles, 136
Anderson, Charlie, 349
Anderson, Charlotte Gaily, 347
Anderson, Gustave, 347
Anderson, Hayden, 348
Anderson, Helen, 206
Anderson, Hilda, 334
Anderson, LaDell, 365
Anderson, Matilda, 333
Anderson, Oscar, 348–49
Anderson, Rupert, 133
Anderson, Thomas Henry, 347
Andres, Mary, 145
Andrew Carnegie Library Foundation,
 204
Animals, 25–26
Aptus Company, 223
Arbon, Issac, 141

- Archambeau, August, 50
 Armstrong, Mary, 164
 Arthur, Cecil, xi
 Arthur, Edward J., 139
 Ashley, William, 23
 Assemblies of God, 187
 Atkin Coal, 167
 Atkin, Frank, 129
 Atkin, George, 81–82
 Atkin, Willard, 129
 Atomic Bomb, 258–59
 Auto Racing, 318–19

 B.A. Berkus and Associates, 364
 Badger Island, 21
 Baker, Benjamin, 333
 Baker, James Benjamin, 360
 Ball, Lafayette, 95
 Bang Box, 265
 Bangerter, Norman, 326, 364
 Baptist Church, 186
 Barbee, William, 127
 Barbiero, Janet, 184
 Barker, John, 123
 Barker, William, 123
 Barney, Royal, 68
 Barrow, Henry, 128
 Barrus, Emery, 336
 Barrus, Orlando "Cot," 216–17
 Barrus, Owen, 312–13
 Bartleson, John, 48–49
 Barton Truck Lines, 167, 168–69
 Bates, Cyrus W., 335, 353
 Bates, Elizabeth A., 355
 Bates, Kenneth, 353
 Bates, Ormus E., 12, 351–52, 353, 355, 360–61
 Bates, Orson, 353, 355
 Bathing Resorts, 154–49
 Bauer, 123, 293, 298
 Bauer, B.F., 298
 Bauer, Richard W., 185
 Baugus, Robert, 240
 Beck, Loya S., xi
 Beckwith, Edward G., 58, 91, 311
 Beesley, Ebenezer, 160
 Bell, Jane Brown, 84

 Benmore Soil Conservation Project, 306
 Bennion Peak, 6
 Bennion, Israel, 10
 Bennion, Ruth, 166
 Benson Mill, 70–74, 169, 226, 351–52, 360
 Benson, Andrew Gustave, 296
 Benson, Ezra T., 10, 40, 65–66, 70–74, 231
 Benson, Ezra Taft, 363
 Benson, Flora Amussen, 363
 Benson, Lula Mae Sabin, 296
 Bell, Wendell, 347
 Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, 189
 Bevan Hardware, 168
 Bevan, Isabel McPherson, 84
 Bevan, John, 12
 Bidwell, John, 48–49
 Biological warfare, 265
 Bird Island, 21
 Bird species, 189
 Bird, Edward, 141
 Bithell, Samuel, 295
 Black Crook Pea, 6
 Black Hawk War, 79
 Black Rock, 57, 154–55, 157–58
 Blanthorn, Boyd, xi, xii
 Blue Bell District, 138
 Bonelli, Joe, 217
 Bonelli, Mary, 217
 Bonnemort, Edgar, 312
 Bonnemort, Elizabeth, 312
 Bonneville Museum, 170
 Bonneville Salt Flats, 19, 318–19
 Bonneville, Benjamin L.E., 48
 Bookmobile, 204, 348
 Booth, Edwin, 277
 Bothun, P.J., 145
 Bothwell, Floyd, 147
 Bothwell, Glenn, 147
 Bowan, Jane Gillette Crosland Dew, 82–83
 Bowen, Barbara, 85
 Bowen, Benjamin Lee, 312–13
 Bowen, E., 195
 Boyd, George, 95, 96

- Boyer, Roger, 363
Boyington, Joseph, 68
Bracken, William, 145
Bradon, Olga, 203
Brande, George, 291
Brickmaking, 361
Bridger, James, 46
Brigham Young University, 94
Brine Shrimp, 328–29
Brown, Albert, 138
Brown, Elizabeth, 133
Brown, Hal W., 143
Brown, J. Keith, 337, 348
Brown, James, 297
Brown, Jane, xi
Brown, Lawrence A., 124, 242
Brown, Lottie, 212
Brown, Robert T., 274
Brown, Will S., 212
Bryan, George, 194, 352
Bryant, Edwin, 55
Buckhorn Mining Boarding House, 130
Buehler, J.H., 298
Buhl, 297, 298
Bullion Coalition Mines, 298
Buneta, Matilda, 174
Buneta, Mike, 174
Bureau of Land Management, 94, 236, 319
Burg, Jeanne, 184
Burmester, 108, 322
Burmester, Frank, 322
Burns, John R., 263
Burridge, George W., 303, 304
Burt, Andrew, 162–63
Burton, Richard, 154
Butler, Farrel, 347
Buzianis, George, 323
Buzianis, Tom, 174

Caldwell Drug, 167
Caldwell, David, 303
Caldwell, Isaac, 303
Caldwell, James, 303
Caldwell, Robert, 303
Call, Anson, 71
Call, Henrietta, 66
Call, Josiah, 66, 71
Call, Sarah, 66
Callao, 135
Callister, Gary, 347
Camp Floyd, 163–64, 289
Camp Floyd Mining District, 142–43, 290
Camp Relief, 289
Camp Wapiti, 189
Camp Warner, 254
Campbell, Eugene E., xii
Cannon, Angus, 140
Cannon, Martha Hughes, 206
Carapolis, Harry, 179
Carr Fork, 219–20, 362–63
Carr, Blaine, 96
Carrington Island, 21
Carrington, Albert, 56–57
Carson, Christopher (Kit), 50
Carson, Clifford, 170
Carson, Sophia, 132
Carter, George, 334
Catholic Church, 174, 181–87
Cedar Mountains, 4, 14–15
Celebrations, 160
Centennial History Project, vii
Center, 305
Central School, 196
Cerroni, Fyreno, 177–78
Charcoal Kilns, 123
Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System, 252
Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, 209
Chicago Works, 298
Child, John J., 301
Childs, George, 303
Childs, John, 303
Chorpenning, George Jr., 90, 91–92, 93–94, 312
Christensen's Store, 169
Christian Faith Church, 187
Church of Christ, 187
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 62, 186–87; and Goshute Indians, 312–14, 352
City of Corinne, 156–57

- Civic League, 190
 Civilian Conservation Corps, 101, 103, 239–40
 Clark Electrical Company, 221, 297, 338
 Clark Power Company, 221
 Clark Railroad, 127
 Clark, Charles, 139
 Clark, Elliot, 187
 Clark, George, 139
 Clark, J. Reuben Jr., 346–47
 Clark, William, 111, 127
 Clegg, Benjamin, 68
 Clegg, Howard, xi
 Clegg, Peter, 170, 354
 Clifton Mining District, 132–35
 Climate, 24–25
 Clinton, Jeter, 156, 158
 Clinton's Landing, 156
 Clover, 301–5
 Clover Creek, 303
 Cluff, H.H., 277
 Clyman, James, 46, 50, 52
 Coast-to-Coast, 169
 Cochran, George, 206
 Collins, James, 297
 Columbia Mining District, 137–38
 Combined Metals Reduction Company, 298
 Condie Ranch, 275
 Connor, Angie, 295
 Connor, Frank L., 301
 Connor, Patrick, 40, 93, 121, 290–94
 Connor, Sarah, 295
 Consolidated Maintenance Facility, 250
 Consolidated Mercur Gold Mines Company, 144–45
 Continental Mortgage Investors, 365
 Convict Labor, 101
 Conway, Thomas, 297
 Cook, Edna, 134
 Cook, Elizabeth, 93
 Cook, John, 134
 Cooley, John W., 334, 337
 Cornet Store, 169
 Craig, G.S., 303
 Craner Peak, 14
 Craner, George, 70
 Crater Island Mountain, 13
 Creek Mountains, 2
 Crickets, 68
 Crosland, Benjamin, 73
 Crystal White Salt, 320
 Cummings, Angie, xii
 Custer, Lorenzo D., 40, 72, 79
 Czerny, Peter, 22
 Dalton, Edward J., xi
 Dalton, Edwin Jr., xi
 Daly, Marcus, 212
 Danger Cave, 35, 189, 318
 Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 169, 170, 190, 347
 Davids, Judson Leon, 66
 Davids, Velva Elizabeth, 66
 Davies, Griffith, 303
 Davis, Amos, 94
 Davis, Brigham, 81
 Davis, David E., 98, 170
 Davis, Dorothy H., xi
 Davis, Elizabeth Griffith Maxwell, 81
 Davis, Frank, 205, 206
 Davis, George, 93, 206
 Davis, Royal, 96
 Dawson, Nicholas, 48–50
 De St. Jeor, Francis, 303, 304
 De St. Jeor, Mary Garner, 85
 Dean, Denise, 184
 Decker Field, 260–62, 317–18
 Dee Stice Memorial Park, 350
 Deep Creek Mission, 312–14
 Deep Creek Mountains, 2, 7–8, 132–35, 311–14
 Deep Creek Railroad Company, 107, 114
 Defense Industries, 247–67: Tooele
 Army Depot, 247–51; Deseret
 Chemical Depot, 251–54;
 Wendover Air Force Base, 254–62;
 Utah Test Range, 262–63; Dugway
 Proving Ground, 263–67
 DeLaMare, Jeannette M., 204
 DeLaMare, John C., 162–63
 DeLaMare, Lydia, 204, 206

- DeLaMare, Philip, 59, 144, 352
Delle, 108
Delle Ranch, 274
DeMichele, Anthony, 172
Dennis, Joshua, 300
Dentistry, 206, 336
Denton, George, 292, 296
Denton, Margaret Jan Pears, 296
Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, 107
Dern, George, 133, 143, 146, 211–12
Deseret Chemical Depot, 251–54
Deseret Livestock Company, 234, 272, 274–75
Deseret Peak, 9
Deseret Peak Wilderness Area, 10, 188–89
Deseret Salt, 320
Deseret Telegraph Company, 98
Desert Archaic Culture, 34–35
Detroit Diesel, 250
Devil's Post Pile, 17
Devine, John, 313–14
Dezurick, Gerald, 184
Diamond Crystal Salt, 321
Digger Indians, 39
Division of State History, viii, x
Dodds, William Bovee, 85, 205
Dominguez, Francisco Atanasio, 45–46
Domtar, 320
Donner-Reed Museum, 169, 347
Donner-Reed Party, 52–54, 263
Donner-Reed Pass, 14
Dooley-Bamberger Ranch, 274
Doremus, Abram F., 242
Doty, James, 42, 282
Douglas, Stephen A., 292
Douris, Thomas, 157
Drama, 160
Droubay, Ivan, 298
Droubay, Peter A., 354
Dry Canyon, 288
Dry farming, 354,
Dugway Mining District, 139–41
Dugway Proving Ground, 263–67
Dunn, Alex, 167
Dunn, Hattie, 297
Dunn, Jessie, 297
Dunn, Joel, 167
Dunn, Susannah Elizabeth White, 85
Durfey, Perry, 360
Durkee, Charles, 335
Dykes, William, 353
E.T. City, 73, 74
Eagle, Dave, 12, 282–83
Eagle, Kate, 283
Eagles Lodge, 190
Eardley, Armonad J., 324
East Elementary, 199
Eastham, Jane Huntington, 86
Edler, Sadie N., 204
Education, 194–204 (see also schools)
Edwards, C.A., 185–86
Edwards, Esaias, 72
Egan, Dan, 140
Egan, Howard, 91–92, 95, 96, 311
Egan, John Loyd, 96
Eisenhower, Dwight D., 101
Ekker, Albert, 136
Ekker, Jaobus, 136
Electricity, 220–21
Elich, Mike, 173
Eliot, L.O., 206
Elton Tunnel, 218
England, Hannah Catherine Larson, 81
Epperley, Wayne T., 185
Erda, 24, 199, 351–59
Erickson Mining District, 135–36
Erickson, Amy, 334
Erickson, Hilda Anderson, 85, 204, 207, 314, 334, 348
Erickson, John A., 85, 312–13, 314, 334
Erickson, Norman, 135
Erickson, Perry, 334
Erickson, Swen, 170
Erickson, Ted, 135
Escalante, Silvestre Velez, 45–46
Estela, Ada, 291
Evans, Robert, 47–48
Faith Christian Fellowship, 187
Family Practice Group, 209
Farm Bureau, 190
Fassio Egg Farms, 358–59

- Faust Pony Express Station, 94, 289
 Faust, Elsie Ann Akerley, 92
 Faust, Henry Jacobs, 90, 92, 289
 Faust, James H., 132
 Federal, Joseph Lennox, 183
 Felt, John, 336
 Ferguson, James, 312
 Feuebach, Joyce, xi
 Fire Departments, 165–66, 344–45
 First Baptist Church, 187
 First Lutheran Church, 187
 First National Bank, 167
 Fish Springs Pony Express Station, 95
 Fisher, Carl G., 101
 Fisher, Jan, 281
 Fisher, William, 94
 Fitzgerald, Joseph T., 184
 Flaim, Max, 184
 Flat Top Peak, 13
 Flinders, John T., 141
 Flora, 26–28
 Foote House, 165–66
 Foote, C.S., 136
 Foote, E., 195
 Foote, Erastus S., 128, 166
 Foote, J., 94
 Fort Douglas, 292
 Fox, Jesse W., 70, 303
 Fraeb, Henry, 46
 Francis, Joseph, viii
 Frazier, Jesse, 291
 Frazier, Isabella, 291
 Frazier, Richard, 303
 Fredrickson, Joseph, 227
 Freegard, Charles, 183
 Fremont Indians, 35–37
 Fremont Island, 50
 Fremont, John C., 13, 23, 50, 118, 271, 315
 Fruit Growing, 228
 Fuller, Craig, viii, xi
 Fur Trade, 46–48

 Gamble, Ward, 179
 Gambling, 316–17
 Garcia, James, 184
 Garcia, Zettie Painter, xi

 Gardner, Archibald, 121, 293
 Garfield Beach Resort, 155, 157, 161–62
 Garfield, James A., 157
 German Prisoners of War, 254, 264
 Gerster, Ada, 133
 Gerster, Jacques J., 133
 Getty Oil Company, 148–49
 Gilbert, Grove Karl, 16, 18
 Gillespie, Ed, 216
 Gillespie, John, 79
 Gillett, Naomi Chappell, 83–84
 Glassman, William, 158
 Goble, Silas, 47–48
 Gochis, Angelina K., 178
 Gochis, Bill, 174
 Gochis, James T., 178–79
 Gochis, Trifon J., 178
 Godbe, William, 298
 Goins, George, 206
 Gold Hill 133–35, 200
 Gold Miners' Trail, 142
 Gollaher, James, 72
 Gordon Furniture, 167
 Gordon, George, 275
 Goshute Enterprises, 313
 Goshute Indians, 37–44, 93, 105, 201, 224, 267, 281–84, 312–14, 352
 Gowans, Barbara, 98
 Gowans, H.S., 128
 Graham Peak, 14
 Grant, George D., 78, 334–35
 Grant, Heber J., 186
 Grantsville, 24, 331–51
 Grantsville Baptist Church, 350
 Grantsville Beautification League, 349
 Grantsville Dam, 243
 Grantsville Deseret Bank, 167
 Grantsville District, 244
 Grantsville Dust Bowl, 234, 357
 Grantsville Forest Reserve, 10
 Grantsville Garden Club and City Beautification League, 190
 Grantsville High School, 201, 335, 348
 Grantsville LDS Stake Academy, 198, 201, 349
 Grantsville Opera House, 160
 Grantsville Pavilion, 345

- Grantsville Senior Citizens, 190
Grantsville Soil Conservation District, 235
Grantsville State Bank, 237
Grantsville Western Boys Baseball Association, 350
Grantsville Woolen Factory, 74
Grassy Mountains, 16
Great Basin, 5, 50
Great Depression, 104, 217–18, 228, 234–35, 237–40, 357
Great Salt Lake, 5–6, 21–24, 45–47, 118–21, 154–59, 318–19, 323–30
Great Salt Lake Desert, 5–6, 18–21, 318–19
Great Salt Lake Land Act, 323
Great Salt Lake Minerals and Chemical Company, 323, 325
Greek Orthodox Church, 174–75
Greeley, Horace, 92, 154
Greeley, L., 143
Green, Dave, 139
Green, E.M., 194
Griffith, Gary, xii
Griffith, Joseph, 118
Grim, Bruce, 365
Grimm, Maxine, xii
Griswald Construction Company, 243
Gundry, Richard, 295, 297
Gundrey, William N., 297
Gunnell, Francis, 68
Gunnison, John, 57, 58, 64

Hale Construction Company, 356
Hale, Aroet, 333, 336
Hale, Louisa Cooke, 333
Hall, Julius, 131
Hall, Samuel Parley, 95
Halladay, Sterling, 323
Hamblin, Jacob, 283
Hames, Joe, 300
Hammond, James, 123
Hammond, Vern, 347
Hampton, B.Y., 298
Hanks and Evans Confectionary, 167, 168
Harding, Curtis, 217

Harlan-Young Party, 51–52
Harlan, George, 51
Harris School, 198
Harris, Moses (Black), 46
Harris, Sterling, 197, 198, 218
Harry-nup, 42
Harvey-Nup, 282
Haslem, William, 303
Hastings Cutoff, 50–51
Hastings, Lansford, 50–51
Hat Island, 21
Hatch Ranch, 275
Hatch, Orrin, 272
Hawaiian colonists, 276–81
Hazardous Waste Disposal, 222–23
Heath, Thomas, 68
Heaton Wildlife Range, 12
Hendry, James, 314
Henry, George A., 133
Hercules District, 136
Herman, Charles, 195
Hervat, Frank, 179
Hervat, John, 179
Hetherington, Mary Jane, 290
Hickman Canyon, 288
Hickman, George, 288
Hickman, Mary Jane, 297
Hickman, William, 96, 288–91, 301
Hicks, John U., 314
Hicks, Leatha, xi
High Desert Advocate, 316
Highways, 99–105
Higley, Clark, 353
Higley, Grover, 168, 216
Hill, Hyrum, 353
Hillstead, Charlotte, 355
Hillstead, John, 353
Hinkley, Gordon B., 281
Hiskey, Benjamin, 353
Hiskey, William, 353
Hiss, Emma Bates, 290
Hiss, Johan Frederick, 290
Hodak, John, 174
Hoffman, Mary, 174
Hogan Ranch, 234, 241
Hogan, Clyde, 290
Holidays, 160

- Holy Cross Health Services, 208
 Homan, J.A., 182
 Honerine Mining Company, 123, 297–98
 Hooper, William Henry, 271
 Hoopiiana, Akoni, 280–81
 Hoopiiana, Ben, 280
 Hoopiiana, Johnie, 280
 Hoopiiana, Neil, 280
 Hoopiiana, Pete, 280–81
 Hoover, Herbert, 133
 Horseshoe Springs Wildlife Management Area, 17
 House, Mary Ann Farnes, 334
 Hudson, John, 75
 Hudson, Wilford, 95, 312, 333
 Hudspeth, James, 51
 Huff, Jefferson, 354
 Hughs, Clara, 291
 Hnghs, Joe, 291
 Hullinger, Sidney, xi
 Humboldt County, 75
 Hunsaker, Teryl, xii, 341
 Hunter, Edward, 336
 Hunter, Patricia
 Huntington, Allen, 58
 Hnntington, Oliver, 58
 Huntsman, Hannah, 57
 Huntsman, James, 57
 Hyde, Orson, 288

 Ibapah, 200–1, 311–14
 Ibapah Indian Reservation, 313, 334
 Ibapah Peak, 7
 Immigrants, 170–81, 214
 Independent Baptist Church, 187
 Inglesby, A.L., 145
 Inland Crystal Salt Company, 119, 120–21, 205, 320
 International Order of Odd Fellows Hall, 294
 International Smelting and Refining Company, 112–13, 170, 206, 212–19, 362
 Interstate 80, 104, 317, 326, 341–42
 Iosepa, 275–81
 Isgreen, William, 124

 Italian Prisoners of War, 254
 Ivory, Ellis, 363

 Jackass Mail, 90
 Jackling, Daniel C., 146, 186
 Jackson, Eliza, 68
 Jackson, Henry W., 68
 Jackson, William H., 68, 95
 Jacobs, Joseph G., 221
 Jankovich, Steve, 173
 Januszewski, William, 184
 Jefferies, William, 336
 Jehovah's Witnesses, 187
 Jennings, Jesse, 35
 Jennings, Williams, 97
 Jensen, Junius, 354
 Johannessen, Veronica, 206
 Johnson Hall, 159
 Johnson, Alex, 170
 Johnson, America Clark, 205
 Johnson, Arthur, 43
 Johnson, Charles, 333
 Johnson, Darrell, xi
 Johnson, Emma, 81–82
 Johnson, Franklin D., 363
 Johnson, H.H., 166
 Johnson, Jack, 272
 Johnson, John, 292
 Johuson, Lyndon, 323
 Johnson, Luke S., 77, 78, 101, 163, 170, 204–5, 288, 301, 303
 Johnson, Orson, xi
 Johnson, Sarah Elizabeth, 301
 Johuson, Virginia P. xi
 Johnson, Wallace R., 207
 Johnson's Pass, 100
 Johnstou, Albert Sidney, 142, 164, 289
 Jordan, James F., 303
 Jorgensen, Christina, 132
 Jorgensen, Peder, 132
 Judd, W.R., 127

 Karabatsos, Gus, 218
 Karabatsos, John, 174
 Karabatsos, William, 179
 Karavatis, George, 174
 Kearl, James, 342

- Kearney, Wilma, 133
Kearns, Thomas, 136
Keenan, A.V., 181
Kelley, Edward, 181
Keith, David, 136
Kelsey, Eli B., 122, 227, 231
Kelsey, Nancy, 49–50
Kelsey, W.H., 291
Kennecott Corporation, 243–44, 362
Kimball and Young Railroad
 Company, 105
Kimball, Heber C., 55, 127, 154, 282, 354
Kimball's Island, 55
Kirk, Margene, xi
Kiwanis Club, 190
Knolls, 108
Knowlton, 305
Knowlton, Benjamin, 272, 274
Knowlton, George, 272
Knowlton, John Quincy, 142, 271
Kuester, Elna, xi

L.A. Young and Sons, 242
Lake Bonneville, 9, 22, 33–35, 37
Lake Point, 367
Lake View, 199, 362
Lakepoint Salt, 320
Lakeside Mining District, 141–42
Lakeside Mountains, 2, 4, 14, 142
Lars, John, 347
Larsen, Lars, 305–6
Law and Order, 161–64, 343–44
Lawrence Floral, 167
Leavitt, Dudley, 360
Leavitt, Lamuel, 360
Leavitt, Maria Huntsmen, 360
Leavitt, Mary Huntsmen, 360
Leavitt, Michael, 43, 244, 267, 284
Leavitt, Thomas, 360
Lee, Alfred, 69, 73, 77, 206
Lee, Donald, 113
Lee, Eli, 69, 73
Lee, Elizabeth, 69, 204
Lee, Francis, 68, 69, 70, 73
Lee, Isaac, 128
Lee, Jane V., 68, 69, 70

Lee, John S., 72
Lee, Mary E., 68
Lee, Samuel, 69
Lee, Thomas, 73, 79
Lee, Tom, 69
Lee, William, 274, 282, 312
Leonard, A.N., 206
Leonard, David H., 303
Leppy Mountains, 13
Leprosy, 279
Lewiston, 143
Liberal Party, 124
Libraries, 203–4
Lienhard, Heinrich, 51
Lime Kilns, 123
Lincoln, 199, 362
Lincoln Highway, 99–103, 341, 362
Lincoln Motor Company, 217
Lincoln, Abraham, 42
Lindberg, John A., 167
Lindhom, Carl Eric, 123
Lineback, Shelby Alfred, 125
Little, James, 90
Livestock, 231–37, 238
Lofgreen, Herman, 130
Lowe, 109
Lowe Peak, 13
Lucin Cutoff, 105–6
Ludlow, Fitzhugh, 154
Lund, John Peter, 333
Lund, Wilson, 99
Lyman, Albert, 283
Lynce, Gerald P., 185

MacArthur, Douglas, 257
McArthur, Lois, xii
McBride, James, 331–32, 360
McIntosh, John, 303
McIntosh, William, 303
McKean, James B., 124
McKellar, Charles, 141
Magneisum, 322–28
Magneisum Corporation of America
 (MagCorp), 222, 321, 327
Mail Service, 96–99
Maine, Jesse, 354
Manning, 143–44

- Manning, Moses, 143
Mantas, George, 174, 178
Mantes, Ernest, 215–16
Manusakie, Dorothy, 194
Marriott, J.L., 207
Marshall, 108
Marshall, George, 360
Martin, Moses, 360
Martindale, W.C., 336
Marvin, G.L., 186
Marzelos, Gus, 174
Masons, 186, 190
Matheson, Scott, 325
Matthews, Pratt, 108
Maughn, Mary Ann Weston, 204
Maughn, Peter, 194
Maxwell, Elizabeth Griffith, 81
Mayfield, William O., 86
Mayo, Joseph L., 207,
Meacham, Sam, 66
Meacham, Sarah Call, 66
Medical Services, 204–9
Meiklejohn, Mary, 204
Meiklejohn, Robert, 160
Melinkovich, George, 174
Memmott, Nord, 96
Mendelsohn, Eric, 264
Mercer, Mildred, 72
Mercur, 142–50
Mercur Gold Mining and Milling
Company, 143, 211–12
Mercur Miner, 145
Meredith Sod Farm, 243
Methodist Church, 185–86, 294
Methodist Schools, 195–96
Mexican War, 63
Mexican-Americans, 176–77
Middle Canyon Irrigation Company,
244
Millburn, J.H., 207
Miller, Joseph Cash, 295
Miller, Robert, 303
Mills Piedmont Company, 140
Mining, 118–50
Mitchner, Addie, 295
Mitchner, James P., 295
Mogus, Jean, xi
Momin, Karl, 319
Moose Lodge, 190
Morgan, Dale, 22, 118
Morgan, Evan G., 303
Morgan, William, 303
Mormon Crickets, 68
Morton Salt Company, 108, 320
Moss, Andrew, 73
Moss, Emily Elizabeth, 73
Moss, Frank, 323
Moss, John H., 272
Moss, William F., 118
Mountain Fuel Supply Company, 221,
338–39
Muir, John, 11
Mulliner, Eph., 145
Murdock, A.M., 138
Murdock, D.N., 138
Murray, Thomas, 139–40
Museums, 169–70, 346–47
Music, 159–60

National Lead Corporation, 322–23,
324
Natural Gas, 221
Nauvoo Legion, 78
Naylor, Harry, 108–9
Neptune Divers, 346
New Deal Programs, 238–40
New Town, 170–81, 214
Newfoundland Basin and Evaporation
Pond, 263, 327
Newmont Mining Company, 148
Nicholes, Melba, 313
Nilsson, Lars, 123
North Tintic Mining District, 129–32
North Willow Irrigation Company, 339
Nowlenville, 305
Nuclear waste depository, 43, 104–5,
284
Nunn, L.L., 145

Old Folks Sociable, 156, 187, 351
Olsen, Lionel, 167
Onaqui, 307–8
Onaqui Range, 8
Ophir, 27, 201

- Ophir Mining District, 121, 125–28
Oquirrh Mountains, 10
Oquirrh Roller Mills, 229
Oregon Short Line Railroad, 105, 109, 111, 296
Orlando, Adeline (Della) M., 179–80
Orne, Charles Alvin, 355
Orme, Samuel K., 353
Orr, James, 273
Orr, John, 141
Orr, Matthew, 90, 95, 273
Orr, Robert, 273
Orr, William, 143–44
Orr's Ranch, 101–2, 273–74, 311
Overland Telegraph Company, 97

Pacific Telegraph Company, 97
Pacheco, Don Bernardo Miera, 45
Painter, John Aaron, 299
Paleo-Indians, 34
Palmer, James, 274, 341, 348
Palmer, Leffler, 135
Pannunzio, Lorraine, 177
Parker-Warner Lumber, 167
Parker, Abel, 72
Parker, Jerry, 72
Parker, William, 72
Parsons, Otto, 129
Paulick, Nellie, 348
Paxton, John, 292, 296
Peck, Joseph, 114
Peck, Joseph Howard, 206
Pehr, John, 333
Pehrson, Raynond L., 308
Penok, Helen, xi
People's Party, 124
Perkins, Joseph, 95
Perkins, Probert, 96
Persian Gulf War, 265
Peterson, Charles, 145
Peterson, Hans, 297
Peyton, G.S., 143, 144
Pezel, John, 174
Pezel, Katie, 174
Phipps, Joseph A., 173, 205, 206
Pickett, William, 352
Pike, Ralph, 163–64

Pilot Peak, 50, 315
Pine Canyon, 360
Pinedo, Arie, 143
Pioneer Hotel, 131
Plat C School, 197
Point Look Out Mining District, 138
Pony Express Trail, 93–96
Potash Mining, 322–28
Potter's House, 187
Powell, Allan Kent, viii, xi
Powell, John Wesley, 42
Pratt, Orson, 62–63, 351–52, 360
Prehistoric Indians, 33–36
Public Utilities, 220–21
Public Works Administration, 238
Pumping—Great Salt Lake, 325–27

Quirk, Thomas, 333

Radcliffe, James, 160
Raddatz, E.J., 297
Railroads, 105–14
Rampton, Calvin, 323, 324
Ranching, 231–37
Rands, Lydia, 354
Rattlesnakes, 109
Reed, James, 52–54
Renco Group Incorporated, 327
Reynolds, Jessie Frazier, 291
Reynolds, Joseph Carlton, 291
Rich, John T., 170, 277
Richards, Willard, 63, 204
Rickenbacher, Eddie, 102
Ricks, Thomas, 332
Robinson, Joseph, 68
Rockwell, David Porter, 273
Rockwell, Elizabeth Cook, 273
Rockwell, Horace, 136, 272–73
Rockwell, Lnana Beebe, 273
Rockwell, Orrin Jr., 273
Rockwell, Orrin Porter, 58, 96, 136, 272–73, 288, 289, 301
Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company, 98
Rodriguez, Reyes G., 184
Rohrer, Marianne, 183
Ronkovich, Frank, 174

- Roosevelt, Franklin D., 238–39, 263, 264
- Rose, LeRoy G., 356
- Rosenberg, Donald J., xi, 133
- Rowberry, Eliza, 65, 68
- Rowberry, John, 65, 67, 68, 70, 73, 77, 79, 86, 124–25, 194, 303, 304, 305–6, 352, 353
- Rowberry, Permelia (Amelia), 68
- Rush Lake, 16, 287–88
- Rush Valley, 15–16, 24
- Rush Valley City, 307–8
- Rush Valley Mining District, 121, 122–23
- Rush Valley Water Conservancy District, 243
- Russell-Bryant Party, 50–51
- Russell, Odell, 308
- Russell, William Greenwood, 303
- Russell's Ranch, 241
- Rydalch, Margaret Judd, 207
- Rydalch, Richard, 272
- Rydalch, William Chester, 272, 336
- Sabin, A.W., 336
- Sagers, Diana, xi
- Sagers, Robert Bruce, 233, 362
- Sagers, William, 68, 362
- St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 187
- St. Jeor, John, 135
- St. John, 303–5
- St. John Railroad Station, 114
- St. Marguerite's Parish Church, 182–83, 187
- St. Mary's County, 76
- St. Patrick's Day, 205
- Salduro, 108, 319, 322
- Salt Flat News*, 316
- Salt Lake and Western Railway, 109–10, 130
- Salt Lake and Pioche Railroad, 155–56
- Salt Lake Astronomical Society, 365
- Salt Lake Brine Shrimp Company, 328, 338
- Salt Lake Chemical, 322
- Salt Lake, Sevier Valley and Pioche Railroad, 110
- Salt production and mining, 23, 57, 118–21, 222, 320–22
- Saltair, 158
- Sample, Charles, 345
- San Fleipe Church, 184, 187
- San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad, 105, 111, 127, 293, 355
- Sandberg, Eva, 339
- Sandoval, Clarence, 185
- Savage, Charles R., 156
- Savich, Dan, 174
- Scanlan, Lawrence, 181
- Schools, 194–204, 297, 304, 318, 356–57, 366
- Scranton, 129–30
- Scranton Mining and Smelting Company, 130
- Scribner Ranch, 296
- Scribner, Newell A., 296
- Sea Base, 346
- Sessions, Earl, 240
- Settlement Canyon Irrigation Company, 242
- Severe, Elizabeth Orr, 79
- Severe, Harrison, 95, 127, 272, 274, 283, 312, 332, 360
- Severe, Hiram, 140
- Shambip County, 76, 79, 288, 303
- Shambip District, 244
- Shambip Mining District, 138–39
- Shambip Soil Conservation District, 244
- Sharp, Adam, 97
- Sharp, David, 136, 272
- Sharp, John, 170, 306
- Sheep, 232–35, 265, 314
- Sheeprock Mountains, 6–7, 136–38
- Shelton, Fred, 290
- Shelton, Harriet, 295
- Shelton, Richard James, 290
- Sheridan, Owen, 313
- Shields, Archibald, 132, 360, 361–62
- Shields, Ellen, 361
- Shields, John, 203, 231
- Shields, Robert C., 360
- Shields, Robert M., 141, 361
- Shipp, Ellis, 207

- Shiprus, 281
Shoshonean Indians, 37
Shurtleff, Harrison "Hat," 272
Siebers, Ann, xi
Silk Industry, 362
Silver Island Mining District, 141
Silver Island Mountains, 4, 13–14
Simpson Springs, 93–94, 96–97, 240
Simpson, James, 25, 92–93, 353
Sink Valley, 16
Skelton, Robert, 66, 353
Skinner, John, 300
Skinner, Ronald, 344
Skull Valley, 3, 16–17, 24, 25, 47, 271–84
Skull Valley Indian Reservation, 43, 224, 267, 281–84
Skull Valley Ranch, 272
Smith, Adam Browning, 360, 363
Smith, Agnes Templeton Main Love, 85–86
Smith, Elizabeth, 206, 363
Smith, Erastus, 185, 196
Smith, George A., 63
Smith, Jack, 169
Smith, Jedediah Strong, 47–48, 271
Smith, John A., 72, 80
Smith, John B., 86, 360, 363
Smith, Joseph F., 276, 279
Smith, Joseph Jr., 288
Smith, Leonard, 353
Smith, Margaret, 363
Smith, Rachel Brown, xi
Smith, W.T., 316
Smith, Willis, 323
Smoot, Reed, 133
Snow, Eliza R., 355
Snyder, W.F., 297
Soeberg, LeRoy, 345
Soldier Canyon, 288
Sons of Utah Pioneers, 190
Southern Pacific Railroad, 106, 324–27
Spafford, Belle Smith, 363
Spanish-speaking people, 176–77
Spanish Baptist Mission, 187
Spaulding, James, 292, 297
Spencer-Little Ranch, 163
Spencer, Howard, 163–64
Spiers, Alex, 135
Spiers, George, 227
Springs, 26, 55
Stry, Mary Alice Wrathall, 211
Stry, William, 101, 211, 213
Stage Lines, 90–93
Stansbury Days, 365
Stansbury Elementary School, 356–57
Stansbury Island, 2, 21
Stansbury Mountains, 2, 8–9, 10–13
Stansbury Park, 202, 363–68
Stansbury Park Golf Course, 364
Stansbury Park Improvement District, 366
Stansbury Salt, 320
Stansbury, Howard, 8, 14, 55–57, 63–64, 65, 75, 91, 271, 364
State Line Casino, 316
Steadman, Bruce, xi
Steele, James I., 303
Steele, Lillian, 206
Steinbach, E.W., 219
Steptoe, Edward, 58–59, 289, 291
Stice, Derald (Dee), 350
Stipac, Mike, 174
Stockton, 121, 200, 286–301
Stockton Bar, 287
Stockton Bicentennial Committee, 299
Stockton Depot, 300
Stockton Lake, 287–88
Stockton Opera House, 297
Stockton Railroad Station, 107, 112
Stockton Sentinel, 301
Stookey, Alonzo, 10
Stookey, Enos, 91, 301–2, 303
Stookey, Jemima, 301–2
Stookey, Walter, 205
Stotenburg, Gus, 295
Strand Theater, 166
Strasburg, Lewis, 164
Strasburg, Mary Armstrong, 164
Stromberg, Anna Erickson, 80
Stromberg, C.J., 343
Stromberg, Charles, 80
Sullivan, John J., 183, 184
Swan, Karl, xi, 23

- Sweeney, Charles, 259
- Tabby, 42, 281, 282,
Tabby Weepup, 305
Tabby's Peak, 15
Tabernacle Hill, 286
Taft, William Howard, 42–43
Tanner, A.Z., 206
Tate-Hicks Furniture, 167
Tate, J. Earl, 113
Tate, William Cecil, 168
Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, 235
Taylor, Josiah, 95
Telegraph, 96–99
Telephone Service, 98–99, 315, 338
Telluride Power Company, 145
Terracor, 363–66
Texaco, 149–50
Thomas, John, 102
Tibbets, Paul, 255
Tillman, James W., 353
Timber, 230–31
Timpie Springs Wildlife Management Area, 17
Tintic Sheeprock Mountain, 2
Tintsa-pa-gin, 42, 282
Tokyo Trolley, 257
Tolman, Alice, 67
Tolman, Barintha Bates, 353
Tolman, Benjamin, 67
Tolman, Cyrus, 65–66, 67, 68, 70, 80
Tolman, Judson, 65–66, 71
Tolman, Margaret Utley, 80
Tolman, Sarah, 66
Tooele, various spellings, 75
Tooele Academy, 185, 196
Tooele Army Depot, 208, 235, 247–51
Tooele Bit and Spur Club, 190
Tooele Bulletin, 167
Tooele Business and Professional Women's Club, 189–90
Tooele City, 86, 190
Tooele City Hall, 56, 86
Tooele City Library Association, 203
Tooele City Mining District, 121, 128–29
Tooele Commercial Bank, 81
Tooele Commercial Company Building, 78
Tooele Continuing Education Council, 203
Tooele County; population, ix, 68, 76; geology and geography, 1–25; climate, 24–25; animals, 25–26; flora, 26–28; county seat, 73; formation of county, 75–77; population, 176, 213–14; public utilities, 220–21
Tooele County Arts Festival, 188
Tooele County Bank, 167, 237
Tooele County Commission, x, xii, 323, 352, 359
Tooele County Courthouse, 76, 86, 169
Tooele County Fair, 188
Tooele County Historical Society, 190
Tooele County Housing Authority, 348
Tooele County Railroad Museum, 169
Tooele County School District, 196–97, 356
Tooele County Stock Association, 232
Tooele County Times, 167
Tooele Gem and Mineral Show, 187
Tooele General Hospital, 173
Tooele High School, 197, 208
Tooele Home Town Bakery, 174
Tooele Junior High School, 198
Tooele LDS Stake, 186, 295
Tooele Lions Club, 189
Tooele Mercantile, 215
Tooele Military District, 79
Tooele Opera House, 195
Tooele Ordnance Depot, 247–51
Tooele Post Office, 84
Tooele Public Library, 203
Tooele Railroad Museum, 113
Tooele Republic, 124–25, 242
Tooele Schoolhouse, 200
Tooele Senior Citizens, 190
Tooele Transcript, 167
Tooele-Transcript-Bulletin, 167
Tooele Valley, 18, 24
Tooele Valley Airport, 359
Tooele Valley Medical Center, 208–9
Tooele Valley Nursing Home, 207

- Tooele Valley Railroad, 112–13
 Tooele United Methodist Church, 187
 Tooele Wildlife Federation, 190
 Tooele Workman's Bus Company, 217
 Toone, John E., 96
 Transcontinental Telephone
 Completion, 99, 315
 Transcript-Bulletin Publishing
 Company, 167
 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, 63
 Tree of Utah, 319
 Tripp, G.W., 135
 Tripp, George W., xi
 Tripp, Gertrude, xi
 Trujillo, Jose, 177
 Tuttle, Mary, 194
 Tuttle, Norton, 72
 Twenty Wells, 332

 Union Pacific Railroad, 106, , 110, 111,
 355
 United States Forest Service, 236
 USPCI, 223
 Utah Centennial County History
 Council, vii–viii
 Utah Central Railway, 105, 110
 Utah Power and Light Company,
 220–21, 338
 Utah State Legislature, vii–viii, x
 Utah-Nevada Railway, 109–10, 157,
 354–55
 Utah Nevada Western Railroad, 105
 Utah Test Range, 262–63
 Utah Transit Authority, 350
 Utah War, 289
 Utah Western Railway, 109–10, 155
 Utey, Sarah Matilda, 81–82

 Vanderhood, Leona Minerva Hickman,
 290
 Vasquez, Louis, 46
 Vernon, 305–7
 Vernon Reservoir, 242–43
 Vernon String Band, 160
 Vernon, Joseph, 305
 Vialpando, Kenneth, 185
 Victory Highway, 102–3

 Victory Mountain, 9
 Vistaline, 217
 Vitro Chemical Plant, 223
 Vowles Market, 167
 Vowles, William, 216

 W.W. Clyde Construction Company,
 243
 Wal-Mart, 169
 Walker War, 79
 Walker, Joseph R., 48, 52
 Wallace, Alexander, 139
 Walters, Julia Crson, 97
 Walters, Thomas, 97
 Walsh, Patrick, 181
 Warburton, Emily, 85, 98
 Warburton, Richard, 128–29
 Warr, Moses, 353
 Warr, Tom, 356
 Wasatch-Cache National Forest, 10
 Wasatch Gas Company, 221
 Water Development, 240–44, 317
 Waterfall, William, 146
 Webb, Chauncy, 274
 Weigand, William, 185
 Wells, Emmeline B., 355
 Wells, Daniel H., 74, 155
 Wendover, 24, 99, 108–9, 314–19
 Wendover Air Force Base, 254–62
Wendover Relay, 316
 Wendover, Charles, 315
 West Deep Creek Irrigation Company,
 314
 West Mining District, 121
 Western Pacific Railroad, 109–10, 114,
 132
 Westworld Community Health Care,
 208
 Weyland, Chris, xi
 West Elementary, 198
 West Mountain Mining District, 13
 Weyland, Barney, 354
 Weyland, Ernest, 113
 White Lily Bakery, 167
 White, Beverly, xi
 White, Charley, 57, 118
 Whitehouse, Stanley, 214–15

- Whitten, Odell, 186
Wicks, Frank, xi, 148–49, 150, 366–67
Wiggins, Pat, 365
Wilcox Photography, xii
Wilkstrom, Karen, xii
Williams, James S., 339–40
Williams, Johnny, 90, 98
Williams, Terry Tempest, 22
Willis, Ira, 332
Willis, John D., 299
Willis, Sidney S., 333–34
Willow Creek, 332
Willow Springs District, 135–36
Willow Springs Station, 96
Wilson, Charlie, 295
Wilson, Elijah Nicholas, 333
Wilson, Elizabeth Early, 296
Wilson, Kathryn D., xi
Wilson, William Henry, 296
Winterer, Michael J., 184
Wirthlin, Joseph L., 355
Woodbury, Nathaniel, 356
Woodman, Cecil, 133–34
Woodman, John F., 133–34
Woodruff, Wilford, 70
Woods, Charlotte H. 355
Woodward, Absalom, 90
Works Progress Administration, 238, 340
World War II, 247–61, 358
Worthington, James, 312
Wrathall, James, 336, 339
Wright, George, 94, 138
Wright, Orville, 102
Wright, Wilber, 102
Young, Alma Nephi, 296
Young, Bill, 296
Young, Brigham, 55, 59, 62, 64, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 121, 125, 155, 170, 288, 293, 294, 295, 313, 353
Young, Brigham H., 133
Young, John W., 155, 295–96, 354
Young, Hilda, 207
Young, Lorenzo, 73–74
Young, Oliver, 133
Young, Samuel, 51
Young, Sarah Matilda Ewing, 296



Ouida Nuhn Blanthorn is a native of Avon, Cache County, Utah. She is a graduate of Brigham Young University with a degree in history and has authored manuscript histories including "The Cole Family: Barnet and Moroni," "Charles Wesley Hubbard on the Muddy and at the Mills of Farr's Fort," and "The Van Slyck Family in the New World." She has contributed to the *Utah History Encyclopedia* (1994) and a history of Tooele County published in 1990, and she has reported on Tooele County history for the *Tooele Transcript-Bulletin*.

She currently lives with her husband, Boyd, in Stansbury Park in Tooele County and is active in political and community affairs. She is a charter member of the Tooele County Historical Society, historian for the Benson Gristmill, and listed in *Who's Who of American Women* and *Who's Who in the West*.

Front dust jacket: Painting of Adobe Rock by Sandra Vernon.

Back dust jacket photograph: Deseret Peak from Skull Valley; courtesy Utah State Historical Society.

Jacket design by Richard Firmage



The Utah Centennial County History Series was funded by the Utah State Legislature under the administration of the Utah State Historical Society in cooperation with Utah's twenty-nine county governments.