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AN EARLY HISTORY OF MILFORD UP TO ITS
INCORPORATION AS A TOWN

A THESIS
PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY,
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
PROVO, UTAH

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
MASTER OF SCIENCE

223736



BY

GEORGE A. HORTON, JR.

JULY, 1957

PREFACE

In attempting to write an early history of Milford the author has had a threefold purpose:

1. To make available to the students who attend Milford's public schools a history of the community they live in.
2. To help the citizens of Milford develop a greater civic pride through an appreciation of their heritage.
3. To partially fulfill the requirements for obtaining the degree of Master of Science.

The author would especially like to thank Dr. Richard D. Poll and Professor Gustive O. Larson for the time they took from their busy schedules to examine the rough drafts of this paper and offer many helpful suggestions.

Others who have made significant contributions to the research are members of the library staff at Brigham Young University; assistants at the L. D. S. Church Historian's Office; Beaver County Clerk, C. Victor Smith, Beaver County Recorder, Louis Lessing; and the many individuals who gave personal interviews so that information otherwise unavailable might be obtained.

A special thanks to Mrs. Audrey Gunter for helping to correct part of the script; to members of the B. Y. U. Press who helped prepare and print the paper; and to Mrs. Leila Hurst for freely giving of her own time to see that the typing was properly done.

To his wonderful wife who has persevered in doing many things ordinarily done by a husband in order that he might be free to spend many hours in research, and for her constant encouragement, he dedicates this work.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PREFACE	ii
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	iv
Chapter	
I. AN INTRODUCTION	1
II. INDIANS AND EXPLORERS	6
III. BEGINNINGS	21
IV. MINING	30
V. THE RAILROAD	42
VI. A BIG YEAR--1880	51
VII. 1881 to 1889	60
VIII. 1890 to 1903	77
IX. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS	92
X. POLITICAL HISTORY	108
BIBLIOGRAPHY	121

A LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure		Page
1.	Map of Beaver County.	3
2.	Territory of Paiute Clans, Beaver County.	9
3.	Mining districts in the vicinity of Milford.	32
4.	Map showing the railroad extension	49
5.	Pictures showing early freighters	63
6.	Map of Milford before 1890.	74
7.	Pictures showing some early Milford buildings	75
8.	Pictures of early main street, hotel, and men	76
9.	Pictures of a band and early Milford hotels	82
10.	Plat showing the proposed boundaries of Milford town	88

CHAPTER I

AN INTRODUCTION

Milford will become a "second Cheyenne," said some.¹ Others thought surely it was "a perfect mudhole."² One visitor pronounced it the "perfection of desolation."³ Another said it was nothing but "a frog pond surrounded by five saloons."⁴ But many of its citizens lived on to give it that more enduring title---"home."

One writer claimed that "Milford has been Utah's most thorough representative of all types of frontier life."⁵ Indeed, where Milford now stands, the tiller of the soil met the eager expectant prospector. The man of the saddle shook hands with the rider of the "iron" horse. Here the suave Spaniard preyed upon the ruddy Indian. The lonely shepherd rubbed shoulders with the financial tycoon of the East, and the zealous Mormon worked along side the suspicious Gentile. Here the railroad "gandy-dancer" or section "jerry" did business with the little Chinaman who took in "washee."

Today (1957) this little city is a thriving, progressive community with a population of about 1,700. The city council, civic organizations, school groups, and the churches are vigorously pursuing improvement programs unsurpassed in Milford's history. To the traveler coming to the city from any direction during the summer

¹Essay Caigh, "One of the Places that went up like a Rocket," Deseret Evening News, April 23, 1896.

²Statement of Mary Ann Reese, personal interview, August 27, 1955.

³Caigh, loc. cit.

⁴Aird Merkley (ed.), Monuments to Courage (Beaver, Utah: Beaver County Chapter, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1948), p. 243.

⁵Joseph Hickman, "Beaver County's Home Coming. . . .," Deseret News, November 18, 1914, p. 19.

by automobile or train, it appears as an oasis in the middle of the desert with an abundance of trees and well kept lawns. Its streets are paved and the business section presents an attractive and orderly appearance. The Union Pacific Railroad, consistently Milford's biggest source of revenue and employment, still is part of the daily scene after 77 years of activity. There is an air of expectancy that soon the mines will bring another boom to rival the days of old.

Milford is located a few miles east of the geographical center of Beaver County (113° West Longitude, 38° 23' North Latitude) in the midst of a broad valley.⁶ The valley is liberally sprinkled with well cultivated farms which obtain their water from deep wells. However, there are vast areas of good land lying idle due to lack of water. This is an ironical situation because it is believed by geologists that this area, in fact a very large area of the West, has been under water in past ages more than it has above.⁷

At some point in geologic history not definitely known, a great basin filled with numerous mountains was formed in this western area of the continent. After the seas that were here had receded, this basin began to fill with water until a huge inland sea was formed.⁸

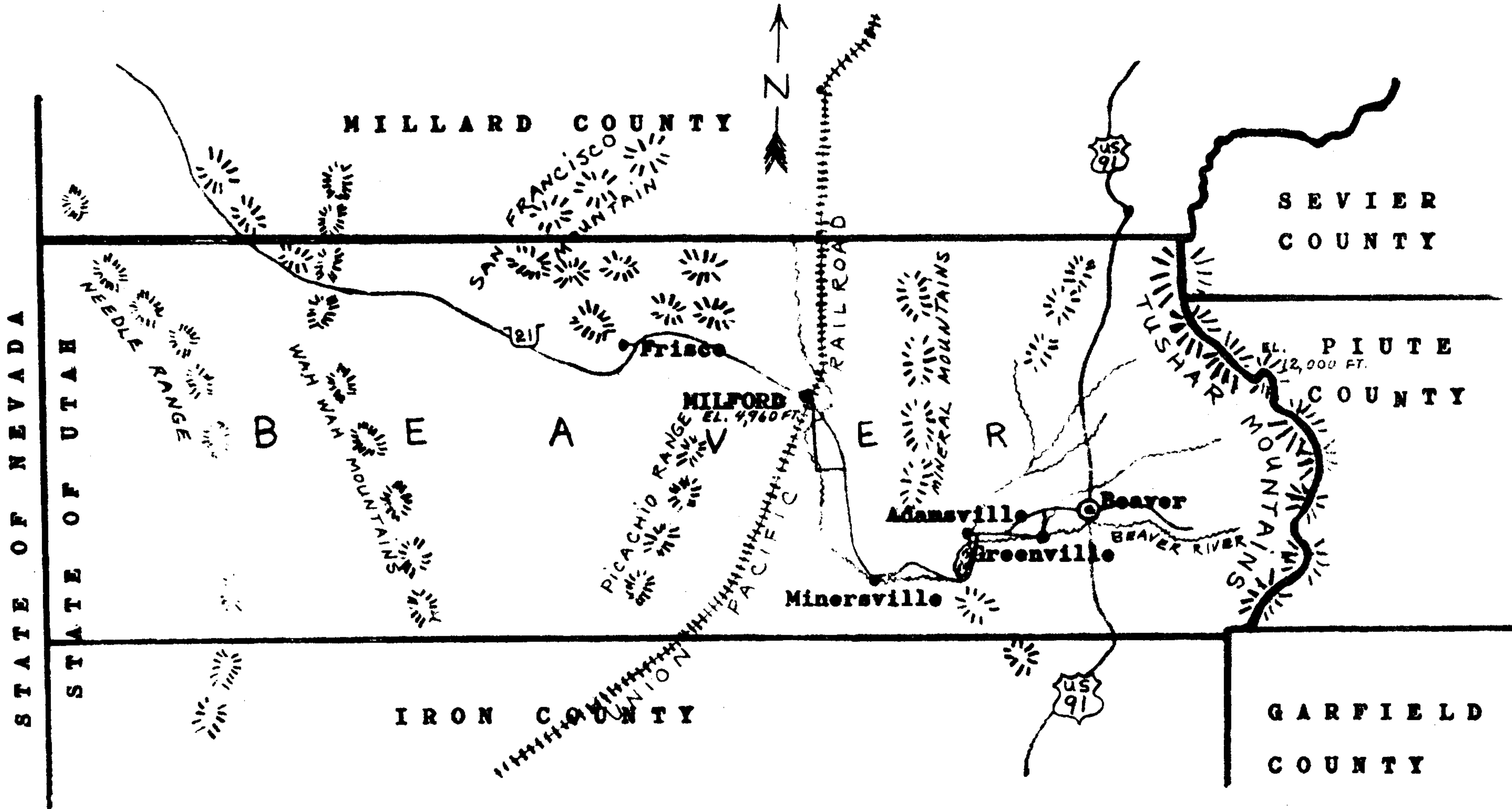
It was more than 300 miles in length, 175 miles wide, had an area of 17,500 square miles, a depth of 1,080 feet, and measured more than 2,500 miles around its shore line. It was a fresh-water lake. It continued to rise and its waves cut terraces in the sides of the mountains above an elevation of 5,000 feet. At this high period it was tapped by an outlet from the Portneuf River in Idaho which allowed the water to drain from the lake through the Portneuf, Snake, and Columbia rivers into the Pacific Ocean. The lake fell slowly until the water reached the level of the outlet, 4,777 feet above sea level. At this stage great terraces or deltas were formed around its edges. These deltas are at the points at which the streams entered the lake.⁹

⁶Map of Beaver County prepared by Utah State Road Commission, 1955. See also map on page 3.

⁷Statement of Dr. George H. Hansen, made in assembly at Brigham Young University, August 16, 1957.

⁸Wain Sutton (ed.), Utah, A Centennial History (3 vols; New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1949), Vol. I, p. 2.

⁹William Peterson, "Geography and Geology," Utah--Resources and Activities (Salt Lake City: Department of Public Instruction, 1933), pp. 17-18.



An arm of this inland sea, later named Lake Bonneville, extended south through the Milford Valley and left bench marks dimly visible on the surrounding mountain ranges. It is not unlikely that the Town of Milford is built on and around the edge of an alluvial deposit formed many years ago in this great lake.

It has been estimated that this lake was in existence about 20,000 years ago and has long since left the greater portion of the Great Basin to become dry and desolate.¹⁰

The Milford Valley was made by the faulting and shifting of the earth's surface, rather than by erosion from water, and in this respect is similar to many others in the Great Basin. The natural vegetation of the lower part of the valley is salt and other meadow grasses with greasewood, shadescale, and sagebrush covering the bench land. The valley is bounded on the east by the Mineral Range of mountains, whose greater heights are characterized by craggy cliffs of granite. The foothills are liberally covered with junipers, commonly referred to locally as cedars, along with mahogany and scrub oak. Blue Spruce are most common further up near the summit with occasional patches of aspens located at springs or spots where snow does not melt for months. The mountains on the west consist of several ranges, including the Picachio to the southwest, the San Francisco farther to the west, and the Beaver Lake to the northwest. The western ranges differ from the Mineral Range in that they have a barren appearance and are only sparsely covered with junipers and pinion pines.

The native animals of the valley are those most commonly found in this altitude and climate of the Great American Desert. The Great Basin Gopher Snake, Great Basin Rattlesnake, a variety of lizards, Jackrabbits, coyotes, badgers, sage hens, and a number of lesser species are predominant. Bobcats are plentiful in the mountains along with a few mountain lions, but the big game animal is the mule deer which is very numerous, especially in the Mineral Range.

At one period this valley was the scene of large herds of roving antelope. By way of illustration, in 1849, Asahel Bennett said he counted 1,000 antelope on the foot hills north of the present site of

¹⁰Hansen, loc. cit.

Adamsville along with a large number of buffalo bones "huddled" in a hollow.¹¹ Other animals have captivated the curiosity of the visitor to this area. The wife of Colonel Douglas, an officer stationed at Fort Cameron near Beaver in 1877, ". . .procured and sent East to her friends, quite a number of horned toads. . .[which] exist exclusively on the Great Western Desert. . ."12

County ordinances, passed as late as 1900, give additional information as to what kind of animals were present in this area. Those that became a public nuisance brought a bounty.

Five dollars each for bear and mountain lions.

One dollar each for gray wolf, fox, lynx, wild cats, minks.

Twenty-five cents each for coyotes.

Five cents each for musk rats.

Three cents each for prairie dogs, ground squirrels and gophers.

One cent each for jack rabbits.

One cent each for English sparrows, and five cents per dozen for the eggs of the English sparrows.¹³

For many years the valley was a haven for water fowl. Thousands and thousands of ducks used to be in the marshes east of town.¹⁴ These marshes, where the pastures are now, were filled with cattails and grass, bordered on the east side with the main channel of the river. Thick willows lined the river bank from directly east of town all the way to the Yellow Banks. In its virgin condition the valley was a paradise for wild game until the coming of its first human inhabitants.

¹¹George W. Woodhouse, "Black Powder Days," Beaver Press, August 24, 1945.

¹²Deseret News, May 30, 1877.

¹³Beaver County Blade, Oct. 20, 1900, microfilm copy, University of Utah Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

¹⁴Statement by John Mitchell Williams, personal interview, May 22, 1956.

CHAPTER II

INDIANS & EXPLORERS

The story told by the few written records left emblazoned on nature's tablets of stone about the early inhabitants of the southern valleys and deserts of Utah may ever remain a mystery. These curious drawings of a semi-civilized people with their crude instruments, challenge the curiosity of anyone who happens to stumble on to them as he searches for a secluded picnic ground or tracks the antlered game. Many of these fascinating inscriptions are still prominent in Southwestern Utah. A few have been found in the Mineral Range to the east of Milford, dimmed only by the smoke from a sheepherder's fire as it has billowed up against a wall of rock. Each symbol seems to stand as mute evidence of the early existence of man presently believed to be the American Indian.

Modern tillers of the soil occasionally hear the grating and scratching of their plow shears as they turn up primitive rock corn grinders. These smooth, rounded stones usually measure about eighteen inches in diameter with the top side hollowed out. These seem to have been plentiful in this valley with as many as six being found in one field over a number of years.¹ In the early days of settlement it was common for the farmers to find many arrowheads and a few spearheads as they cultivated their lands.

This would usually send their boys on treasure hunts for buried Indian relics. Even today collectors find great sport in driving north to the Beaver Bottoms, some ten miles up the valley, where the wind moves great dunes of sand from place to place and often leaves arrowheads lying exposed on the bare surface.

Our first introduction to the Indians of the Milford Valley

¹Statement of George A. Horton, Sr., personal interview, August 24, 1955.

comes from the valuable diary of Father Escalante written in 1776.² As his party approached the Sevier Lake region from the northeast they encountered what they first thought were Spaniards because of their heavy beards.³ They were surprised to find that they were bearded Indians, unlike any they had ever seen. Several days later, after a journey of nearly a hundred miles south, Escalante says in his journal that the territory of the bearded Indians extended to that point which was around Hot Springs, 15 or 20 miles south of present Milford.⁴ This leads us to believe that the bearded Indians also inhabited the Milford Valley.

Who were these bearded Indians? Where are they today? Now, nearly two centuries later, authorities on the Indians are still uncertain as to just exactly who they were. William R. Palmer, an authority on the Indians of Southwestern Utah, believes they were the Pahvants whose headquarters were at Corn Creek near present Kanosh.⁵ The Indian interpretation of their name meant "The Indians of the Big Water." Their territory stretched to the shores of Sevier Lake, which was the largest body of water between Utah Lake and the Colorado River.

It is thought by some authorities that the Pahvants are of a different tribe from the Pahutes and that they should not be classed as Pahutes. There are some good reasons to support such a position. They are of a different type physically. They are larger, portlier people and nearly all their men grew heavy beards. The Pahutes on the contrary were as a rule, beardless. Escalante found these people and as he approached he thought he had come upon a group of Spaniards. The Pahvants did little visiting with other colonies though others came frequently to them, and it is said that their women seldom married outside the Pahvant clans.

Whether or not they were originally of different stock, they through contact if not by blood came to be so essen-

²Herbert S. Auerbach (trans.), "Father Escalante's Journal," Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol. XI (1943).

³Ibid., p. 73

⁴Ibid., p. 79.

⁵William R. Palmer, "Pahute Indian Homelands," Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol. VI (July, 1933), p. 91.

tially Pahute in language and custom that I prefer to class them as such. Here also is where they class themselves. (Italics Mine)⁶

All the Indians of Utah, as the white man found them, were of the Shoshonean language family, but there were divisions and subdivisions within this family.⁷ One of the larger divisions was the Utah Nation, which was also subdivided into tribes, one of which was the Paiutes (Pahute mentioned in preceeding quotation).⁸ The territory of the Paiutes is generally considered to extend from the locality north of Beaver City west into Southern Nevada, and south into Northern Arizona. There is much confusion surrounding the name of this tribe. The generally accepted idea is that 'the term originated from the word pah, 'water,' and Ute, hence 'water Ute,' or from pai, 'true,' and Ute--'true Ute'; but neither of these interpretations is satisfactory."⁹

Two Paiute clans shared the sagebrush hillsides, alkali flats, and marsh lands of the Milford Valley in 1850 when the early pioneers first had contact with them.¹⁰ The Toy-ebes, according to Palmer, owned the country along the Beaver River from the Milford pastures to the volcanic ridges of Black Rock. Toyebe means tall grass. This area was once covered with a variety of grass that grew as high as a man's head, and its seed was harvested by the Indians for food. Water tules (cat tails) which flourished in the marsh lands of the valley were also called by this name. The headquarters of this clan was sometimes at Milford, and other times at Black Rock. The other clan was called the Pah-moki-abs and had their headquarters at the present site of Minersville. Their territory included the extensive area southwest along the Minersville Ridge and north almost to Milford.

⁶Ibid., pp. 91-92.

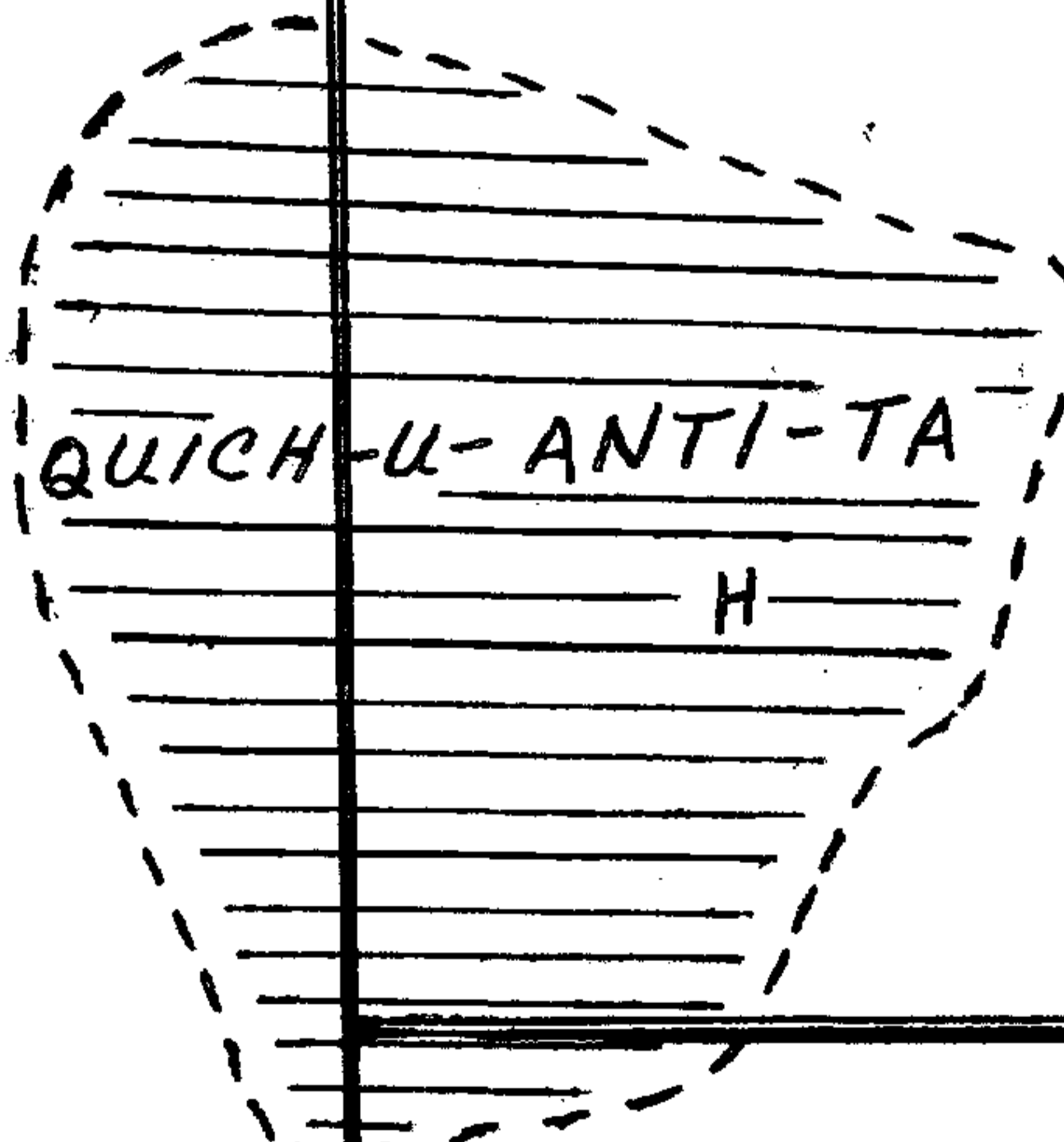
⁷Frederick Webb Hodge, Handbook of American Indians (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1910), Part 2, pp. 555-556.

⁸Other names which have been given this tribe include Piutes, Peyutes, Pieeds, Pyeeds, Diggers, etc.

⁹Hodge, op. cit., p. 186.

¹⁰Palmer, op. cit., pp. 96-97. See map on page 9.

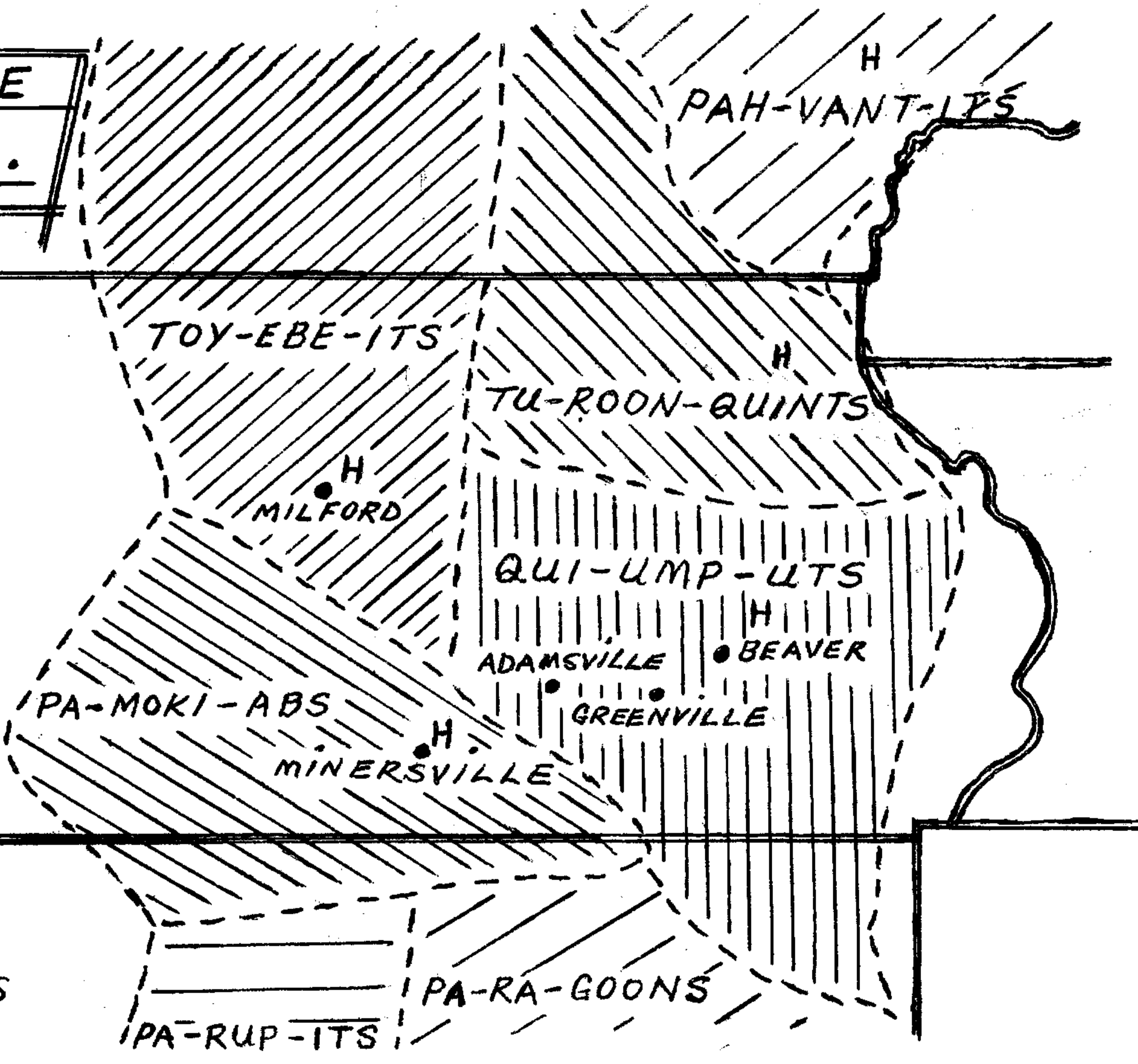
TERRITORY OF PAIUTE
CLANS, BEAVER CO.



QUICH-U-ANTI-TA

H

BEAVER
COUNTY



TOY-EBE-ITS

H

MILFORD

TU-ROON-QUINTS

H

QUI-UMP-LTS

H

ADAMSVILLE

BEAVER

GREENVILLE

PA-MOKI-ABS

H

MINERSVILLE

PA-RA-GOONS

PA-RUP-ITS

LEGEND

H = CLAN HEADQUARTERS

There were three other clans in the county besides the two just mentioned. The Tu-roon-quints claimed Pine and Indian Creeks south of Cove Fort, and the country which is presently called Wildcat. Their headquarters were at Pine Creek. They bordered one of the more powerful clans who owned all the Beaver Valley from Adamsville to Puffer's Lake. This clan was called the Qui-umputs. Their territory was considered the paradise of all the Paiute lands. Great herds of deer grazed in their mountains and large numbers of antelope roamed their valley. Native trout were abundant in the lakes, tributaries and forks of the Beaver River. Vegetables were their most serious food problem. For this reason it was common for them to trade with the Toyebes whose situation was almost reversed.

Three trails were used frequently for trading and visiting purposes between these two clans. One trail followed the course of the river down past the site of Minersville and out into the valley (now called the Flat). The other two came through natural openings in the Mineral Range, which was the dividing line between their lands. The first one came through the big canyon and down past the spring (now called Griffith's). The second was farther north and over the divide (near Pinnacle Pass) passing the hot springs.

Somewhat isolated from the other clans of the county was one located at the present site of the Indian Peak Reservation, far to the western part of the county. The Quich-u-anti-ta, as they were known, lived in an area famous for the large fine flavored pinion (pine) nuts which grew in great abundance during good seasons. Every fall Indians from all the Paiute country came here to gather nuts for winter storage as food.

Each tribe of the Ute Nation had an independent chief. Chief of the Paiutes in the 1850's was Cal-o-e-chipe whose headquarters was at Cedar City.¹¹ Each clan of the tribe also had a leader with certain rights and duties in relationship to his own people and the other clans, tribes, and the Ute Nation. The general organization of the Paiutes was somewhat more loosely knit than most of the other

¹¹William R. Palmer, "Pahute Indian Government and Laws," Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol. II (April, 1929), p. 35.

tribes.¹²

Nearly all the communities of present day Southern Utah are located where the headquarters of one or another of these clans were. The white man thought little of the fact that he was literally moving the Indians out of their permanent homes, upsetting old tribal organization and alignments, and causing great trouble among the natives who could consider him only as a very unwelcome intruder. The white man was partially unaware of this type of organization and looked upon the Indian as a wandering nomad whose home was anywhere he decided to stop and build a wickiup.

The Paiute was considered to be one of the more peaceful tribes, and was usually friendly to the whites. Exceptions to this were some conflicts which took place in the early sixties with miners and emigrants, but most of these were provoked by the whites themselves.¹³ The first trappers, traders, and explorers in this area after Escalante, found the Indians with an almost inhuman standard of living. Their homes, called wickiups, were simply made by stacking brush or other branches in such a manner as to make a hollow mound-like dwelling. There were no furnishings, with the exception of maybe an expertly woven basket or two. Dirt provided the floor, and an opening in the ceiling allowed the smoke from their fires to escape. When the icy blasts of winter came they would cover their wickiups with rabbit skins.

Some of these Indians presented a very unhealthy picture to the white men who first saw them. Their thick matted hair was usually crawling with vermin or lice which lived on the skin and was used as a ready source of food for the Indians. Nearly all the visitors to this area considered this tribe as having a very low intellectual capacity in comparison to the Utes and other prairie Indians.

An artist with the Escalante company was so impressed by the Indians they met around Sevier Lake that he drew a picture of a group in the center of one of his maps.¹⁴ This map depicts one of

¹²Hodge, op. cit., p. 608.

¹³Ibid., p. 187

¹⁴Auerbach, op. cit., opposite p. 24.

the outstanding sources of their food supply, and one which was still used by the Paiute Indians many years later. A net can be seen stretched between two trees for the purpose of rabbit roundups, and one of the Indians is holding up a good sized rabbit by one of its back legs.

The squaws made a long net of oose, a flaglike plant that grows on the foot hills. The mesh of the net was about the size of a jack rabbit's head. The squaws would beat out the fibre of the oose and spin it into two strand twine about the size of a mason's chalk line. The little spinning machine was very simple, being made of two sticks. The handle was about five eighths of an inch in diameter and twelve or fourteen inches long, being broader and heavier at one end and tapered to a point. On the extreme end was a button or 'doll's head,' about three-eighths of an inch in diameter. This was where the material to be spun was attached, whether it was oose or horsehair. Near the knob, there was a hole through the whirling stick and the handle passed through this hole until the knob on the end prevented it from going clear through. This part was lubricated with deer tallow, and it was no trick at all to swing this spinner eight to one hundred revolutions per minute. The one that whirled the spinner sat still while the one that spun the fibre walked backwards with a bunch under one arm, then two or more strands were twisted together by turning the other way.¹⁵

The roundup was great sport. The net was held in a quarter circle. As the hunters made a big drive through the sagebrush they slowly closed in towards the net. Clubs and arrows soon took their toll as the panicky animals found themselves caught or surrounded. The flesh was eaten and the pelts were used for clothing. This was done by sewing them together with buckskin thongs for capes or robes, leaving an opening in the center to slip the head through, thus providing protection from storms.

The Paiutes did excel in basket making.¹⁶ Their baskets showed the finest workmanship in uniformity, design, and durability. They found the pliable boughs of the sour socket to be the best basket making material, and a uniform weave was used by them from primi-

¹⁵Merkley, op. cit., pp. 20-21

¹⁶Statement by William R. Palmer, personal interview, May 24, 1956.

tive times.¹⁷

Some of the Paiute clans were known to engage in a limited agriculture. Evidence of corn is found a short distance up on the bench land of the valley away from the alkali patches of soil. As a whole they were classed as "seed-gatherers" as compared with the "hunters" of the Ute tribe. An almost infinite variety of seeds were used in their diet. Most of these were roasted, then pulverized with stone grinders, and finally cooked into thick mush.¹⁸ One of their favorite soups was made from pine nuts, cedar berries, sour sockets, and deer meat.¹⁹ Parched corn, red root seeds, mint, ground cherries, sun flower seeds, sego roots, mustard greens, wild potatoes (about the size of marbles), were all among their diet.²⁰ Ants, grasshoppers, fish, sage hens, wild onions, various other root plants, and even pine tree bark, were common food to these clans. Early accounts indicate that the Paiutes often failed to store sufficient food for some of the hard winters, and were often seen half-starved and almost naked digging through the snow for roots to exist on.²¹

It was during the Spring when they were in this weakened condition, that they literally became the hunted, instead of the hunter. Not long after Escalante's visit to the Great Basin, and while the Old Spanish Trail was still in its infancy, Mexican or Spanish traders extended their slave trade to the regions of Southwestern Utah and Southern Nevada. The strong warlike Utes seized this opportunity to barter humans for horses and other supplies. They would raid the camps of their enemies or even some of the weaker Ute tribes annually, and carry off women and children to be sold in the slave markets

¹⁷Ibid.

¹⁸Thomas J. Farnham, "Indians on the Old Spanish Trail," Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol. II (July, 1929), p. 78.

¹⁹Statement of William R. Palmer, personal interview, May 24, 1956.

²⁰Ibid.

²¹J. Cecil Alter (ed.), Utah, The Storied Domain (Chicago: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1932), Vol. I, p. 23.

of New Mexico. An example of this was a Shivwit girl of 10 or 12 who was stolen and taken north to be traded to the first Spaniards that happened along.²² With the girl tied on a mule, they traveled for several days and then camped near the present site of Milford. Here she was kept bound in a wickiup, guarded by an old squaw, wife of one of the warriors. At night as the Indians gambled and smoked, the warrior boasted that he was going to make the girl his second wife. This was a mistake. The jealous wife overheard the conversation and untied the girl with instructions to run as long as it was dark and then lay down and hide or get into the hills where she could travel out of sight. After about a week she stumbled exhausted into her own camp, near present Santa Clara, Utah, having eaten only the vegetation she could get as she ran along.

Even Chief Walker (a Ute war chief whose Indian name was Wakara) was guilty of raiding the southern Utah tribes. He would ask them for tribute of such things as horses and if they didn't have horses to give, which they rarely did, then he would take some of their children.²³

The extent to which some of these savages disregarded the sacredness of human life is illustrated by a group led by Arapine, Walker's brother.

They had some Indian children for sale. They offered them to the Mormons who declined buying. Arapine, Walker's brother became enraged, saying that the Mormons had stopped the Mexicans from buying these children; they had no right to do so unless they bought them, themselves. Several of us were present when he took one of these children and dashed its brains out on the hard ground, after which he threw the body toward us, telling us we had no hearts or we would have bought it and saved its life.²⁴

The Indians of Southwestern Utah and Nevada were even known to sell their own children. Girls generally brought the best price on

²² LeRoy Hafen and Ann Hafen, Old Spanish Trail (Glendale, California: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1954), p. 282.

²³ Statement of William R. Palmer, personal interview, May 24, 1956.

²⁴ Leland H. Creer, The Founding of an Empire (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1947), p. 35, quoting Dan Jones, Forty Years Among the Indians.

on the market, from \$100 to \$200, and the boys about \$100 during the 1850's.²⁵ In turn the Indians received horses and such things as knives, blankets, beads, calico, guns, and other trinkets.

It seems unfortunate that these people were found in the 1850's in such a degenerate and frightened condition, because they were known to be peaceful and often industrious. As the white man settled here, he hired the Indians for many odd jobs such as farm hand, woodcutter, shepherd, and the women proved fairly efficient in doing housework. Some have said that the Paiute presented the unique achievement of improvement by contact with the whites,²⁶ but by the time the Milford Valley was settled most of the clans were greatly diminished. A possible explanation for this has been given by Garland H. Hurst, an Indian agent during the 1860's. Speaking of the slave trade he said,

So vigorously is it prosecuted that scarcely one-half of the Py-eed children are permitted to grow up in the band; and a large majority of those being males, this and other practices are tending to depopulate their bands rapidly.²⁷

After Milford was settled in the early seventies, some of the Indians moved in close to town. The site of the cemetery was one of their locations, and another was just west of the present high school. Graves have been dug up in the area just about one block and a half west from the present gymnasium.

The Indians felt like the white men owed them a living, because they had taken their land and resources. They thought little of killing the white men's cattle for food, since the white men thought nothing of killing their cattle (deer).²⁸ It was very common for the Indians to go around the community and beg for food and clothing, and most of the whites made it a practice of cooking a few more biscuits or preparing more food than they really needed for a meal in anticipation of giving some to them. "They were worse than gypsies as beggars, and they became terrible thieves."²⁹ But in spite of this there was great caution

²⁵ Ibid. ²⁶ Hodge, op. cit., p. 186.

²⁷ Creer, op. cit., p. 35.

²⁸ Statement of William R. Palmer, personal interview, May 24, 1956.

²⁹ Statement of Jennie Martin, personal interview, May 23, 1956.

exercised in order to avoid any trouble with the Indians.

On one occasion when some of the "bucks" were in town doing some gambling and a little drinking, they began arguing and had a disagreement with Ed Denny. Ed got his 22 Rifle and chased them out of town, taking pot shots at them as they ran through the sagebrush. The Indians went to Tadpole (site used for occasional Powwows and dances about two or three miles southwest of town) after their guns, and started back. Denny ran to Sawyer's store (located on the Southwest corner of the present Tri-State Lumber Company block), where he worked, and grabbed a brand new 30-30 Rifle. He stood in the door waiting for the Indians to come down the street, but fortunately some other men intercepted them and persuaded them to return without any violence.³⁰

As years passed, the number of Indians decreased. Some went to stay with the Pahvants at Corn Creek. Others went over around Cedar City, but the majority seem to have gone west to the Indian Peak Paiute Reservation where some of their descendants remained until very recent years.

The first known visit to the Indians in this area by white man had come ~~just after the end~~ ^{in the second year} of the American Revolution. The journey started with ten Spaniards only a few weeks after the colonies had declared their independence in July of 1776.³¹ The Milford Valley, indeed, possibly the site of Milford itself, was the place where the single most important decision of the journey was made.³²

At that time, Spain was concerned about the land she laid claim to which extended into the area covered by the present states of New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, and Nevada. The proposed journey would help to strengthen the Spanish claims to this vast territory.³³ The primary purpose was to find a more northerly route to Monterey, and the Catholic missions of upper California which would bypass the undesirable problems of fording the Colorado

³⁰ Statement of Margaret Hickman Rogers, personal interview, May 23, 1956.

³¹ Auerbach, op. cit., p. 27

³² Ibid., p. 78. ³³ Ibid., p. 5

River, crossing the rugged Grand Canyon, surviving the almost formidable deserts, and avoiding the bloodthirsty Apaches.³⁴ Both the Spanish Government and the Catholic Church were interested in the venture. The government wanted to hold the coast ports for their ships to carry on a lucrative trade with the Philippine Islands, and the church wanted closer contact between their Sante Fe headquarters and the fast growing missions of California.

Fray Francisco Atanasio Dominguez was officially in charge of the group which started on July 29th.³⁵ However, Fray Silvestre Velez de Escalante has become the most famous member of the expedition, and it was to him that the party often looked for its real leadership. Escalante had agitated for such a trip for several years. He thought that the trip would give him a chance to bring the message of Christ to the Yuta Indians who were a more peaceful people than the Apaches.

Leaving Sante Fe, they traveled north for about six weeks, turned west into what is now Utah and by September 24, they were camped on the shores of Utah Lake.³⁶ They were very impressed with the beautiful valley and the extremely friendly reception given them by the Indians. They called the lake Timpanogo after the Indians, many of whom accepted their preaching and begged for their hasty return.

By October 1, they were on the Northeast shore of Sevier Lake which they named Laguna de Meira for their artist, Don Bernardo Meira.³⁷ Here they met the bearded Indians, but did not prolong their stay as it was getting late in the fall and there was a fear that winter would set in before they could reach their destination. Leaving the lake it was necessary for them to follow the east side of the small river (now called Beaver), coming from the south, in order to escape the swampy marsh lands.

Escalante's journal gives many vivid descriptions of the land the party followed in many places. The small river was a welcome sight, but they were greatly disappointed to find that it merely stood

³⁴Ibid., p. 6

³⁵Ibid., p. 27.

³⁶Ibid., p. 66.

³⁷Ibid., p. 73

in pools along the way.³⁸ Another great disappointment was the sight of a good-sized lake which turned out to be a vast amount of alkali and white pumice colored ground by the big bend near the present railroad location of Cruz. Lack of fresh water became a major problem, and they had trouble with the horses which had to drink the salty water.³⁹ Following the river they finally reached the "southern pass" which opened up to beautiful meadows, and a better quantity of fresh water. They camped here, naming it the Vegas de el Puerto (Gateway to the Meadow) which is undoubtedly just north of the present Black Rock Railroad station where the river separates the black volcanic ridges of the east from the gray shadescale hills of the west.⁴⁰

The party was very much heartened by the looks of the valley spread before them, and even though one of their Indian guides was seen leaving them early in the morning, they made no effort to stop him.⁴¹ It appears from their maps that they crossed the river here and remained on the west side through the entire valley.⁴² Going south a little over five miles they turned slightly to the southwest for an additional eight miles, undoubtedly forced to do so because of the condition of the soil which is like quick sand when there is plenty of water in this area.⁴³ They camped at this point, naming it San Atenogenes. The vast valley they were now in they named Valle de Nuestra Senora de la Luz (Valley of Our Lady of Light).⁴⁴

It was at this camp where winter caught up with the party. For the last few days a cold wind had constantly been blowing from the south and on October 5, a heavy snowfall blanketed both mountains and plain.⁴⁵ Two men were sent to the west to see if they could find a pass through the ridge and water and pasturage in the valley beyond, but they returned with a negative report.⁴⁶ Snow and rain continued for two more days, making it impossible for them to continue over

³⁸Ibid., p. 76

³⁹Ibid.

⁴⁰Ibid.

⁴¹Ibid.

⁴²Ibid., opposite p. 24.

⁴³Ibid., p. 77.

⁴⁴Ibid.

⁴⁵Ibid.

⁴⁶Ibid.

the soft ground.⁴⁷ Finally on October 8, they proceeded south a little over nine miles and camped about 1 mile from the river at a place which they named San Brigida (St. Bridget).⁴⁸ This would put them very near the present site of Milford. It is not unlikely that they were camped someplace between the present locations of the fairgrounds and the airport.⁴⁹

It was at this camp, San Brigida, that the most momentuous decision was made during the entire journey of nearly two thousand miles.⁵⁰ The party underwent great suffering from an icy north wind which continued all day. In every direction all the mountains were covered with snow. Escalante and Atanasio began to fear being caught in some mountain pass without provisions for two or three months. There was the possibility of dying from hunger if not from cold. A decision was made---turn back to Sante Fe.

There was one big drawback to this plan---not every member of the party liked it. Consequently as they traveled on toward the southwest, a quarrel ensued as to the wisdom of the decision. Don Bernardo Meira was especially outspoken about disliking the change in plans. The second day from San Brigida, when they were at or near the western point of the Minersville Ridge, they decided to cast lots as to whether the course should be changed. It was agreed that no matter how the lot fell, everyone would concur with the feeling that it was God's will. However, if the lot was to continue on to Monterey, Meira would be the leader of the group. The lot indicated that they should return to Sante Fe, so they immediately turned east following the ridge for a short distance and then dropped into the valley to the south.⁵¹ The party finally reached Sante Fe on January 2, 1877.

The Escalante party is probably only one of many colorful groups who trekked through the sagebrush and shadescale laden

⁴⁷Ibid. ⁴⁸Ibid., p. 78.

⁴⁹Most calculations have placed San Brigida farther north, but judging by Meira's different maps the writer believes that it is much nearer where the river turns back to the southeast towards Minersville at Horse Shoe Bend.

⁵⁰Auerbach, loc. cit. ⁵¹Ibid., pp. 79-81.

valley of Milford on their way to other and more alluring destinations. In 1826, Jedediah S. Smith, a famous mountain man who often carried a gun in one hand and a Bible in the other, was captain of a trapper company on the way to California. Although there has been much controversy as to his exact route, it appears that he was going south through Sevier Valley, but seeing a dead end to the canyon, he turned west and over the mountain. His diary mentions the Indian writings which still adorn the face of the cliffs in Clear Creek Canyon.⁵² He rode to the top of the hill and looked to the west where he reports seeing a vast desert of sand with pools of water dotting it here and there where a river had its course.⁵³ This could be no other than the bottoms of the lower Milford Valley where the river for many years would spread out and leave somewhat stagnant pools of water. Indeed, the language used in referring to the river reminds one of the description given by the Escalante party. The river, undoubtedly the Beaver, he named Lost River, but his maps show it running west into a lake instead of along the more northerly course it follows.

The fact that Milford Valley is so close to what finally became the accepted route of the Old Spanish Trail makes it rather evident that many parties may have peered into the valley or even traversed it going to or from California. There was a great period of years when the trail was not so definitely identified as it later came to be, and there are many known cases where parties took routes which carried them north of this trail and possibly through this valley.

⁵²Creer, op. cit., p. 55.

⁵³Ibid.

CHAPTER III

BEGINNINGS

The first settlers in the Milford Valley and their motives for coming represent an extension of earlier colonization in Beaver and Minersville in the eastern part of the county. Therefore, the settlement of Milford cannot be fully understood without a brief knowledge of the pioneers of these earlier settlements.

The first colonists sent south by the Mormon Leader, Brigham Young, bypassed the Beaver Valley because they felt that it was a cold and unpleasant place in comparison to the more southerly colonies. After exploration of the Tushar (Beaver) Mountains to the east, however, it was found there was a fine quantity of good timber which was suitable for lumber, and it was decided that the valley would provide fine pasturage for cattle from the Southern Utah settlements.

In the early part of February, 1856, George A. Smith, Mormon Apostle in charge of settlements in Southern Utah, sent a group of men to locate what became Beaver City. Within a year, the existence of lead ore was made known in the Mineral Range to the west, and a number of people moved down the canyon near the present site of Minersville to engage in mining activities in connection with the old Rollins (Lincoln) Mine. Soon others followed, but with the purpose in mind of farming by diverting the water from the Beaver River. The first crops were planted on the present site of Minersville in 1859, but it proved very difficult to get the water out of the river onto the land, and eventually a shortage of water occurred.¹ With this threat to their supply of livestock feed it was necessary to seek other sources.

They found that an excellent stand of native grasses existed in the lower valley. So the farmers and stockmen began making trips

¹Merkley, op. cit., p. 212.

to the pastures near the Yellow Banks, about 2 miles north and slightly east of the present Union Pacific Station at Milford. The wild hay was cut with scythes, loaded on wagons pulled by oxen or mules, and taken to be stored in the fields at Minersville to provide for winter feeding. The settlers of Minersville laid claim to these grass lands by the Yellow Banks as early as 1862 as their "only meadow land."² Annually they would cut the grass together, sometimes making the rigorous round trip of nearly thirty miles down and back in one day.³ Finally in 1867, under the direction of Bishop McKnight and two others, "the land was divided into lots agreeable to provisions entered into by the people jointly in a mass meeting called for that purpose."⁴

It was during these same early years that stock raisers from Beaver recognized the value of the fine grass lands in the lower valley and brought their stock here to graze along the river and on the bench land. Cattle were usually branded and then turned out together on the range. It is estimated that during the 1870's and 1880's there were over twenty thousand cattle on the range in the valleys of Southwestern Utah. Sheep were also introduced at a very early date. M. L. Shepherd had his sheep on the east side of the river near the Yellow Banks as early as 1865, while most of the land claimed by Minersville men seemed to be on the west side of the river.

This arrangement seemed to be satisfactory for many years, but eventually difficulties arose. Fifteen men from Minersville, with E. H. Blackburn as their spokesman, preferred a charge against Shepherd before the Beaver Stake High Council, a Mormon ecclesiastical organization, for allowing his sheep to cross the river onto their fields. After hearing both sides of the case, John R. Murdock, President of Beaver Stake, rendered a decision that both of the parties should keep their stock and hay cutting activities to their own

²"Record of the High Council of Beaver Stake of Zion, Book H, " minutes of December 3, 1870. MS in the L. D. S. Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah

³Statement of David McKnight, personal interview, May 23, 1856.

⁴High Council Minutes, loc. cit.

side of the river. This decision was unanimously accepted by the High Council and the matter was peacefully settled.⁵

One of the Minersville men, Joseph Turley, appears to be the first person to hold Federal title to land in the Milford Valley. He took up eighty acres on the west side of the river near the Yellow Banks in 1869 (NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 Sec. 32, NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 Sec. 33, T. 27 S., R. 10 W.).⁶ One month later, Jerome Zabriskie took up a piece about a quarter of a mile to the south on the same side of the river, but it is doubtful whether either of them ever actually lived here.⁷ The motivation for these acquisitions probably came at this time because for the first time in the history of the Territory it was possible to obtain Federal title to land in 1869.

In the Spring of 1870, M. L. Shepherd pre-empted a quarter section east of the river and closer to the Yellow Banks.⁸ There are indications that a few others built in the Yellow Banks area, and Shepherd operated a dairy for a time, but the exact dates are unknown.⁹ The existence of settlers in this locality is intimated by a complaint made in 1872 by Beaver businessmen, that it was "not uncommon for the southern mails going west and north from Beaver to go as far as Yellow Banks, in the vicinity of Star District, and the same mail be brought back to Beaver the next day."¹⁰

Actual settlement on the present site of Milford first came sometime in the fall of 1870.¹¹ To Arvin M. Stoddard goes the honor of being Milford's pioneer founder, but it is not known why he came to this valley, nor why he chose the specific location he did. He was born September 1, 1825 in Portland, Leads County, Canada, and came to Utah in October of 1847 with Charles C. Rich's company of

⁵Ibid.

⁶Abstract in County Clerk's Office, Beaver, Utah.

⁷Ibid. ⁸Ibid.

⁹Statement of Dorothy Reese Williams, personal interview, August 27, 1955.

¹⁰Deseret News, May 29, 1872.

¹¹High Council Minutes, loc. cit.

Mormon Pioneers. He was an engineer (surveyor) by profession and was employed in 1849 by Captain Howard Stansbury, who was exploring the Great Salt Lake.¹² In the latter part of 1849, he moved south to the new settlement of Provo, where he is listed as one of the founders of that city along with one of his brothers, John Rufus Stoddard, Jerome Zabriskie, and others.¹³

As Mormon colonization was extended, one colony was located at San Bernardino, California. Arvin Stoddard and his three brothers, Sheldon, Albert, and Rufus, went to live in this colony. A report of the 25th Quorum of Seventies made on May 9, 1853 at Salt Lake City, lists Arvin Stoddard as living in Lower California.¹⁴ The date of his return to Utah is not known, but it is known that as the Mormon's were threatened by the approach of Johnston's Army toward Utah in late 1857, President Brigham Young sent word for the people living in the outlying settlements, including San Bernardino, to dispose of their property and return to Utah. It is quite likely that the Stoddard Brothers returned to Utah at this time, although there were a few people who did not return for many years. If they did return at this time there is a question as to where they were for about ten years time. It has been commonly thought that Arvin Stoddard lived in Minersville before he came to settle in the Milford Valley, but the U.S. Census reports for 1860 and 1870 do not list his name as living in Minersville, even though there were other Stoddards living there during this period.

It is interesting to speculate as to why Stoddard selected the place he did. He built his house near the bottom of a small hill (where the Catholic Church now stands), near the edge of a swamp. His back door opened to the sagebrush covered hillside, and at the front was a stand of somewhat undesirable salt and wire grass in thickly coated alkali soil. At this time there were no roads, it was not on any mail route, nor had the mining activities, which were just beginning to the

¹²"Arvin M. Stoddard," Biographical Card File of the Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

¹³"Journal History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," May 19, 1852. MS in the L. D. S. Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.

¹⁴Deseret News, October 1, 1853.

west and south, focused attention on the possibilities for mill and smelter sites on this hillside. This was a year before the railroad line was even commenced south from Salt Lake City, and many years before they knew that it would come through Beaver County.

Stoddard had been associated with Jerome Zabriskie as early as 1852 when they lived in Provo. One possibility is that he was told of the Milford Valley by Zabriskie who had land there. The Stoddard homestead was just a mile south of Zabriskie's land. A second possibility is that he came through the influence of M. L. Shepherd who had lived in San Bernardino before moving to Beaver in 1857. Or, perhaps it was through the association of both of these men, plus the very short depth necessary to reach the water level of only 12 to 15 feet below the surface at the point of location. This would make it unnecessary to live nearer a spring.

The settlers who came to the Milford Valley in the early 1870's, located primarily where water was readily accessible. Joseph Clements homesteaded a quarter section out at Hay Springs, about seven miles south of Stoddard's in the spring of 1871, and shortly after, Arvin's brother, John Rufus Stoddard took up some land adjoining Clements on the south, with access to the spring.¹⁵ Several homesteads were established near the bend in the river, a little over a mile south from Arvin Stoddard, which came to be known as Horse Shoe Bend.

For many years it has been a popular notion that no one lived in or near the present site of Milford until the coming of the railroad in 1880. In addition to those already mentioned, by 1872, Joseph Clements had sold a piece of land at Hay Springs to William Pritchard, J. R. Stoddard had sold a piece near the same place to Samuel Ten Eyck, and also had given permission to two men, Williams and Guio, to carry on a butchering business the following year.¹⁶ Peter Martin located at Horse Show Bend, R. A. K. Hugessen purchased a piece in the east fields from Arvin Stoddard, and Edwin Bingham homesteaded near Horse Shoe Bend (the Ivan McKnight farm) all in the 1870's.¹⁷

¹⁵ Abstracts in the County Clerk's Office, Beaver, Utah.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

Although the original settlement of the Milford Valley was not related to the mining activity, during the decade from 1870 to 1880, it assumed a degree of importance because of its proximity to several mineral-laden mountain ranges. By 1870 prospectors were beginning to infest the surrounding hills, especially to the west and southwest where notable strikes had been made. Several mining districts had been organized by 1872, but no political divisions had yet been made in this part of the county. At a special term of the County Court held in Beaver on March 15, 1872, census takers were appointed for the county; Isaac Grundy was appointed for the Star District. The Court ordered that the "various mining camps of the Star District including all the settlements below the Yellow Banks be formed into a precinct and to be called the Star Precinct. . ."¹⁸ W.H. Manion was appointed Justice of the Peace and Morgan L. Peden was named Constable.¹⁹

With the increased mining activity, and the rugged men it drew, the liquor business soon made its appearance. The County Court received a petition from J. R. Stoddard in May 1872 to sell liquor at his residence at Hay Springs in Star Precinct.²⁰ One month later, two petitions were granted; one to Ole Allison to "retail all kinds of spiritous liquors at the Horse Shoe Bend," and the other to Smith and Jacobs to keep a saloon at Dan Martin's Station north of there.²¹

These early comers to the valley never lacked for lively topics of conversation when it was possible to get together. Reports from the mines started coming in, always in glowing terms. Many of the miners were sure that by the time they had sunk their shaft another 50 feet they would be fixed financially for life, and more than one of the farmers in the valley put up "grub stakes" to keep the miners from starving until they could strike it rich. Excitement also came from Beaver about the coming of the U.S. Soldiers to be stationed there. What would they do? No one was quite sure, but it

¹⁸"Record of the County Court of Beaver County, 1856-1883," pp. 106-107. MS in County Clerk's Office, Beaver, Utah.

¹⁹Ibid., p. 109. ²⁰Ibid.

²¹Ibid., p. 113

was nice that they brought a doctor, the only one within a radius of 150 miles. And if the conversation lagged on mines and soldiers, there were always those terrible blinding dust storms during the summer months, or the new families just moving in.

In the fall of 1873 the mining activity in the surrounding area beckoned what became one of Milford's prominent families---the sons of John D. Williams. Instead of locating at one of the camps beginning to spring up around the mines, they homesteaded on a piece of land adjoining Arvin Stoddard's. The mother of these boys had died in Baltimore, and the father went to Arizona, but felt that it was too hot. Coming north, he stopped at Rush Lake in Juab County.²² When he wrote for the boys to come west, the two oldest, George and Daniel came to the Milford Valley. Daniel was an assayer, and undoubtedly felt that the mining activity in Beaver County would provide opportunities for good employment.

About the same time as these boys came, the side hill near the center of Arvin Stoddard's property was selected for a mill site by a mining company just coming into the area. Daniel was employed by this 10-stamp Mill which was erected in the fall of 1873 on the hill near where the present library stands. He was sitting up by the mill one day watching the ore wagons rumble down the road from the Cave Mine with their loads for the mill when he got an idea. It was necessary for the wagons to ford the river since no bridge had been constructed yet, therefore the crossing, (about where the present bridge is located, 1/3 mile southeast of town), became known as the mill ford. He decided to name the town Milford.²³ The name caught on, and soon was recognized as the official name of the town. Quite often in the early years, it was spelled "Millford" in County Court records and newspaper articles, but soon gave way to the present spelling.

²²Elizabeth Neilson, "John D. William," (1936), p. 1. Type-written manuscript in possession of Dorothy Reese Williams, Beaver, Utah.

²³Statements of John Mitchell Williams (Daniel's nephew), May 22, 1956, and Dorothy Reese Williams (Daniel's wife), August 27, 1955. There is no evidence to support an alternative theory: "Probably named for Milford Merrill who built and operated the first smelter in the town's vicinity." Elbert L. Cox (comp.), Beaver County Gazatteer (Beaver, Utah: Beaver Press, 1938), p. 1.

John D. Williams, Daniel's father, had come from Wales to Baltimore, Maryland in about 1849 when he was only nineteen years old. He came to Utah in 1870 as an expert smelter man and was first employed as superintendent of the building and running of a smelter in Juab County.²⁴ Later he was superintendent of the Chicago Smelter in East Canyon near Tooele, before coming to Frisco for a short time.²⁵ In 1874 he was employed to erect a smelter for the reduction of ore near Frisco, by William S. Godbe, his employer in East Canyon, but this did not prove successful because of some defect in the water supply so he decided to build one of his own on a site on his son Daniel's property.²⁶ The smelter was built on the side hill just below where the present high school building stands. A large depression in the center of the southeast walk about midway up the hill marks the spot of the old well. The smelter started out with a "bang" and things in the community were looking very prosperous.²⁷

With signs of prosperity in the community, the citizens petitioned the County Court to organize Milford into a precinct. The petition was granted on October 30, 1876, and William H. Lighthall was appointed Justice of the Peace, and E.H. Fisher was appointed constable.²⁸ The people were so confident of the future growth and development of Milford, that it was thought the District Court would soon be shifted from Beaver to Milford. This would have created a sensation at the time because interest was at its peak over the trial of John D. Lee, participant in the Mountain Meadow Massacre. Mormons and non-Mormons of the community were both outspoken in their views as to the degree of Lee's guilt, but things quieted down after his conviction and execution in March of 1877.²⁹

²⁴Neilson, loc. cit.

²⁵Deseret News, May 27, 1874.

²⁶Neilson, loc. cit.

²⁷Statement of Dorothy Reese Williams, personal interview, August 27, 1955.

²⁸Record of the County Court, op. cit., p. 196.

²⁹Andrew L. Neff, History of Utah, 1847 to 1869 (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1940), p. 432.

During this period, the most notorious outlaw in Southwestern Utah was Ben Tasker, a very successful rustler.³⁰ During the 1870's he rustled many horses and some cattle in the Milford Valley, and others nearby, but the law either couldn't catch him, or if it did, was unsuccessful in proving his guilt. In later years he ran a watering station for freighters at Mountain Springs, where he kept a gang of outlaws with him.³¹ More than one freighter would return to Milford and recount his experience with the Tasker Gang. It was said that he would sell water and goods to freighters, and then have his gang rob them after they had gone some miles farther on.³²

The residents of Milford Valley were generally good law-abiding citizens. They also recognized the unwritten law of the frontier which was upheld by public sentiment and a smoking gun if necessary. But now that it was possible to have private title to land, most of the troubles seemed to diminish, and Milford was relatively a quiet community in the later part of the 1870's. By 1878 things had slowed down to such an extent that Milford precinct was annexed to the Star Precinct for voting purposes with the place of voting at Shauntie,³³ in the mining area. This was an indication of the increasing importance mining played during this decade.

³⁰Deseret News, November 3, 1875.

³¹Statement of David McKnight, personal interview, May 23, 1956.

³²Ibid.

³³Record of the County Court, op. cit., p. 233.

CHAPTER IV

MINING

Nearly a half century before the Mormon Pioneers entered the Great Basin, Spaniards were seeking precious metals and carrying out limited quantities of ore by pack animals.¹ When Brigham Young sent out some of the first scouting parties they returned to tell of the number of prospecting holes they had seen in Southwestern Utah, especially near the great iron deposits of Iron County. The Spaniards had an old saying that iron was the "slut" of metals, and where it existed they would expect to find its more important "pups" nearby.² Finds in recent years seem to substantiate earlier indications that the Spaniards carried on limited mining activities in this area. Up a canyon, a short distance south of Parowan, found scratched on the rocks were the date 1831, a Spanish cross, and the word Gold spelled with the letters backwards.³ In Zion Canyon was found a 200 foot tunnel, and lying near the bottom was an old pick with the handle decayed to dust.⁴

In 1852, William H. Kimball, deputy Marshall, arrested a party of Mexicans who were kidnapping Indians. . . . The leader of the party told Kimball that Indian slave trading was the most profitable business he had been in since he packed ore from the vicinity of Provo Fort to Sante Fe before the coming of the Mormons.⁵

It appears that the Spanish mining ventures ceased completely in this area when they began to develop the slave trade.

¹Edgar M. Ledyard, "Early Mining and Smelting South of Salt Lake City," Ax-I-Dent-Ax, May, 1931, p. 1.

²Statement by William R. Palmer, personal interview, May 24, 1956.

³Ibid. ⁴Ibid.

⁵Ledyard, loc. cit.

The more modern development of mining in Beaver County began in the late 1850's. According to a statement by C. C. Woodhouse, "as early as the summer of 1857, Indians brought galena [lead ore] to Beaver" from what is now known as the Lincoln Mining District.⁶ It is not unlikely that what became the famous old Rollins Lead Mine (Lincoln) was first worked by Spaniards. In fact an editorial in the Salt Lake Tribune quotes Bentham Fabian, an early writer, who refers to it as "the old Spanish mine."⁷

When gold "fever" spread to Utah in 1849, Brigham Young counseled the Mormon people that they would be wise to stay and plant grain and build their homes here in the valleys of the mountains. Even though it was believed that the mountains contained great treasures in mineral wealth, the pioneers were discouraged from digging "holes in the ground." However, in the fall of 1858, Isaac Grundy, Jesse N. Smith, Tarlton Lewis, and William Barton, discovered what became known as the Rollins Lead Mine (later the Lincoln) in the Mineral Range about three miles north of the present site of Minersville and about ten miles southeast from the site of Milford. Samples of the ore were sent to Brigham Young, and caused considerable interest. President Young called Grundy and others to locate a settlement in a suitable place by the mine and open it for working. Lead was extracted from the ore by a rather crude process, and then molded into slugs for use in making bullets. These were used by the settlers of the area to help defend against Indians, and for hunting purposes.⁸ It was noticed that the ore contained a high content of silver. From this came the report in the East that the Mormons shot silver bullets.⁹

⁶George W. Woodhouse, "Black Powder Days," Beaver Press, July 4, 1947. See also map on page 32.

⁷Salt Lake Tribune, November 29, 1936, p. 11.

⁸Some people have supposed that the bullets were to be used for protection against Johnston's Army, but the main difficulties of the Utah War had become somewhat resolved before the lead was obtained.

⁹Merkley, op. cit. p. 210.

**PRUESS
MINING
DIST.**

Org. Mar. 1872

- X Golden Reef
- X Indian Queen
- X Cactus

**BEAVER LAKE
MINING
DIST.**

Org. Aug. 1871

- X Carbonate

- X Skylark

- X O.K.
- X Beaver Harrison

**ROCKY
MINING
DIST.**

Org. Mar. 1872

- X Old Hickory

**SAN FRANCISCO
MINING
DIST.**

Org. Aug. 1871

- X Cupric
- King David
- ERISCO
- X Horn Silver

**NORTH STAR
MINING
DIST.**

Org. Nov. 1871

- Wild Bill X

- Cedar Talisman X

- Hoosier Boy X
- SHENANDOAH
- X Elephant
- X Mammouth
- SHAUNTIE X
- X Red Warrior
- Moscow X
- X St. Mary's

- X Copper King
- Rebel X
- X Harrington
- X Hickory

**SOUTH STAR
MINING
DIST.**

Org. July 1870

**BRADSHAW
MINING
DIST.**

Org. May 1875

- X Cave

- X Lincoln

**LINCOLN
MINING
DIST.**

Org. Jan. 1871

LEGEND

Railroad 

River 

Mines X X X

Town 

Scale 1/2 in. = 1 mi.

MILFORD

MINERSVILLE

BEAVER RIVER

It is not known just how extensive the mining operations were after 1858. According to S. A. Kenner, an early writer,

There were no available means at hand for separating the metals, . . . and the work was not prosecuted to any great extent. . . . the region of country in which it is situated became the first organized mining district in the territory; this was accomplished in 1861, the name "Lincoln" being given it, which name was also subsequently given to the old lead mine.¹⁰

That this was the first mining district may be true, but "Lincoln" is probably not the correct name.¹¹ The Lincoln Mining District was organized on Jan. 16, 1871.¹² In December of 1870, however, when 15 men took up various claims in the area of the Lincoln Mine, they availed themselves of "all privileges granted by the Pioneer District Mining Laws."¹³ It would appear from this that the first district was named "Pioneer," but the boundaries were later changed and a reorganized district was named "Lincoln."¹⁴

Interest in this district lagged during the middle Sixties, but in the first part of April, 1871, great excitement was caused when someone exhibited gold at the Cooperative Store in Beaver.¹⁵ Dirt which was being thrown out of a shaft in one of the lead mines was found to contain gold in paying quantities.¹⁶ Within a month's time their forty miners at work in the district on seven different ledges, washing the free gold from the dirt and ochre.¹⁷ H. W. B. Kantner, writing a number of years later, says, "From 1868 to 1873 a goodly town had sprung up in the ravine adjacent to the Lincoln mine, there being at one time over 100 houses and fully 500 people in the camp." A look

¹⁰S. A. Kenner, Utah As It Is (Salt Lake City: Deseret News, 1904), p. 323.

¹¹Many historians give this honor to the West Mountain Mining District in Bingham Canyon organized in September of 1863.

¹²"Lincoln Mining District, Book A," p. 1. MS in the County Recorder's Office, Beaver, Utah.

¹³Ibid. ¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵Deseret News, April 26, 1871.

¹⁶Ibid., May 31, 1871. ¹⁷Ibid.

up this ravine today would cause anyone to wonder whether or not it would be possible to get that many houses, tents, or dugouts in such a narrow space. Nevertheless, the town of Lincoln was organized into a precinct of its own in March of 1875.¹⁸ This was but a short prelude for a ghost town, however, because a few months later, water was encountered in the Lincoln mine, and by December the Lincoln Mining and Smelting Company that had been established was asking the District Judge to declare it bankrupt.¹⁹

Across the valley to the west, a few prospectors had led their burros into the somewhat barren and sunbaked Picachio Range early in 1870. It took very little digging in the vicinity of Elephant Canyon to make some valuable strikes. The Star Mining District was organized, July 8, 1870, and for nearly a full decade was so active that it kept Milford in the shadows of unimportance.²⁰ Not until the coming of the railroad did Milford begin to rival the Star District of which it was often considered a part.

The first prospectors making a claim in the Star District were T. F. Colwell, William Maxwell, G. R. A. Bibbins, and William Pritchard, with J. C. O'Neill acting as District Recorder.²¹ This claim was recorded on the same day as the district was organized, and at that time there probably were not many more than a dozen men in the area. Matthew Cullen and Dennis Ryan were other early claim takers in this district.²² It appears that prospectors wandered into the west mountains from three different directions. From Pioche, Nevada, to the southwest, just on the verge of two colossal years of mining prosperity, has been one guess. And it is definitely known that some came from the White Pine area in Nevada to associate with at least a few of the Mormons who had been connected with the Lincoln

¹⁸Record of the County Court, op. cit., p. 152.

¹⁹Deseret News, December 15, 1875.

²⁰"Star Mining District, Book A," p. 1. MS in the County Recorder's Office, Beaver, Utah.

²¹Ibid., p. 2 ²²Ibid., p. 3

mining venture.²³

The district developed fast and in the second year of its existence, Nov. 11, 1871, there was a reorganization by dividing the district.²⁴ Elephant Canyon divided the North Star from the South Star. According to D. B. Huntley, who made an excellent summary of Utah mining, in the Summer of 1880 "the South Star books showed 1,046 and in the North Star 581 locations, but probably not over 350 were owned at the period under review."²⁵

One of the big problems in the Picachio Range was the scarcity of water. For this reason much of the mining was done during the winter months when the ridges were covered with a good layer of snow. Some of the outstanding early producers of the South Star were the Mammouth, Red Warrior, Moscow, and St. Mary's. In the North Star, such mines as the Elephant, Hoosier Boy, Wild Bill, Cedar-Talisman, Harrington Hickory, and Rebel yielded abundant treasures.²⁶

The prosperous years of this region were from 1872 to 1875. During this period at least four thriving mining camps existed. Shauntie on the West side of the Picachio Range boasted some forty houses, and was connected with the Deseret Telegraph. Two smelters began operations late in the summer of 1873, and produced a considerable amount of bullion which was shipped to Salt Lake City.²⁷ Later the two smelters were rebuilt into one better and larger, and just when the camp seemed to be at her peak a great tragedy occurred. At about 2 p. m., June 15, 1875, the Shauntie telegraph operator hurriedly broke in on the line with the startling words--- "The town is burning."²⁸

Then all was silence. The main fire lasted only about an hour and took almost all the important business houses and many of the dwellings. One hundred men were put out of work when the smelter

²³Woodhouse, op. cit., February 6, 1948.

²⁴B. S. Butler, Geology and Ore Deposits of the San Francisco and Adjacent Districts, Utah (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1913), p. 114.

²⁵Ibid. ²⁶Ibid., pp. 110-206.

²⁷Deseret News, September 17, 1873.

²⁸Ibid., June 22, 1875.

went. The damage was estimated at \$40,000.²⁹ There was an effort made to rebuild, but this active mining camp never regained its importance, and today there is hardly a trace to indicate where it once prospered.

Elephant City, South Camp, and Shenandoah City had their boom days, but failed to achieve the notoriety which belonged to Shauntie. However, in 1872, Shenandoah did replace Beaver as the distributing Post Office of Beaver County.³⁰ A correspondent, writing in January of 1874, said there were three hundred miners and businessmen in Shenandoah at that time.³¹

As early as 1870 an outcrop of copper had been located in the San Francisco Range about eighteen miles northwest of Milford in Copper Gulch, but the San Francisco Mining District was not organized until August 12, 1871.³² The first claim, called the Grampion Ledge and Company was made by Charles O'Neil, John Hawkes, S. J. McConnell, Mary O'Neil, William Plunkett, Matt Welsh, Barney Mullen, Andrew Haley, Daniel Murphy, and J. Kennedy.³³ This district enjoyed very little prominence until several years later when a strike was made that brought fame and fortune to men from Salt Lake to New York.

When the mining districts to the west of Milford and their many locations are viewed on a map in relation to their discovery, they form a pattern similar to a burro's shoe. Beginning with the strikes in the vicinity of Elephant Canyon in 1870, the line runs to the San Francisco District (early August, 1871), makes the bend past the Copper Gulch area, and back to Beaver Lake Mining District (organized later in August, 1871),³⁴ and ends up in the Rocky Mining District (organized March 27, 1872).³⁵

²⁹Ibid. ³⁰Ibid., September 18, 1872.

³¹Utah Mining Gazette, January 24, 1874, p. 100.

³²"San Francisco Mining District, Book A," p. 1. MS in Recorders Office, Beaver, Utah.

³³Ibid. ³⁴Butler, op. cit., p. 116.

³⁵"Rocky Mining District, Book A," p. 1. MS in the County Recorder's Office, Beaver, Utah

Neither the Beaver Lake or the Rocky District had the full scale boom days that the other districts enjoyed. This was undoubtedly because the predominant metal here was low grade copper which never assumed the high degree of importance during this period that silver, gold, and lead did.

Other than the crude efforts made in smelting the rich ore from the Lincoln a decade earlier, the small smelters of Timmerman and Shumer that "heated" up in the summer of 1873, at Shauntie, were the first major attempts in the reduction of ores in this area.³⁶ The Riverside Smelter was built the same year, about seven miles north of Milford along the river, to work the copper ores coming from the Beaver Lake and Rocky Districts, but it ran only a few months.³⁷

In the fall of 1873, Milford made a bid to enter the mining picture when a Scotch and Canadian company selected the site near the present location of the library, to build their 10-stamp mill. On this property, leased from Arvin Stoddard, the mill was built at the cost of \$45,000, by the Harrington and Hickory Consolidated Mining Company,

. . .to work the ores of the Old Hickory Mine, which had been sold to it for about \$100,000. The mill ran a few months on about 35-ounce ore in the winter of 1873-74 and produced from \$9,000 to \$12,000 in base bullion. It was then idle until leased by the Cave Co., in August, 1876. This company ran about five months and produced \$19,000 in very fine bullion. The mill has been idle since. The watchman sued for his wages and took the property in 1878.³⁸

Until the hill was prepared for planting lawn, and the present library building was constructed, it was still possible to see the places where the different levels of the old mill were, and the remains of the tailings pond at the bottom of the hill.

In the summer of 1875 Thompson and Low, of Beaver, built a smelter called the Troy Furnace on the bench about six miles southwest of Milford to handle the ore from the Mammoth Mine.³⁹ It

³⁶Deseret News, July 23, 1873.

³⁷Butler, op. cit., p. 116.

³⁸Ibid., p. 115 ³⁹Ibid.

made a successful run for a few months and then lay idle until it burned in 1880.⁴⁰ There also were smelters in connection with the Lincoln and Cave mines in the southern part of the Mineral Range, but the Spicer Smelter at Lincoln was idle after they struck water in the mine.⁴¹

A severe blow had been dealt to the mining industry in 1875, by the burning of Shauntie and the appearance of water in the shaft of the Lincoln. Milling and smelting activities were grinding to a halt, and a pall seemed to be falling on the camps. About this time, history was made by two sun-browned prospectors in the San Francisco District. The two, James Ryan and Samuel Hawkes, had been active in the district for some years before this, and their names can be seen on many location notices in 1871-72.⁴²

To these two miners, water for their burros seemed to be a significant factor in choosing a camp site, so they pitched their tents on the south end of Grampion Hill near Squaw Springs. This made it necessary to go over a mile to some of the prospects they were working, but they felt like it was worth it to have such good access to the springs.

Every day, on their way to work, these men passed a huge boulder alongside the trail which resembled the top of a haycock. The story has been handed down that one day, one of the men said he was going to remember and bring a pick with him and test the rock. On September 24, 1875, the rock was broken open to reveal a remarkable deposit of galena ore glistening in the sun.⁴³ The two miners agreed that this was certainly a "bonanza," and scratched that name on the location notice.⁴⁴ They sank a 30 foot shaft, showing a continuation of the rich ore, and then sold it on February 17,

⁴⁰Ibid.

⁴¹Deseret News, April 21, 1875.

⁴²San Francisco District, op. cit., pp. 8-20.

⁴³Butler, op. cit., p. 164.

⁴⁴Works Progress Administration, Utah, A Guide to the State ("American Guide Series"; New York: Hastings House, Pub., 1941), p. 323.

1876, to A. G. Campbell, Matthew Cullen, Dennis Ryan, and A. Bryam for the sum of \$25,000.⁴⁵ Tradition says that Ryan and Hawkes sold because they feared the vein of ore would soon run out (and it just about has, \$50,000,000 later).

This mine caused a stir of excitement to run through all the camps. It was the main topic of conversation on the street and across the dinner tables in Milford and throughout many parts of the intermountain territory. Allen G. Campbell and his associates continued to develop the mine and purchased some land nearby where the mine employees could settle. In this area a small city was built almost over night which was called Frisco. The company sank the mine shaft to 280 feet and extracted 25,000 tons of ore which averaged \$100 per ton.⁴⁶ They also changed the name of the mine to "Horn Silver," by which it has since become famous.

From available information it appears that John D. Williams had selected Milford for a smelter site before the discovery of the Horn Silver Mine had been made, but with that great potential supply of ore, anticipation of success was even greater. In partnership with John H. Latey who had worked under him near Tooele, they constructed their single-stack custom smelter in the autumn of 1876. It had "a stone shaft furnace, a No. 4 1/2 Baker blower, a horizontal boiler and engine, and a small fluedust chamber."⁴⁷ Undoubtedly part of the optimism was centered in the last named part of the construction, the dust chamber. This was a special invention which Williams had first used on a smelter near Tooele. In its early stages, Williams claimed: "it is an effectual preventative against the workmen being leaded, vegetation can be grown as close to the works as anywhere else, and the amount saved by the fume catcher more than pays the whole of the labor employed in working the smelter."⁴⁸ Preliminary tests showed that the chamber kept the fumes and particles going out the chimney to a minimum, and the dust saved assayed higher than the original ore.⁴⁹

⁴⁵Butler, op. cit., p. 164.

⁴⁶Ibid., pp. 164-165. ⁴⁷Ibid., p. 115.

⁴⁸Deseret News, May 27, 1874.

⁴⁹Utah Mining Gazette, September 27, 1873, p. 37.

Smelting operations began fine, but after 1,500 tons of Horn Silver ore had been worked, some sort of a misunderstanding occurred. Available records do not indicate what the trouble was, but this breach was never repaired.⁵⁰ The smelter worked for about two years, receiving 500 tons of Star ore, and 400 tons of Cave ore, which, together with that from the Horn Silver, produced about 770 tons of bullion,⁵¹ and then remained idle until August of 1880.⁵²

At Frisco, several methods of reducing the ore from the Horn Silver were tried, but due to scarcity of water, difficulty getting sufficient charcoal, and other minor problems, these attempts met with only limited success. The owners of the mine built a small smelter which burned in 1877, so they rebuilt by enlarging it to three furnaces.⁵³ Another private smelter was erected by the Frisco Smelting Company, under the direction of William S. Godbe, in 1877. "It was built like an ordinary furnace but had a flue extending up the side hill several hundred feet. It was hoped that this would create sufficient draft to dispose with an engine and blower." They made a few tons of bullion, but the draft could not be regulated, and as the fire approached the surface of the charge, the bottom would "freeze."⁵⁴

In 1879, the Horn Silver Mining Company was organized, and a half interest in the mine was sold at the rate of \$5,000,000 for the whole thing.⁵⁵ Actually, only \$2,500,000 changed hands, with the previous owners remaining in the company.⁵⁶ Jay Cooke, the J. Pierpont Morgan of his day, was one of the new investors.⁵⁷

As the fortunes of the mine went, so went Frisco, the boom town about a mile northeast of the workings. Murray Shick gives an interesting view of the community about 1879.

. . . Frisco was booming. From Alta and Ophir, Utah, and from Colorado, Nevada, and Arizona came "boomers"---miners, gamblers, gunmen, and dance hall girls. A sheriff--Pearson, first name forgotten--who came from Pioche, was elected to clean up the town.

⁵⁰The Daily (Salt Lake) Tribune, July 20, 1881,

⁵¹Butler, op. cit., p. 115. ⁵²Ibid.

⁵³Deseret News, September 12, 1877. ⁵⁴Ibid.

⁵⁵Deseret News, January 29, 1879. ⁵⁶Ibid.

⁵⁷W.P.A., op. cit., p. 323.

With the simple philosophy that dead men give no trouble, he put on a law enforcement campaign; there were no fines to be paid, no jail sentences to serve, and burial expenses were not excessive. Pearson gave a man his choice-- shoot it out, or leave town. Many tried to shoot it out, but Pearson had strong nerves and a quick trigger-finger. He was known to have killed as many as six men in one night, and it finally became necessary to hire a "body mover" to clean up after him. The "wagon" made the rounds every morning and hauled away one or two corpses; they were buried without questions or funeral announcements. Frisco acquired a reputation as the wildest camp in Utah. Each of the twenty-one saloons had its stories of killings. In one place two men were killed over fifty cents in a faro game.⁵⁸

The bullion produced by the smelters in Frisco and the other mining camps was freighted at first by wagon to Salt Lake City, and later to the terminus of the railroad as it pushed southward.⁵⁹ Because of local difficulties in smelting the ores, the Horn Silver Mining Company built a smelter at Francklyn, six miles south of Salt Lake City, in the summer of 1880. Because of the problems incurred in freighting the ore by wagon, the owners of the mine were anxious to see the railroad come to this area. For this and other reasons, the Horn Silver Mine was no small factor in the extension of the Utah Southern Railroad to Beaver County in 1880.

⁵⁸Ibid., pp. 323-324.

⁵⁹Butler, op. cit., p. 165.

CHAPTER V

THE RAILROAD

The meeting of the iron rails at Promontory, Utah, on May 10, 1869, touched off great celebrations throughout the nation. When Governor Leland Stanford of California drove the Golden Spike, the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific had pushed to completion over 1,700 miles of track in about two years time.¹ Mormon and Gentile leaders in Salt Lake City had both hoped the road would be built to the city of the Great Salt Lake instead of north to Ogden.²

When the inevitable was realized, the Utah Central Railroad Company was organized, on the same day that the Union Pacific reached Ogden, to construct a line from there to Salt Lake.³ Seven days after the Golden Spike had been driven, Brigham Young, President of the new company, turned the first sod for the branch line.⁴ The thirty seven miles of road was completed to Salt Lake on January 10, 1870, being constructed in less than eight months.⁵ At the completion of this line, Joseph A. Young, Superintendent, told a large crowd assembled that he hoped that the last spike of this road was but the first of the next which would extend to the "cotton country" in Southern Utah's Dixie.⁶

The settlements south of Salt Lake were anxious to be connected by rail with the hub of the intermountain empire. On May 1, 1871, the Utah Southern was commenced south from Salt Lake by a company composed of some of the same men who had been associated

¹Orson F. Whitney, The Making of a State (Salt Lake City: Deseret News, 1908), p. 168.

²Ibid., p. 174. ³Ibid. ⁴Ibid., p. 175.

⁵Ibid. ⁶Ibid., p. 176.

with the Utah Central, with William Jennings as President.⁷ By September the road had reached Sandy, a year later it was to Lehi, and fourteen months after that it had been completed to Provo.⁸ Finally on April 1, 1875 it reached York near the northern border of Juab County where it remained for four years.⁹

From the beginning of the Utah Southern, there seemed to be no definite route or destination agreed upon. There were different resources in different areas of the state, each beckoning for the steel bands to reach out in their direction. One of the first to bring a major consideration was the coal beds in Sanpete County. Others that were equally as enticing were the mining activities and the freighting of bullion from the southwest. In fact, during the boom days of Pioche, Nevada, there was agitation for the Utah Southern to come in that direction. An article in the Pioche Record said,

The trade of Pioche is now assuming such large proportions, that both the East and West are bidding against each other as to which shall control the greater portion. In the struggle the question of railroad extension will cut no mean figure. Through the extension of the Southern Utah the iron arms of the Union Pacific have been partially opened to grasp this trade. . . .¹⁰

At the time the Utah Southern was just reaching Provo, there had been plans for a railroad to be called the Salt Lake, Sevier Valley, and Pioche Railroad, under the direction of General P. E. Connor who was then associated with the mining activities of Pioche.¹¹ So vigorous was his campaign to sell bonds in the East and immediate plans to push the railroad, that it looked for certainty that the first railroad through Southern Utah would take the Sevier Valley route. This was a problem of concern for the people in the more western areas of the state.

There were many meetings held, such as one in Beaver at

⁷ Andrew Jenson, Church Chronology (Salt Lake City: Deseret News, 1914), p. 84.

⁸ J. Marinus Jensen, The History of Provo (Provo: J. Marinus Jensen, 1924), p. 231.

⁹ Whitney, op. cit., p. 177.

¹⁰ Deseret News, November 20, 1872.

¹¹ Ibid., March 26, 1873.

the Beaver Institute, "for the purpose of agitating the railroad and iron manufacture."¹² Speakers at the meeting were A. J. Stewart, Deputy U.S. Surveyor of the Territory, General Pace, Judge Hart, and Bishop John R. Murdock.

It is very doubtful that the Beaver meeting had any connection, but a company known as the Utah Southern Railroad Extension with William Jennings as President was organized three days later in Salt Lake City.¹³ The object of this company was to "extend a line of railroad southwards from the southern terminus of the Utah Southern, on the northern border of Juab County, to the 37:30 parallel, on the border of Washington County, a distance of two hundred miles, passing through the counties of Juab, Sanpete, Beaver, and Iron."¹⁴

Six weeks later, William Jennings and John Sharp, President and Vice President respectively, made a trip to the south to make a definite decision relative to the route of the extension. Their first stop was the coal fields of Sanpete County. Their problem was whether or not the coal beds and resources here were important enough to build the line through Salt Creek Canyon. Certainly there was a greater population in the Sanpete area to recommend that route. On the other hand, the more southwesterly direction through Millard and Beaver Counties would present superior advantages in the matter of grade, and therefore would be much less expensive for railroad building purposes.

It is not apparent whether they made a definite decision at this time, or waited until the Utah Southern had completed their road to Chicken Creek in Southern Juab four years later. However, there was at least a general awareness that the western route was favored at this time.¹⁵

By the latter part of 1875, the railroad in Utah had become more than just a local issue, and other localities were picking up

¹²Ibid., January 14, 1874. ¹³Ibid., January 6, 1875.

¹⁴Ibid., February 10, 1875.

¹⁵Ibid., April 7, 1875.

interest. The San Bernardino Times of December 24, carried an article entitled, "Let Us Have A Railroad," and mentioned the desire there was in Los Angeles at the time to connect with the Utah Southern.¹⁶ Notwithstanding all the agitation, however, no more track was laid for four years.

The subject was not a dead issue even though the tracklaying ceased for so many years. This is illustrated by the following letter written by Daniel Tyler of Beaver to the Deseret News in November of 1876.

A railroad meeting was held in the Beaver Institute on the evening of the 14th inst., and I beg your indulgence to offer a few reflections upon the main feature of concern.

The main object is to get up a petition to Congress asking a subsidy of every alternate section of land now unclaimed for a distance of five miles each way from the road for the purpose of its construction. It was admitted by one of the speakers that this was "the first time citizens had been asked to sign such a petition," and I will add it is to be hoped it will be the last. I can but look upon it as a "liberal" dodge to hoodwink the community to ask Congress to do what it has already done, in its liberality to the U. P. and other roads, donate more land than would build them, thus virtually building the roads and give the proceeds to the company, with a margin of profit (in some cases three times the actual cost of construction) for running it. On some of the roads this picture is not overdrawn, and the chances are that it would not be overdrawn in Southern Utah, although it was argued that a heavy portion would be worthless sagebrush and mountain lands. One of the wonderments of Southern Utah is that rich mines are discovered in localities least expected, and in situations different from those ever known to the oldest and most experienced miners. This point needs no proof, as it has been published in your own and every other prominent newspaper in the Territory. On some of these so-called "worthless sage lands" such mines are as likely to exist as in the steril lands of Leeds in Washington County, and where the grant could extend into the mountains they are as likely to contain the rich metals as those a few miles west of Beaver.

With all the excitement concerning the route of the railroad, it would surely be safe to assume that the mining regions west of

¹⁶Ibid., January 12, 1876.

¹⁷Ibid., November 29, 1876.

Milford would be making a play, but there are no documents left to indicate to what extent. Nothing is heard from Milford or Frisco because neither of them were sufficiently populated at the time to warrant a newspaper. Most of our information concerning this period comes from the columns of the state papers (i. e., Deseret News, Salt Lake Tribune, Salt Lake Herald) quoting the Beaver papers. For that reason the railroad talk all seems to be centered in Beaver when in reality the western part of the county may have been more active in trying to lure the interests of the railroad.

With respect to the journalism of the county,

. . . more first-class, two-fisted paying newspapers have flourished, and died with their boots on, in Beaver than in any other city of several times its size. Moreover, the Beaver newspapers, because of isolation, yet prominence of that city in the early history of the state, furnished to the city dailies and other exchanges more column inches by far than any other single set of news sources before the day of "syndicate and press associations."¹⁸

There is an additional reason for all the excitement in the Beaver papers. On March 8, 1877 the Beaver Enterprise mentioned that many of the Beaver citizens were talking railroad.¹⁹ There was a growing feeling that the extension would follow the southwesterly route, and it was thought that the sulphur mines at Cove Creek would be sufficient inducement to bring the road to Beaver. However, on the 28th of that month, S. A. Kenner wrote the editor of the Deseret News that "the hopefulness with which the Beaverites looked forward to the town becoming a metropolis has disappeared under the withering conviction that the Utah Southern Railroad will never penetrate its borders."²⁰ And three weeks later, in the Beaver Square-Dealer, an editorial confirms the attitude.

The building of the Utah Southern is not so much talked of as it was some time ago. We have had several parties in Beaver who know just when the last lick will be struck and the town sites in Beaver County that would be made

¹⁸J. Cecil Alter, Early Utah Journalism (Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society, 1938), p. 22.

¹⁹Deseret News, March 14, 1877.

²⁰Ibid., April 4, 1877.

valuable by the road. The knowledge of these poor devils is perfectly startling. They will impart more information to a hotel keeper for a week's board than is contained in Bancroft's new law encyclopedia.²¹

If it was known in Beaver, it didn't seem to be known anywhere else. In any event the railroad did not come to the sulphur mines or Beaver, and it was nearly two years before the Utah Southern decided to extend its line from the northern border of Juab County to Chicken Creek near the southern border. It was also in the first part of January, 1879, that the Utah Southern Extension made the decision to extend the line to Frisco, home of the Horn Silver Mine which was winning so much acclaim. To aid in this project, the owners of the mine paid one-fourth of the construction cost.²²

By this time the Union Pacific had acquired a part ownership of the Utah Central capital stock from Brigham Young and his associates, and the building of the extension to Milford was a joint enterprise.²³ Beginning at Chicken Creek, the Utah Southern Extension pushed the work very rapidly in the late summer and fall of 1879, and the California Ranch, fourteen miles south of Deseret became the winter terminus.²⁴ By January of 1880, the road had been graded to within ten miles of Milford, and orders had been received from the east to push the work forward and complete the grading and tracklaying within sixty days.²⁵

As the road moved down the valley, the anticipation of its coming mounted. Even Minersville people were excited with the possibility that the main line may turn in that direction. On February 11, 1880, the Deseret News carried some interesting excerpts from the Beaver Watchman.

²¹Ibid., April 25, 1877.

²²B. H. Roberts, A Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1930), Vol. VI, p. 2.

²³"A condensed sketch of the corporate history of the companies comprised within the Union Pacific System," p. 3. Obtained from U. P. R. R., Dept. of Public Relations, 1416 Dedge Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

²⁴Deseret News, January 7, 1880.

²⁵Ibid., January 28, 1880.

Minersville is steadily coming to the front, the surveyors having marked out the Southern Extension through the burg.

* * * *

Uncle George Adair, who resided at Minersville, some 18 years ago, used to relate a dream which he had about that town. He said that in his dream he saw a railroad built into said town and the place transformed from an insignificant little farming settlement into a live, bustling mining and railroad town. It is beginning to look as if Uncle George's prophecy might be fulfilled. ²⁶

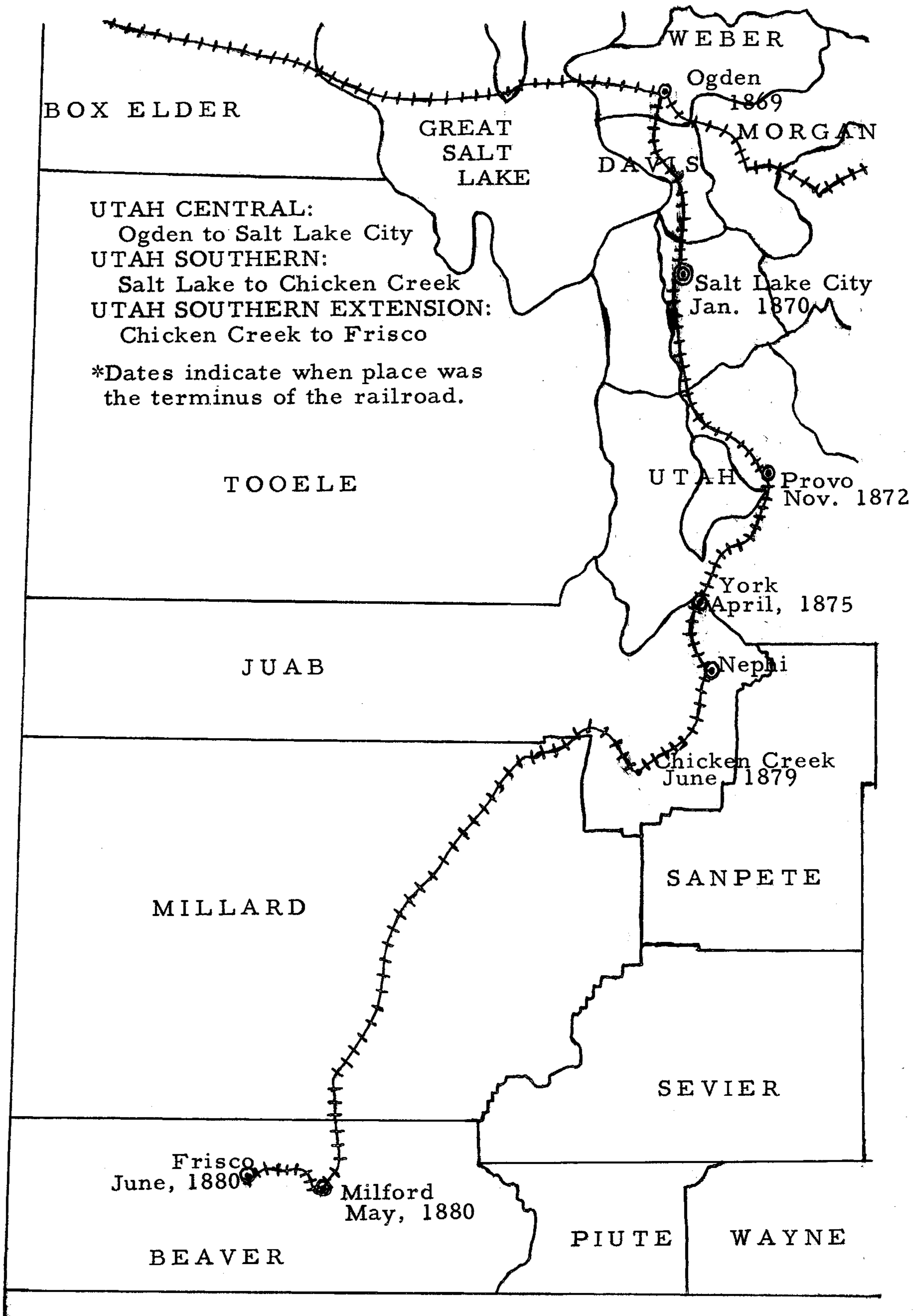
Optimism faded, however, when the line did not go in that direction. It can only be guessed that at the time, they considered the Minersville pass as the best route to include the settlements in the Little Salt Lake Valley and Cedar City.

Even though Frisco was now considered the goal of the Utah Southern Extension, indications are numerous that it was ultimately to be considered only a branch. This seems certain because of the direction of the road south from Black Rock with only slight variations directly to Milford. Had there been no intention of extending the road at this time beyond Frisco, at least ten or more miles could have been saved by turning in a south southwest direction along the western bench of the valley after leaving Black Rock, and taking the route through the cut by the Rocky Mining District. From that point on up to Frisco it could have followed the same route as the branch took without having to make the tremendous loop down past Milford and back. It seems apparent that the railroad company still planned to extend to the northern border of Washington County where the iron deposits were available, and eventually on to California through Southern Nevada.

South of Black Rock, a small station facility was located near Smyth's Ranch consisting of one adobe building and a platform occupied by the track maintainers. ²⁷ From this station, later called Reed, the track came directly south for nine miles, then turned slightly southwest through the cut by the Yellow Banks. At this point the track crosses the Beaver River heading directly to Milford.

²⁶ Ibid., February 11, 1880.

²⁷ Merkley, op. cit., p. 288.



The first survey made through Milford was about three blocks west of the present main line. It passed along what became known as Stoddard Street (presently First West Street), and the depot was to have been a small adobe house then situated on the northeast corner of the present Center and First West Streets, directly east across the street from where the Williams Hotel was later built.²⁸ Had this survey been used it would have taken away the necessity of draining the swamp and marsh land just to the east where the line ultimately was constructed. However, the survey was changed and the land drained with sufficient soil hauled in to build up the road bed in preparation for the tracklayers to take over.

By the end of the first week in May the track had been laid to Milford, and offices and other railroad buildings were being moved from Black Rock to their new location, which became the terminus, on May 15, 1880.²⁹

The cost of the railroad from Sandy to Milford, two hundred and nine miles, was \$2,036,000, or \$97,417 per main track mile.³⁰

²⁸Statement of Jennie Martin, personal interview, May 23, 1956.

²⁹Salt Lake Tribune, May 19, 1880.

³⁰Information obtained from the Valuation, Land and Tax Department, Union Pacific Railroad Company, Omaha, Nebraska, on p. 3 of a photostatic copy dated January 25, 1936 (no title).

CHAPTER VI

A BIG YEAR--1880

As the sun beat down on the bands of steel edging south from Black Rock in the early months of 1880, a peculiar contrast was presented in the midst of this windy valley. There were clanging rails, pounding of spikes and a jackrabbit leaping from under a sagebrush. Far off a wily coyote moved swiftly through the brush in search of a hapless victim, and the wind allowed a mousehawk to soar gracefully around, its head turned from side to side searching for prey. The little prairie dogs stood up in their holes with anxiety over this new noise that was invading their solitude.

The nearness of the rails caused great anticipation to run among the settlers of the valley. They wondered just what effect the railroad would have on Milford and the surrounding area. The increased interest and commercial prospects caused them to have a survey made of the townsite, perhaps by Arvin Stoddard, a surveyor, on whose land most of the townsite was located.¹ Prospective merchants poured in from many directions and purchased land from Stoddard in lots of 50 by 100 feet at the rate of \$50 to \$100 each.

The expected business boom looked like a fabulous opportunity to get rich quick, and by the time the tracklayers had reached Milford in the first week of May, the town resembled the bustling activity to be found in the development and construction of a modern subdivision. Carpenters, laborers, cellar-diggers, well-diggers, painters, and paperhangers, worked from early in the morning until late in the evening to get in on the prosperity that was anticipated.³

The pounding, hammering, sawing, and hustling continued for about two or three weeks, and brought a remarkable change to the town. The railroad company built a large warehouse, put up sev-

¹Deseret News, June 30, 1880. ²Ibid. ³Ibid.

eral lesser buildings and offices, and two forwarding companies built, one on each side of the railroad warehouse. In a short time three or four dozen buildings were finished, many of them being designed as stores and saloons.⁴

Then came Saturday, May 15, 1880, a momentous day. Local citizens and others who had come from surrounding communities and the mining camps were filled with excitement as they waited and watched for a glimpse of smoke in the north. Finally there was a shout and the people crowded around to look down the tracks towards the Yellow Banks to see the first passenger train coming into Milford.

As it traveled those last few miles directly to town from the Yellow Banks the people were jubilant, but as it pulled into the yard most of the crowd started to move back. The roaring boiler and the hissing steam frightened the children, and even some of the parents were afraid it might blow up any minute.⁵

From the train stepped Governor Eli Murray of the Territory of Utah, and other dignitaries who had been north.⁶ A dispatch from Frisco to the Salt Lake Tribune named "Register Neil, Presley Denny, Esq., of Beaver, delegate to the Chicago Convention, and Judge Jones, of Wyoming, under the escort of R. S. Anderson, Esq., and Col. Compson of Frisco" as those who accompanied the Governor.⁷ The party was received at the station by Allen G. Campbell, of Bonanza frame, and John M. Burke from Frisco, both of whom seemed to take precedence over the local citizens.⁸

If the crowd was expecting a round of speeches they were disappointed, because the important visitors went immediately to the Stoddard Hotel. There, a number of persons were introduced to the Governor and his party and after a brief rest they retired in order to make an early trip to Frisco the following morning.⁹

⁴Ibid.

⁵Statement by Dorothy Reese Williams, personal interview, August 27, 1955.

⁶Salt Lake Daily Tribune, May 18, 1880.

⁷Ibid. ⁸Ibid. ⁹Ibid.

The Milford townspeople were not the least bit happy to learn that the Governor was more interested in Frisco than he was in their up and coming community. But at this particular time Frisco, and especially the Horn Silver Mine, was being discussed all over the country. And so, on Sunday morning the Governor and his party had an early breakfast, climbed into several light wagons and were driven to Frisco where they could see the "old glory hole" for themselves.¹⁰ Therefore, Milfordites had to be satisfied, that at least a Governor of the Territory had finally paid a visit to this mineral region of the State.¹¹

After the Governor had returned to the capital, the construction of buildings around the railroad terminus at Milford continued. In addition to the merchants who were located here prior to 1880 such as Gabriel Huntsman, Charles Halvorsen, John D. Williams, and John H. Latey, those that bought lots and were expected to be open for business soon were P. Shwartz of Frisco; Rieley, Griver, and McCune, flour and grain; Boatright and Shimer, blacksmith and wagon rights; B. F. Grant, general merchandise, and a host of other were contemplating entering business also.¹²

Places to obtain room and board were in great need because there was only one hotel, Stoddard's operating at this time. It was a two story frame building which stood facing east on the spot now occupied by the Catholic Church. It was a picturesque structure with a small balcony that covered the front and ran the complete length of the hotel on both sides. It was the scene for much activity during the summer months when it was really crowded, but Williams and Latey had announced plans to build a fine new hotel just two blocks north to share in the business.

Things looked very optimistic, but all at once the busy time ceased. The hammers stopped, and now no more sawing could be heard.¹³ Everything was as dull as it had been before the tracklayers had arrived. Most of the railroad gangs had moved on up toward Frisco and for a few weeks the center of interest in railroading shifted to the rising metropolis of Frisco where the exten-

¹⁰Ibid. ¹¹Ibid. ¹²Ibid., May 19, 1880.

¹³Deseret News, June 30, 1880.

sion was completed and open to traffic on June 23.¹⁴

The first trip from Milford up the highline to Frisco was made by the engineer, fireman, and two young women who were invited to take the memorable ride. The two railroad men had been living at the William's Red House (one in use before the hotel was built), so they invited Dorothy Williams (wife of Daniel D.), and her sister, Mary Ann Reese of Greenville, to make the first trip riding in the engine.¹⁵ The trip was very slow because of the grade which necessitated that the track make some horseshoe turns adding fifty percent to the distance between the two stations, and when they came within three miles of Frisco they were taken the remainder of the distance in wagon. At the time of the ride the engineer told the two girls that they would live to see the day when they would look back on the event with a great feeling of pride.¹⁶

Even though the railroad had been extended to Frisco there was much to be done around the station and forwarding houses in Milford. This provided fair employment and a source of livelihood for many families. Other people depended on the freighting business, and therefore, much of the population might be considered as transient as it fluctuated from time to time. But despite the unstable population, it was time for taking the census for 1880, and census enumerators were appointed with Edward Kesele assigned to the Star (which included Milford) and Minersville precincts.¹⁷ Since the Star precinct included the mining camps to the southwest as well as Milford, it is fortunate that the 1880 census was taken by listing each individual's name. Therefore, by knowing approximately the families that lived in Milford, it is possible to estimate rather close what the total population was.

¹⁴Sutton, op. cit., Vol. II, p. 827.

¹⁵Statement of Dorothy Reese Williams, personal interview, August 27, 1955.

¹⁶At this writing, Dorothy Reese Williams is 95, and Mary Ann Reese is 93, and they are still thrilled to be able to relate the excitement of the ride.

¹⁷Deseret News, May 19, 1880.

In the Star precinct there were only 313 listed, and of this number perhaps at least three fourths were living in Milford at the time.¹⁸ The activity in the North and South Star Districts was not as vigorous as it had been, and most of the interest had shifted to Frisco where the greatest concentration of people could be found. Little has been said about the population of Milford through the years, but the estimates for the town of Frisco during the 1880's stretch as high as above six thousand, and some have even said that it once reached fifteen thousand. Grampion precinct (which included Frisco) showed 801 inhabitants in 1880, at boom time, and it would be fairly close to say that this was about the population of Frisco itself, or at least near to 800.¹⁹

Although most of the interest had shifted to Frisco for a few weeks, the outlook for the future of Milford was encouraging. Anticipation of this becoming the distributing and forwarding center of a vast area beckoned freighters and others associated with the freighting business. This called for more stables, feed yards, and rooming houses, and the demand for hay and grain reached tremendous proportions. It took all the hay that could be cut in the valley, and more had to be hauled in from Minersville, Adamsville, Greenville, and Beaver.

As the activity in freighting was added to that of mining in the western part of the county, more people from Beaver were becoming interested in what was going on in Milford. At the regular term of the County Court in Beaver on June 7th and 8th, much of the Court's business pertained to Milford.²⁰ The Court set the place of election for the Star Precinct at Milford, with W. H. Manion presiding and F. W. O'Connor and Gabriel Huntsman as clerks. A. M. Stoddard was appointed as road supervisor for district six which included Milford, and a petition was presented by Latey, Williams, and others asking the Court to have a bridge placed across the Beaver River at the mill ford.

¹⁸U. S. Bureau of the Census, Tenth Census of the United States: 1880. Population, Vol. I. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1883)

¹⁹Ibid.

²⁰Record of the County Court, op. cit., pp. 281-282.

Judge Cox and Selectman E. W. Thompson were appointed a special commission to examine a suitable location for the bridge, and it was decided to build it at the place suggested.²¹ This was approximately where the present bridge is located just southeast of town. The first bridge was made of wood, and was high enough for a man on horse to ride under it. At that time the river was about forty feet wide.²²

As June passed and the summer heat set in, things were peaceful about the community, but not all the news was pleasant. Pascoe Bruce, a nightwatchman for the Utah Southern Railroad Extension was lying on a bench in Woodworth's Saloon, and his pistol fell from his pocket to the floor and accidentally shot him. He died a few days later from complications of the wound.²³ But Bruce was not the only unfortunate person to die from such an accident. This type of misfortune was quite common among the men who carried guns, but they were greatly in the minority among the citizens.

During the summer, the townspeople were delighted to have the railroad open up a telegraph office in Milford on July 20, just in time to report all the excitement surrounding the coming election.²⁴ The Liberty Party, composed almost entirely of non-members of the Mormon Church, was anxious to put its best candidates in the field, and a good effort was made to turn out the vote. Throughout the county, over 1,100 votes were cast in the election, but difficulties arose when it was found that 145 votes had been sworn in at Milford and Frisco, which had not been registered.²⁵ All the candidates of the People's Party, composed almost entirely of Mormons, were given a majority except for the office of Sheriff, the vote being 480 to 619.²⁶ With the 145 votes that had been sworn in, it caused the election to be subject to review and resulted in the entire vote from Frisco, Milford, Minersville, and Adamsville, being thrown out.²⁷ Later the local board held another election in Milford.

²¹Ibid.

²²Statement by Abner Tanner, personal interview, June 15, 1956.

²³Deseret News, July 21, 1880. ²⁴Ibid., July 28, 1880.

²⁵Ibid., August 11, 1880. ²⁶Ibid., August 25, 1880. ²⁷Ibid.

All the activity in Milford at this time must have indicated the promise of new business and prosperity, because Joseph Field, a seasoned newspaperman from Beaver, moved his Beaver Chronicle to Milford during the middle of August and named it the Milford Sentinel.²⁸ It did not last even a year, but there was plenty of news if Field could only have found sufficient subscribers.

Something that made headlines was a shooting that took place at 10 a. m. on the 25th of September.²⁹ Reports said that about two years previously, two men, Joe Glassford, constable of Frisco, and a man named Fisher, had had a difficulty which was never solved, and ended in a dispute. Glassford came to Milford for a short visit, and upon seeing Fisher walking down the street he shot at him, but his pistol failed and Fisher escaped. Before Glassford was to leave Milford, he swore that he would kill Fisher. On the morning of the 25th, he went with gun in hand to Stoddard's Hotel where he had seen Fisher enter a few minutes earlier. When Fisher saw him coming he hurried from the bar room through the dining room into the kitchen; just as Glassford entered the bar room, Fisher went back into the dining room, and as Glassford looked into the room Fisher fired. The bullet hit the assailant flush in the face, and he died a few minutes later. Fisher immediately gave himself up to the deputy sheriff, but everyone felt that his case was clear, and that he would be acquitted for self-defense.

Not long after this excitement had died down, the national elections became the big event. The Liberal Party nominated Allen G. Campbell to run against incumbent George Q. Cannon, as delegate to Congress. Campbell had now become a millionaire, chiefly because of his interests in the Horn Silver Mine. He lived in Salt Lake, but spent much of his time in Beaver County with his mining interests and a commissary he owned in Milford. He must have been considered a resident of Milford, or at least the county, at times, because he had run unsuccessfully for the office of Selectman for the

²⁸Ibid., September 1, 1880. There are no known copies of the Milford Sentinel extant.

²⁹Ibid.

county several times. The details of the election and the years of argument that followed it will be considered in a later chapter.

Up to this time there had not been much said or done about religion in this comparatively new community. One writer said that the inhabitants of Milford were "mixed from all religious deonominations, and are like sheep without a herder, not one of the Reverend Christian ministers has yet attempted to pass his hat around. . ."³⁰ But by October, there were enough Mormons in the area that it was deemed advisable by the Beaver Stake Presidency to organize a ward. This was done with William McMillan being ordained and set apart as Bishop.³¹

By the time winter had set in, things were considerably slower, but by December progress had been such that the big new Williams Hotel was finished and ready for business. Many travelers who visited there considered it the finest structure of its kind south of Salt Lake. It was 30 feet wide and 75 feet long, with two full stories. It was constructed of adobe bricks which were made right on the property. Clay was taken from the brow of the hill just below where the present elementary school is located, and mixed with water and placed in wooden molds to dry. The bricks were about a foot long, six inches wide, and four inches thick. The hotel was furnished very exquisitely for the time.³²

Through the years many famous people, financiers, speculators, miners, railroad men, Churchmen, and others enjoyed the hospitality of John D. Williams, known as "Uncle John", and his magnificent hotel. It was one of his favorite pastimes to sit out on the front porch in the afternoon and evening and watch the road towards Beaver for travelers. He would train his binoculars on any billows of dust on the horizon to see who was coming to town. His daughter-in-law relates that many times he told her how the day would come when the valley would "blossom like a rose," and people would be glad to come to Milford.³³

³⁰Ibid. ³¹Ibid., December 15, 1880.

³²Statement of Margaret Hickman Rogers, personal interview, August 25, 1955.

³³Statement of Dorothy Reese Williams, personal interview, August 27, 1955.

Another tragic experience marked the end of the year.³⁴

Christmas morning between ten and eleven O'clock, while most of the townspeople were exchanging good wishes of the Yule season, a shooting affray took place at Malloy's Saloon, between Ed. Kirby and William Thomas. Kirby had been following Thomas during the morning and making threats he would kill him before evening. In the shooting which took place Kirby was killed instantly and Thomas was slightly wounded.

Thus ended 1880, Milford's big year, with just fair business success, but there was anticipation for greater things to come.

³⁴Deseret News, December 29, 1880.

CHAPTER VII

1881 to 1889

The shrill toot of the Utah Southern engines soon became a familiar part of the local scene. The railroad had caused a tremendous amount of improvements to be made in the area, and with the announcement that the officials had selected Milford as a division station if the road was continued south in the spring, hopes really began to soar.¹ The cold weather managed to take the edge off, however, and everything else was kept at a standstill. A few teams had to be hired to haul the ore from the Williams Smelter, but by March the Sentinel reported that the town was as "quiet as a country churchyard."²

There was time for people to turn their attention to something besides business, and so they made an effort to get their children into the day school which was now running under the direction of Clara Latey. They had an increase from thirty to thirty-five students and were expecting a few more to join in the near future.³

The lull also gave the people a chance to look around town and see just what a barren place they were living in. There were no trees or shrubs of any kind in the entire community except for the salt grass and sagebrush nearby. A group met together and decided to plant some trees. Locust were selected, and a row was planted two blocks long stretching from the Stoddard Hotel north to the Williams Hotel. Within a week they were reported out in leaf.⁴

The Daily Tribune capitalized on the reporting of this incident to poke a little fun at the local newspaper and schools when it

¹ Daily Tribune, January 1, 1881.

² Ibid., March 9, 1881.

³ Ibid., March 29, 1881.

⁴ "75 Years Ago," Deseret News, April 9, 1956.

quoted the following excerpt from the Sentinel with the comment that it "showed conclusively that the Mormon school master is abroad."

The Shade Trees put out by L. Kesler is now coming out in Leaf.

Two of our correspondences is crowded out this week, but will appear in our next.

Very cold and cloudy of Tuesday.

Don't forget the spelling school on Friday next.⁵

The disagreeably cold temperatures soon gave way as spring ushered in the warmer weather. But business did not pick up like the local inhabitants thought it would, and even as late as the middle of June a local correspondent informed the Daily Tribune that "little has occurred to disturb the quietude of this hopeful burg."⁶

Not a week had passed, however, until word came south about the big consolidation of three railroad companies in Utah, which included the line through Milford, and once again the hopes of the local citizens were raised that something might be done to extend the line. The consolidation included the Utah Central, the Utah Southern, and the Utah Southern Extension which was now to be called the Utah Central Railway Company with termini at Ogden and Frisco. The board of directors included Sidney Dillon, Frank G. Brown, and Jay Gould, of New York City; John Sharp, Feramorz Little, and William Jennings, of Salt Lake City; Fred L. Ames, Boston, Massachusetts; S. N. B. Clark, Omaha, Nebraska; and W. B. Doddridge, Evanston, Wyoming.

By the first week in July, there were a half dozen surveyors in Milford, and two men were in Beaver buying mules to facilitate the work on the

Utah Central Railroad, the design being to connect it from Milford with the Southern Pacific at some point in Mexico, nearest the Utah line. . .

The "Utah and Mexico Railway." That sounds first class, does it not?⁸

Work did not proceed as expected, however, and it looked

⁵Daily Tribune, April 15, 1881. ⁶Ibid., June 16, 1881.

⁷Deseret News, June 22, 1881. ⁸Ibid., July 20, 1881.

for a time as though the Denver and Rio Grande would come in and build the line from the south to Milford. Surveying was commenced by this company, and by March of the next year they had a route dotted with stakes as far south as Iron Springs on the east side of the proposed route of the Utah Central.⁹ Neither of the two companies continued their work, however, and the project was dropped.

As the railroad extension came to a stop, the freighting business took up the slack. By August of 1881, freight teams were in great demand to haul the freight that was piling up at Milford and the bullion that was accumulating at the Bullionville Smelter in Nevada, awaiting transportation to Milford.¹⁰ Mining activity in the Star and San Francisco Districts was also picking up and an average of two wagon loads of copper matte were arriving every day in Milford from the Grand Gulch copper mines.¹¹

For nearly two decades Milford was the center of this type of freighting activity for the greater part of Southwestern Utah, Southern Nevada, and part of Northern Arizona. All roads seemed to converge at the terminus of the railroad, wherever it happened to be, and from 1880 to the turn of the century, Milford had that distinction.

Companies who shared in the freighting business along with the railroad were organized early. The Southern Utah Forwarding Company was owned by Erastus Snow, a Mormon Apostle, and his sons Frank R., Moroni, and George A.¹² In addition, Erastus Snow was part owner along with two men from Ogden, Burton and White, of the big Consolidated Implement Company built next to the tracks and referred to in local circles as the "Con I."¹³ Another business was the Heber J. Grant and George T. Odell Company, later called the Coop Wagon and Machine Company.¹⁴

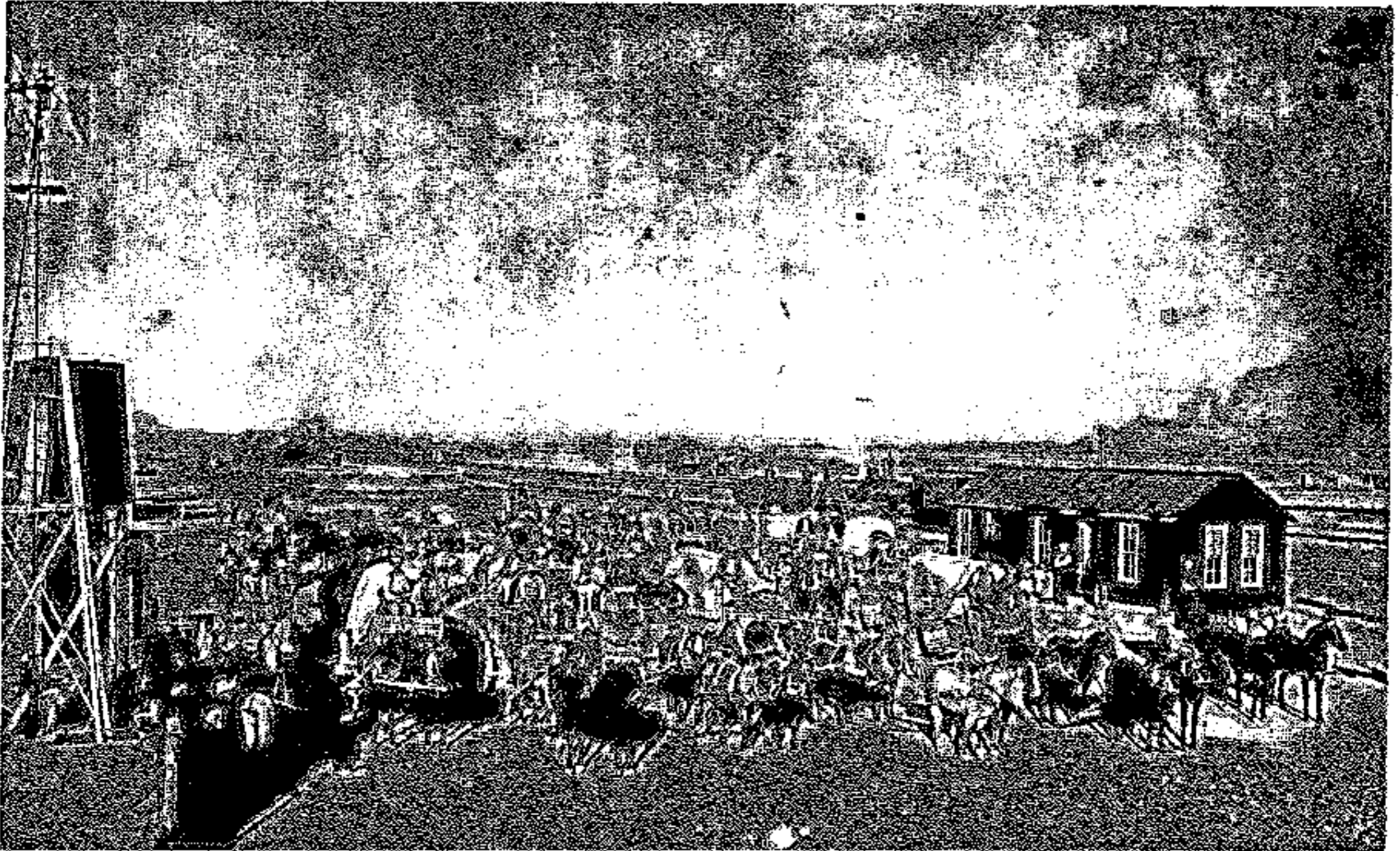
⁹Daily Tribune, March 9, 1882.

¹⁰Ibid., August 25, 1881. See pictures on page 63.

¹¹Ibid., September 6, 1881.

¹²James Christian Madsen, "Autobiography of James Christian Madsen," MS (1946), pp. unnumbered. MS in possession of Erma M. Rawson, a daughter, Salt Lake City, Utah.

¹³Ibid. ¹⁴Ibid.



FREIGHTERS LINED UP BETWEEN DEPOT & WELL BEFORE 1890. WINDMILL PUMPED WATER INTO TANK FROM ARTESIAN WELL. SECTION & ROUNDHOUSE FOREMAN'S HOUSES IN BACKGROUND.



CONSOLIDATED IMPLEMENT CO. WAS LOCATED ALONG WEST SIDE OF TRACKS. ROAD TO BEAVER PASSED ON SOUTH END. ARVIN M. STODDARD IS MAN ON RIGHT IN THE FOREGROUND.

The Milford companies carried a full stock of all kinds of implements, wagons, and buggies, and the latter two were shipped in by the car load.¹⁵ There was a great demand for wagons and often they were sent by rail with the freight they were to haul, being assembled at the terminus. In addition to wagons and buggies, other common items to be shipped were coal oil in 50 gallon barrels, a variety of mining equipment, farm machinery, assorted canned goods, dry goods, shoes, and other types of merchandise.¹⁶

Some of the men made freighting their sole means of livelihood, but others did it on the side along with their farming or cattle ranching. Farmers with big teams from Sevier, Beaver, and Iron County came to Milford to buy all kinds of farming equipment and would give their note for it. In turn the railroad or forwarding companies would give them a load of merchandise for Pioche, DeLamar, Silver Reef, or some other destination and credit a certain amount toward their note for making the delivery.¹⁷ If freight piled up, and there were not sufficient freighters to handle it, some of the farmers would receive letters asking them to come and take a load out.

The freighters would generally travel together in long trains for mutual assistance and protection against outlaws or horse thieves. The travel was slow and sometimes the dust from the train could be seen a day or two before the train pulled into town with its tired horses and dusty, half-human looking drivers.

Many of these trains which went to the Pioche and other Nevada districts, consisted of 20 or more teams from ten to, as many as, 40 horses driven by jerk line. The jerk line... is the means of guiding large numbers of horses hitched to one load. In this case the lead horse is fitted with a bridle and lines for the driver who sits, as usual, on the second or third horse to the rear, sometimes on the lead. This is the only horse driven, the other horses being led by the one just ahead.¹⁸

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Statement of Abner Tanner, personal interview, June 14, 1957.

¹⁷Madsen, loc. cit.

¹⁸Hickman, loc. cit.

Most of the wagons were covered with canvass, usually rather narrow, with a three or four foot deep box. The drivers' seat was high over the "jockey box" which contained the tools and grease, and the long handled brake was sticking up along the side within easy reach. Wooden barrels filled with water were tied on both sides and occasionally on the back. A canvass bag to hold the hay was dropped down from the back endgate, and nose bags were carried so that the horses would not waste any of the precious grain.

The freighter had perpetual problems in this area. Warm weather meant billows of choking dust every foot of the way caused by the horses and wagons as they pulverized the dry soil of the bench lands where it was necessary to travel. If the weather was wet it was even worse as the wagons mired deep in the mud causing a great strain on horse and driver. Often the wagons would almost hopelessly mire up to their hubs and it would be necessary for additional teams to help pull them out.

The great increase in "horse traffic" in Milford brought the necessity for added stables, blacksmith shops, feedyards, and boarding houses. There were usually dozens of outfits in town all the time. One man remembers seeing 100 teams from 2 to 20 horses in Milford waiting to be loaded.¹⁹ At that time they were hauling the narrow gauge engines to Nevada for the Pioche and Bullionville Railroad.

The size of an average load usually ran from 6,000 to 8,000 pounds, and the freighters always tried to be loaded going and coming.²⁰ They would haul machinery and merchandise out, and pick up a load of ore from one of the mines on their return trip. Finally, however, many of the districts started to reduce their ore to bullion before shipment and it became a more specialized job.

After Frank Wilson sold out to Captain DeLamar in Southern Nevada, the ore from that famous camp was reduced to bullion and sent to the railroad under the guard of Sheriff Turner of Lincoln County assisted by two deputies.²¹ They would inform the railroad of their

¹⁹Statement of David A. Tanner, personal interview, April 2, 1956.

²⁰Madsen, loc. cit. ²¹Ibid.

coming by a secret code message over the telegraph. At Milford it was loaded on the train and either W. G. Hampton or James C. Madsen accompanied it as the special guard to Salt Lake City.²²

William Perry and P. B. McKeon were others who had the contract to haul bullion for DeLamar. McKeon used a large Concord Coach which would arrive in Milford at stated intervals from the mines one hundred and fifty miles to the south with the bullion securely locked in a huge safe. Four guards sat inside of the coach and one on top beside the driver with repeating rifles.

The arrival of the valuable cargo was announced hours ahead by the cloud of dust that could be observed for miles across the desert. One man. . . remembers how as a boy he used to watch for days for the cloud of dust to move rapidly over the rolling hills toward the north, for it announced the arrival of his father who was one of the guards. Just what it meant to be a guard he could not understand. He knew, however, that it must be a very great position---something quite like being president of the United States or John L. Sullivan. He knew, also, that his mother used to cry for days after the bullion wagon left, and that she, too, used to sit in the door with her knitting, sewing, or peeling potatoes, and watch for that cloud of dust.²³

John W. "Jockey" Myers, one of Milford's early freighters, said, "Those were hard times, but happy ones." Some of the freighters made enough money to build homes and settle down, others were able to finance themselves on church missions, and still others lost their money through gambling which was common among the freighters.²⁴ Cards, dice, pulling teams, racing horses, and other contests were all favorite pastimes.

The big "Con I" building was a place of attraction along with the well on the south side of the B. F. Grant Commissary where the teams watered and much of the town's culinary water was obtained. Here the freighters sat around and exchanged stories of killings, stick ups, and the latest developments in politics, religion, and mining.

By the summer of 1882 the business outlook seemed to be

²²Ibid. ²³Hickman, loc. cit.

²⁴Statement of George Simkins, personal interview, June 15, 1956.

very healthy. Most of the mining districts were picking up and shipments of ore from the Star, Granite, and Rocky Mining Districts were being taken to Frisco smelters for reduction.²⁵ At Frisco there was great optimism, especially over the Horn Silver. The Daily Tribune paid tribute to the Horn Silver in a discussion of Utah mines saying

It should be a source of pride to our citizens that Utah has one mine that produces more than any other mine in the world, as shown by a list published in the Engineering and Mining Journal of New York. This journal publishes a list of fifty-seven mines, being the principal bullion producers, and shows the yield of the Horn Silver for the year 1882 to this date (August 4), to be \$1,806,610 while the Ontario, comes the next with half a million less. . . .²⁶

Not only the Horn Silver but the Cave Mine to the southeast was beginning to look like a bonanza after a new strike had been made. Miners who had left the area during the summer and fall of 1881 for Wood River, Idaho and other camps were now returning with the news that Southern Utah was prospering better than any of the other areas.²⁷

As long as the mines were doing well business also continued to be up. The miners and freighters spent their money quite readily, and the local merchants were the willing recipients. The business section of the community was characterized by about five to seven stables and feedyards during this period, intermingled with four or five saloons, about five blacksmith shops, two grocery stores, a drug store, Chinese restaurant, meat market and grainery, and a few other buildings that changed hands from time to time. The transient population kept three, and later four, hotels in business in addition to the larger businesses like the "Con I," and the forwarding companies. The 10-Stamp Mill and the Williams Smelter were idle quite often but the sampler and assay office continued to be used.

Most of the buildings were made of native lumber supplied by the three lumber yards. One yard was operated by the railroad and the other two obtained their lumber from near localities such as Beaver Mountains, Chalk Creek, near Fillmore, and Parowan Canyon.²⁸

²⁵Daily Tribune, March 9, 1882. ²⁶Ibid., August 4, 1882.

²⁷Ibid., August 10, 1882. ²⁸Deseret News, June 16, 1880.

Lumber for the first Tanner buildings, grocery store, meat market and grainery, and the little house was all hauled by Tanner himself from over around Chalk Creek.²⁹

Many men stood out in business circles during the early years. George Snow, son of Erastus, married a daughter of N. A. Stoddard and settled down here to manage the forwarding company, express office, and be the Postmaster, but when the "Con I" was organized for the area with headquarters in Salt Lake City, he moved there to become its general manager.³⁰ H. B. Prout became the local manager with C. B. Stevens as bookkeeper, and with Snow's residence changed to Salt Lake, P. B. McKeon was able to gain the appointment as Postmaster.³¹

B. F. Grant was very successful in the early years with his large commissary and liquor business. In fact, by May of 1882, a correspondent to the Daily Tribune was saying that his company had almost exclusive control of the business in Milford.³² Grant, a brother of Heber J. Grant, was very antagonistic toward the Mormons at this time, and when Ebenezer Tanner, the Presiding Elder of the local Mormons, opened up a business on the corner just west across the street from the present Jefferson Mercantile Company, Grant was the first to voice his displeasure.³³ Grant didn't like the prices Tanner was charging, because they were lower than his. He would occasionally visit Tanner's store and go behind the counter to check the prices of each commodity. The store carried dry goods on one side, all piece or yard materials, and groceries on the other.

One day Tanner told him to get on the other side of the counter and stay there. Grant became very angry and said that he would make that "Mormon s. of a b. leave town with his blankets on his back."³⁴ Things must not have gone so well for Grant, however, because just about the reverse came true. He was forced to go out of business with total liabilities of over \$30,000.³⁵ The reason given was business

1956. ²⁹Statement of Abner Tanner, personal interview, June 15,

³⁰Madsen, loc. cit. ³¹Ibid. ³²Daily Tribune, May 4, 1882.

1956. ³³Statement of David A. Tanner, personal interview, April 2,

³⁴Ibid. ³⁵Deseret News, August 22, 1883.

depression and failure to collect outstanding accounts. His license to sell liquor was given to Joseph Hague.³⁶

Another interesting side to the business world of Milford was the cattle industry. For many years Milford was the shipping point for thousands of cattle and sheep. B. F. Saunders, big Western cattleman from Northern Arizona and Southern Utah, used it as his shipping point and Preston Nutter who bought him out did the same thing. Several times each year, herds of cattle from Snake River Range, Pine Valley, and other stock sections were driven in for shipment.

Then for days, and sometimes weeks, Milford was a cowboy's town in every sense of the word. A stranger, in town for the first time, might be led to believe he was on the great plains witnessing one of the round-ups.³⁷

The man of the range was an interesting character. Browened by sun and wind, his dusty hat was rimmed with a band of sweat, and his neckerchief hung jauntily to the front or back. His leather chaps, trimmed with polished rivets and leather laces covered the top of his scuffed high-heeled boots. The horse was his trusted and valuable friend, and the leather lariat strapped near the horn was not much closer than his saddle gun slung on one side.

The Milford Valley, often referred to around Beaver and Minersville as the Lower Valley, was far superior range for cattle than any others in the immediate area. Especially along the river bottoms from Hay Springs to Black Rock the growth of meadow grass sometimes reached as high as a man's chest, and the availability of water made it desirable for range purposes.

The largest stockmen in the area were Murdock and Farnsworth of Beaver in the late Seventies and Eighties. They had large tracts of land north of Milford on the Beaver Bottoms where they pastured several thousand cattle every year. The size of their stock interests can be estimated by a shipment they made in 1884.³⁸

³⁶Record of the County Court, op. cit., p. 392.

³⁷Hickman, loc. cit. ³⁸Deseret News, August 20, 1884.

They trailed 1,900 head of cattle to Evanston, Wyoming to ship to the Chicago market, and at the same time kept 2,500 head at the bottoms. In March of the following year they sold out for the sum of \$123,750, to the Ryan-Ream Cattle Company who ranged their herds all the way from Cunningham Matthews Ranch on the east side of the Mineral Range to the Nevada State Line.³⁹

There were other men who engaged in the livestock industry on a more limited scale. David A. Tanner has said,

Father had cattle scattered at one time, clear from Cedar City to Oasis. I remember one year when father sold to a man named Gibson. He sold 100 three year olds and up (all steers), and then turned around and bought 500 yearlings, branded them, and just turned them out on the range.⁴⁰

The cattle business was good for many years, but it suffered a big setback during the severe winter of 1889 when many of the range cattle froze to death.

The farming aspect of agriculture did not fare as well as the cattle business. Early settlers around the Horse Shoe Bend area such as Peter Martin, Edwin Bingham, and Deseret N. Hickman, about where the present Carl Goodwin farm is, farmed only on a limited scale, as did those who settled out by Hay Springs.

The Tanner Ranch, probably the largest at this time, was 480 acres just east of Milford adjoining the Stoddard property.⁴¹ Tanner had come to Milford in the early Eighties from Nephi and purchased the property just south of the present bank building to the corner for a grocery store, meat market, grainery, and small house. He also purchased the entire block across the street to the east. On the corner of the latter property, later sold to Henry Jefferson, he sunk a well and installed a windmill. Next to this on the north he had a large feedyard and a barn 100 feet long which was divided in the middle so that a team and wagon could be driven right through.

³⁹ Ibid., March 25, 1885.

⁴⁰ Statement of David A. Tanner, personal interview, April 2, 1956.

⁴¹ Abstract in the County Clerk's Office, Beaver, Utah.

The property he bought east of town was used mainly for grazing, but they raised a few crops on it. Ebenezer's son, David, has said,

I remember that when I was a small boy my father raised potatoes and a small garden without irrigation. Alfalfa was raised, but the water was so close to the surface that it deteriorated in about two years time. . . .in my teens I was old enough to plow for corn. We used a Red Bird Sulky plow. I would make about a four inch deep furrow and make sort of a circle and then go along and drop the next row.

Sometimes father would ride through the corn on a horse and you could just see the top of his head. This was over across the fields on the other side of the river. We raised red top, timothy, blue grass, and other grasses down the fields along the tracks to the north.⁴²

The farmers of South Milford were handicapped. By the time they were ready to improve their land by using canals the Minersville farmers had constructed a reservoir and the water left for lower valley use was negligible. For this reason most of the farmers ran a few cattle and engaged in other forms of business to compensate on their income. This factor, lack of adequate water, has greatly retarded the development of the Milford Valley.

Business during the middle Eighties seemed to be moving good. Especially from Frisco, reports came down in glowing terms about the Horn Silver. By October of 1884, they were shipping fifteen car loads of ore daily to their Franklyn Smelter near Salt Lake.³⁴ A new hoisting machine had been installed and two new shafts were being sunk.⁴⁴ At this time the mine employed over 160 men and the deeper they went the more veins of ore they located.

However, a catastrophe took place. The Horn Silver caved in at midnight on February 11, 1885, with such a roar that the physical shock was felt as far away as Milford, and the financial shock was felt in New York City.⁴⁵ The surface ground had been working for some

⁴²Statement of David A. Tanner, personal interview, April 2, 1956.

⁴³Deseret News, October 8, 1884. ⁴⁴Ibid., November 19, 1884

⁴⁵Ibid., February 18, 1885.

time, and snow and rain storms had helped it until the cave in occurred. Fortunately no men were hurt and investigation indicated the mine was not a total loss. It was hoped that work could be resumed right away and a quick return to normal business was expected.

By the end of the summer they had fifty men back to work, but things didn't progress quite like they had anticipated. Men who had struck for higher wages a few years earlier were anxious to get back on the job for the \$3.00 a day they were paying.

Everyone seemed to expect an improvement in business in the mining districts, but none of the prospects seemed to develop during the latter part of the Eighties and the entire area was hit with a slump in business. Only the freighting activities to Southern Nevada were able to hold up the faltering economy locally.

A visitor in 1887, wrote the Salt Lake Herald that "Milford [was] struck by an Irish Boom."⁴⁷ Business establishments were being closed. The mill and smelter were standing idle.

Nearly everybody about the place wore a "wonder-what-they'll-do-next" expression, and those who didn't were . . . waiting for something to turn up. The few who were still clinging to the ruins had hopes of a revival, but could not tell, for their lives in what shape they looked for it to come.⁴⁸

In addition, the day the visitor arrived, Allen G. Campbell also arrived from the north and immediately began to organize many of his employees to move to the new El Dorado of fabulous wealth he had found in the Southwestern corner of Nevada.⁴⁹

By spring of 1889, another correspondent, this one writing to the Deseret News, gave a sad commentary which seems to characterize the state of affairs for the little railroad community.

Milford is almost deserted. But for the presence of the railway, it would present a forlorn appearance. The expectations entertained of the place when the road first reached it---that it would be a modified Cheyenne---have long since vanished into thin air; indeed, all the boom it

⁴⁶"Workmen's Time Book, 1886-67 (Horn Silver Mine)." MS in the possession of Joseph C. Smith, Milford, Utah


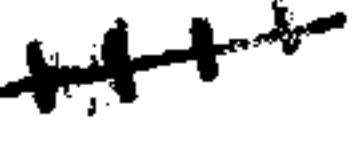

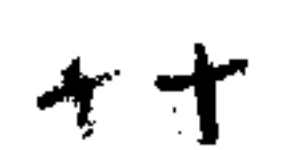

⁴⁷Salt Lake Herald, September 2, 1887. ⁴⁸Ibid. ⁴⁹Ibid.

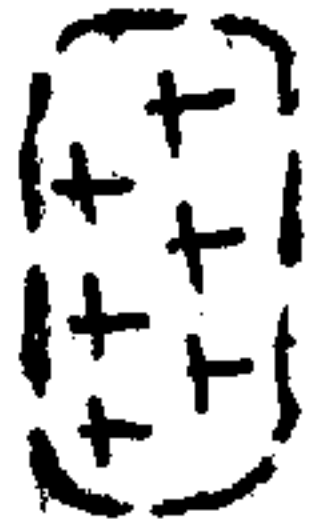
ever had was the prestige imparted by the enterprise and capital of the Utah Central Company, and this, with all its aid and influence, could not evangelize a naked, barren plain into a bounding metropolis.⁵⁰

Summer showed no improvement and the fall season came earlier than usual. Winter brought bitter weather, and freezing temperatures took their toll of the range cattle. Now, late in 1889, even the most devoted citizens were wondering what would happen to this dwindling town.

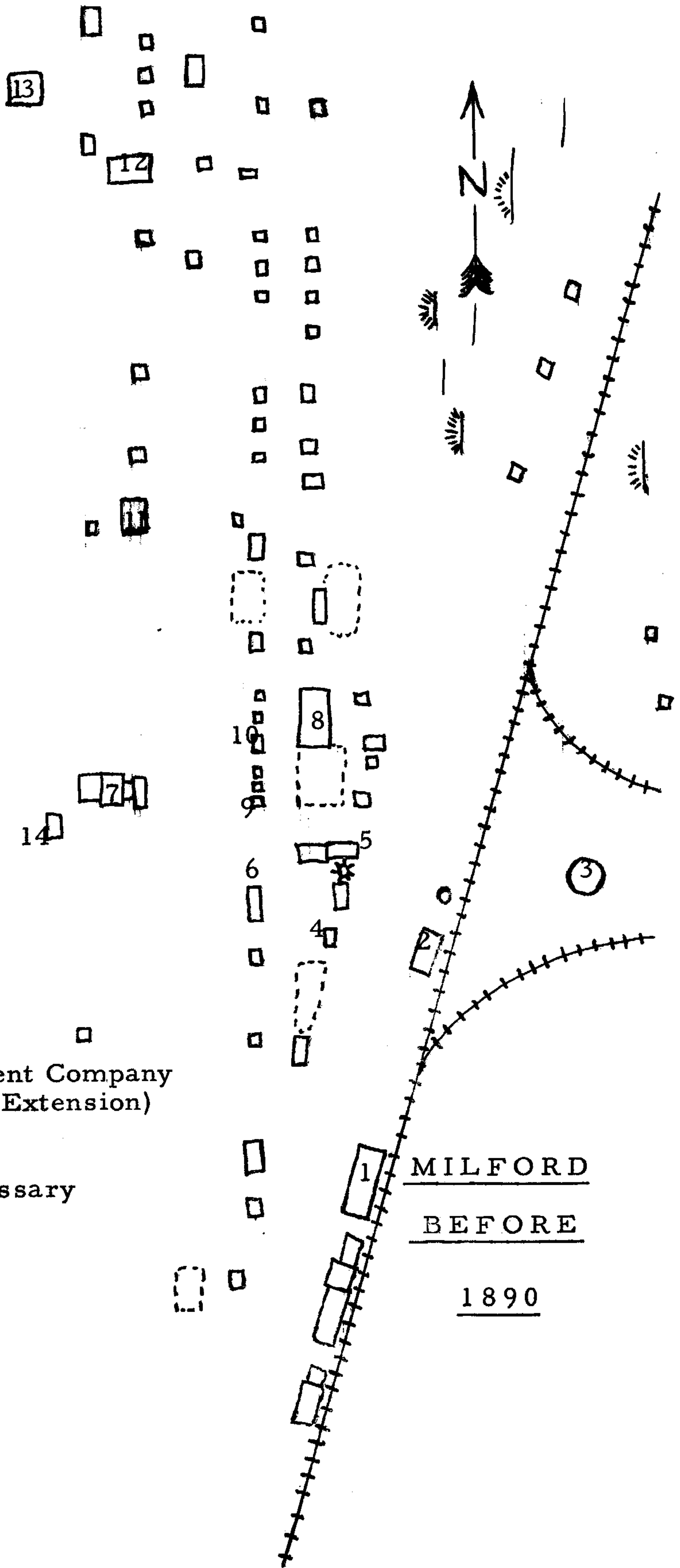
⁵⁰Deseret Evening News, May 2, 1889.

LEGEND

-  swamp
-  railroad
-  feedyard
-  cemetery
-  well



- 1.. Consolidated Implement Company
2. Depot (Utah Southern Extension)
3. Roundhouse
4. Mowrie Hotel
5. B. F. Grant's Commissary
6. Smithson Hotel
7. 10-Stamp Mill
8. Tanner Barn
9. Tanner Store
10. Bingham Hotel
11. Stoddard Hotel
12. Williams Hotel
13. Williams Smelter
14. Assay Office



MILFORD

BEFORE

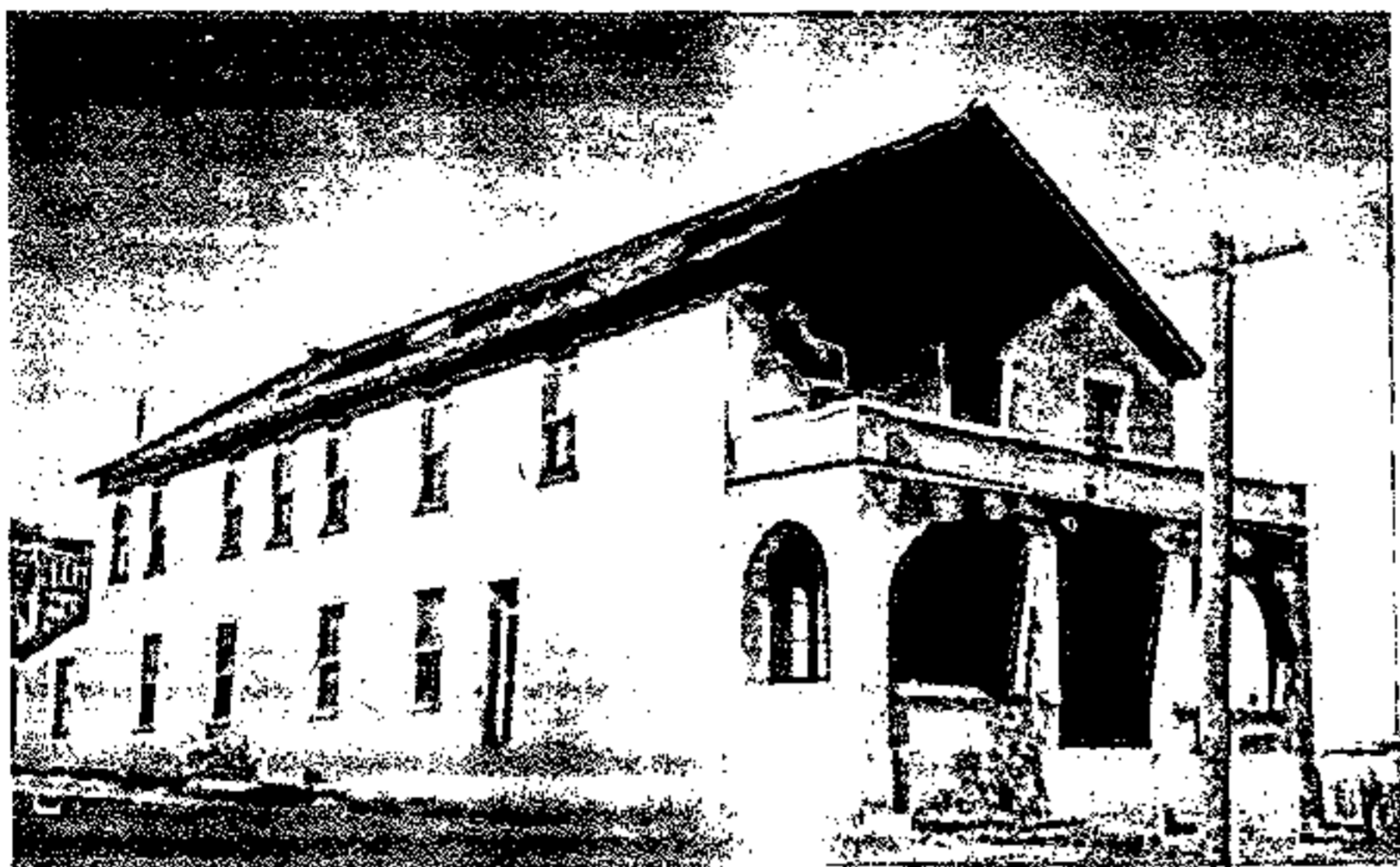
1890



IN BACK OF TANNER STORE, MEAT MARKET, AND HOME CAN BE SEEN DIFFERENT LEVELS OF OLD 10-STAMP MILL AND ASSAY OFFICE JUST OFF S. E. CORNER PRESENT SWIMMING POOL.



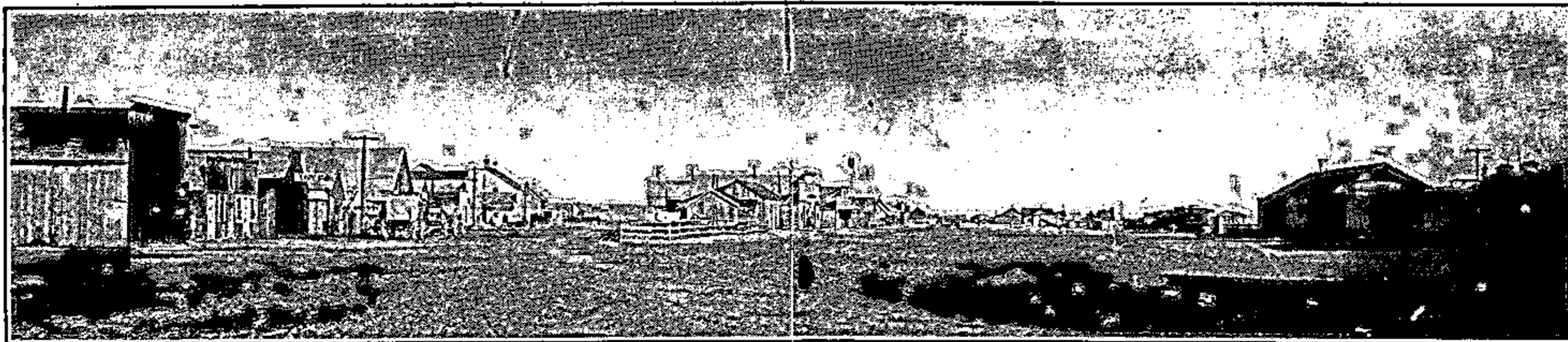
BETWEEN TANNER BUILDINGS ON THE LEFT AND BINGHAM HOTEL (LATER HARDY HOTEL) CAN BE SEEN SECOND FLOOR AND BALCONY OF STODDARD HOTEL AND THE ROOF AND STACKS OF THE WILLIAMS SMELTER.



Williams Hotel completed in 1880.



Left to right standing: Henry Collins, Ed. Sawyer, Johnnie Forgie, Angus Buchanan, unknown, Ambrose Hedges, Billie Williams, "Frenchy" Garzan, unknown, Peter Guio. Left to right kneeling, Johnnie McAuley, San Dye, William Armstrong, Peter Martin, Nat Stoddard, Ed Peak, Jimmy Lindsay



Milford Main Street in early days.

CHAPTER V111

1890 to 1903

Inspite of the extremely cold winter of 1889-90 the railroad interests were anxious to once again commence work on the extension of the road south from Milford into Nevada.¹ Another big consolidation had taken place in the fall which included the Utah Central, Oregon Short Line, and the Utah and Northern plus a few smaller lines. The new company, called the Oregon Short Line and Utah Northern Railway Company, made immediate plans to push the line to the Pioche mining region and on toward Caliente.²

By the first week of January, 1890, several trainloads of outfits had arrived in Milford and were being strung out along the proposed route.³ Business boomed and Milford was "swamped" with men looking for lodging.⁴ The boarding houses and hotels were entirely inadequate to handle the sudden influx of workers, and the restaurant with its additional help couldn't satisfy the demand.

A few enterprising men, willing to make a quick dollar, immediately put up large tents to serve as temporary quarters and provided means for the men to obtain their meals.⁵ Every one of the business houses was doing a big business, and the saloons were kept jammed to capacity every evening. People moved about their daily chores with a feeling of urgency, and the sound of banging anvils, barking dogs, creaking wagon wheels, and shouting men could be heard from sun up until dark.

¹U. P. R. R. Valuation, Land and Tax Dept. record, op. cit., p. 2.

²U. P. R. R. Condensed sketch of corporate history, op. cit., p. 2.

³Ibid. ⁴Deseret Weekly, January 4, 1890, p.45.

⁵Statement of David A. Tanner, personal interview, May 23, 1956.

Opportunities for employment were exceptionally good. Farmers from Minersville and Beaver who were not quite ready to start their spring work, contracted with the railroad to clear sagebrush from the right-~~of~~-way and help prepare the grade.

The route fairly teemed with vigorous activity as far down the valley southward from Milford as the eye could see. On windy days this was not very far, however, because the men and wagons would pulverize the loose soil and the wind would carry the dust up the valley until it often completely obscured both men and beasts. It also plagued the harried housewives who had to get up early and have their washing on the line before daybreak in order to get it dry before the dust started.⁶ But despite their complaints the women were glad to see their husbands have work that was plentiful on the extension project.

As late as the spring of 1890 there had been alternative routes proposed even though most of the railroad officials agreed that Pioche was the immediate goal. One was to proceed from Milford to Iron Springs Pass, over to Kanarrah, then down Ash Creek to the Rio Virgin, and from there down the Colorado River to the Needles 340 miles away.⁷ The grading of the present route was continued, however, and by the middle of May there were ninety miles of road graded.⁸ A month later, one hundred miles had been prepared for rails which included thirty miles of culvert and trestle work just south of Milford, but still no rails were laid.⁹

Material for the extension, including twelve miles of rails in the supply yard, was piled high on every available piece of ground, and the future of business for the little community looked very bright.

On May 21 a sad chapter was written into the story of this boom when sparks from a blacksmith shop on the west side of main street floated to the loft of a barn located where the flatiron building was

⁶Statement of Dorothy Williams, personal interview, August 27, 1955.

⁷Salt Lake Tribune, May 24, 1890. ⁸Ibid.

⁹Ibid., June 28, 1890, p. 5.

later built.¹⁰ Fire quickly broke out and soon the whole block from there north was a blazing inferno. The wind was blowing from the south and the frame buildings were like neatly arranged kindling wood. As the fire progressed, sparks flew over to the railroad depot and burned it to the ground in just a few minutes, but to the north it made an unusual jump over the entire block containing the Tanner feedyard to some buildings beyond.¹¹

It didn't take long for the strip to lie a smouldering ruin, but the sparks had ignited a vast area of manure just north and east of town on the west side of the tracks which burned for days.¹²

Of the event, Railroad Division Engineer Barlow wrote to Chief Engineer McCartney

I congratulate ourselves that we are the only ones in the burnt district that saved a splinter of furniture, but we didn't wait to see how it was going to go, but "sawed wood" immediately. Nobody else succeeded in getting out over one armful of clothes, or books, or whatever it chanced to be. We got out all our desks, books, notes, maps, profiles, estimates, plans, instruments, and most of our blank stationery, though some of the latter is a little singed. Our worst loss consists of a drafting table, letter press and stand, stoves, and about \$100 worth of grub, together with some miscellaneous small trash. She went quick.¹³

As soon as the smoke was gone, and the ashes were scattered by the wind, a pall settled over the community which did not leave for some time. The Union Pacific Agent, Ridd, said that he thought it meant the end of Milford as far as railroading was concerned, and now that Pioche was booming again, he expected Milford to be no more than a tank and section house.¹⁴

A few local families moved down to the Beaver Bottoms where others had moved previously, and still others moved to other parts of the state, but the work on the road was still continued for a time.¹⁵

¹⁰Statement of David A. Tanner, personal interview, May 23, 1957.

¹¹Ibid. ¹²Ibid. ¹³Salt Lake Tribune, May 24, 1890.

¹⁴Ibid., June 13, 1890, p. 5.

¹⁵Statement of Margaret Rogers, personal interview, August 25, 1955.

Nearly eight miles of track was laid and the grading of the roadbed had nearly been finished to Caliente when the work was stopped about the close of 1892. The great financial panic of 1893 was beginning to cast its shadow over the United States and it was then considered unwise to continue building the line.¹⁶

During this period there was a slump in mining and with the railroad extension project at a standstill, only the freighting activities and stock shipments from the terminus of the road seemed to keep the little community from becoming almost deserted. These activities kept the blacksmiths busy, one of whom was Charles Hollis who came to Milford in 1892. Of the residents who remained, some continued to work and build as though this was just a temporary phase in the gradual development of the community.

One of these was Ebenezer Tanner, Sr., who hired Dave Gingel in 1894 to build him a fine two story house directly across the street from the present Jefferson Mercantile Meat Market. The store he operated on the corner was moved, the meat market and grainery torn down, and his home was moved out onto Gingel's farm as part of the contract for the new building.¹⁷ No blueprints were used in the construction; the contractor built from the ideas and suggestions given him by Tanner at each stage of the erection.¹⁸

The original house, built of Oregon Pine and California Redwood, consisted of six rooms on the lower floor, but the upstairs was left unfinished and unpartitioned for a time. Later, six rooms were added on the second story and further beautified by fine furnishings. Light was provided by kerosene lamps and later replaced with carbide lights. The chandeliers were especially beautiful in the living room and adorning the lower hallway.¹⁹ The front of the building was very

¹⁶U. P. R. R. Valuation, Land and Tax Dept. record, loc. cit.

¹⁷Statement of Abner Tanner, personal interview, June 20, 1957.

¹⁸Statement of David A. Tanner, personal interview, May 23, 1956.

¹⁹Ibid.

distinctive with a balcony the full-length of the structure over-hanging the same size porch with eight sets of wooden pillars connecting the two. In the center of the balcony railings was a large sign which read TANNER HOUSE .

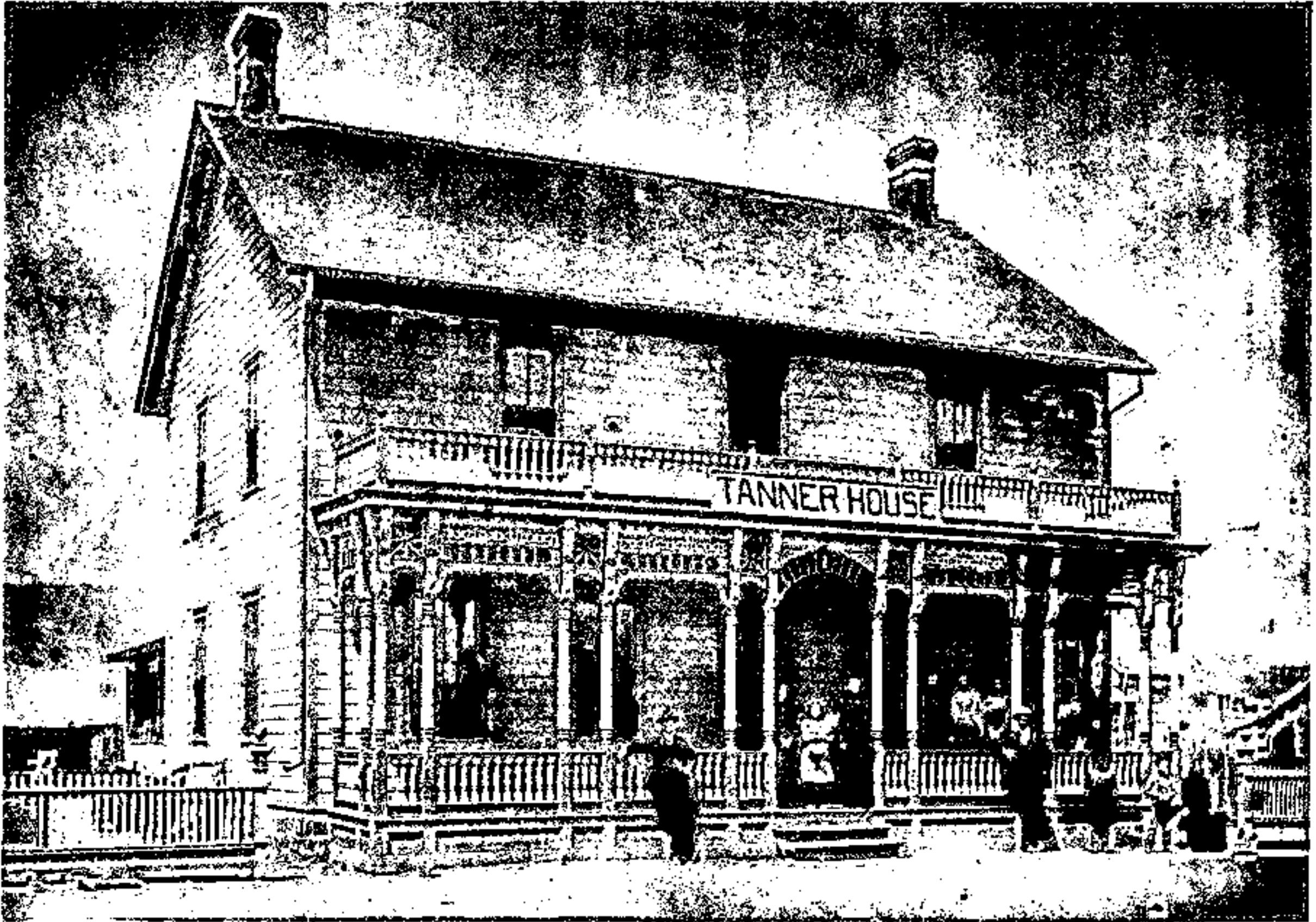
This building became a famous Milford landmark after serving for many years as a rooming house, frontier hotel, stagecoach station, L. D. S. meeting house, as well as the home of the Tanners and their eleven children. Ebenezer, Sr., Presiding Elder of the Mormons in Milford for nearly twenty years, and his wife, Mary Ann, affectionately known as "Ma" Tanner, were very prominent members of the community. Mrs. Tanner acted as a midwife without ever losing a mother or child, extracted teeth, set broken bones, and administered to the sick in many other capacities.²⁰

Other than the Tanner House there was very little building going on during the middle Nineties. The railroad bed that had been prepared was allowed to grow back into sagebrush, the mining employment was low, and in many ways the community had not yet fully recovered from the tragic fire of 1890. Besides the freighting, only cattle shipments seemed to hold up the faltering economy. In 1894 the County Court became concerned about the immense numbers of cattle being shipped so they appointed D. N. Hickman as the Stock Inspector or Detective to check both cattle and brands to protect the cattlemen from rustling.²¹

By this period common problems were causing the people of the community to be more united and many of the old animosities that had existed between Mormon and Gentile had disappeared. The distrust of former Liberal Party members for the Mormons was so minimized that most of the citizens were now in favor of statehood for Utah. No longer was there a feeling that when the state officials were elected that the Mormons would take over all the governmental control. So in January of 1896, along with other communities of the state, Milford celebrated Utah's admission to the Union of states. A character

²⁰Merkley, op. cit., p. 329. See pictures on page 82.

²¹"Record of the County Court of Beaver County, 1884-1895," Vol. II, p. 394. MS in County Clerk's Office, Beaver, Utah.



FAMOUS TANNER HOUSE BUILT IN 1894 WAS LOCATED DIRECTLY ACROSS STREET FROM PRESENT JEFFERSON'S MEAT MARKET.



MILFORD'S FIRST BRASS BAND (1897) IN FRONT OF SMITHSON HOTEL LOCATED JUST NORTH OF PRESENT HORN SILVER HOTEL. BAND MEMBERS (l. to r.): Charles Adams, Robert Carr, Joseph Bigler, John Wright, George Robinson, T. J. Shinderling (director), David A. Tanner, Charles Rollins, James Tanner, John McKeon, Cy Bradfield, Charles Davis, and Hyrum Davis.

ball was held with a prize offered to the person who came in the best costume. The winner was Mrs. Bradfield portraying "Miss Utah."²² She was attractively dressed in blue, trimmed in silver, and her crown was bedecked with a large star over the word "UTAH."

In April of 1896, a correspondent to the Deseret Evening News wrote that Milford had

. . . some two dozen buildings. . . among which are four very creditable hotels, two or three general merchandizing establishments, two saloons, and a commodious and well appointed railway depot. There are no streets, and when a person with a conveyance sets out to go anywhere, he is pretty sure to strike some sort of a structure amidships before going very far; when this happens either of several courses can be taken--he can tunnel under, climb over, go through, go around, turn back or remain where he is. In nine cases out of ten he goes around.²³

Despite this slight exaggeration of local conditions by visitors, the few people living in Milford and the surrounding valley were now beginning to feel the enjoyment of friendship that comes from experiencing hardships and happy moments together. Activities were planned which included all the people, and old differences of politics, religion, and business were beginning to be forgotten. In 1897, T. J. Shinderling organized the first brass band to enhance all the holidays with music for the local citizenry. Besides Shinderling, who acted as director, the band was composed of Charles Adams, Robert Carr, Joseph Bigler, John Wright, George Robinson, David Tanner, Charles Rollins, James Tanner, John McKeon, Cy Bradfield, Charles Davis, and Hyrum Davis.²⁴

Celebrations were a small part of everyday life, however, and the main concern of the inhabitants was how they were to continue eking out a fair existence with the economy of the area faltering as it was. To the small group of residents who stayed in Milford during the lean years of the Nineties it must have appeared that the extension of the railroad would never be completed, but for the third time an

²²Merkley, op. cit., p. 249.

²³Deseret Evening News, April 23, 1896.

²⁴Statement of David A. Tanner, personal interview, May 23, 1956.

attempt was made to extend the road in 1898. This time by the Union Pacific Railroad which undertook it in the name of the Utah and Pacific Railroad for the Utah portion, and in the name of the Utah, Nevada, and California Railroad Company (of Nevada) for the part of the line in Nevada.²⁵ Preliminary negotiations had been made by the Oregon Short Line (a subsidiary of the Union Pacific) with A. W. McCune, David Eccles, Charles Nibley, and others who were interested in the project.²⁶

The roadbed that had been started in 1881, reworked and extended from 1890 to 1892, was now reconditioned and extended with rails finally being laid.²⁷

By now the novelty of the railroad had worn off and to the people in the east end of the county it was sometimes even a very unpleasant subject of conversation in connection with the mail service. The Beaver County Blade reported that

The people of Beaver have been subjected to considerable annoyance and inconvenience this week by the irregularity of the mails. On Tuesday and Wednesday it was nearly six o'clock before it arrived and on Thursday the stage, which has a schedule to run on, had to leave Milford without the mail. The worst feature of the matter is that we are denied even the satisfaction of kicking. The Short Line contract with the government is to carry the mail when they run, be that daily, weekly or not at all.²⁸

In spite of any complaints the railroad proved to be a definite boon to the settlers of this southern area with its better access to Salt Lake, economic center of the intermountain country. It certainly was much faster transportation than traveling behind a pair of "old nags." A time table for the Oregon Short Line in effect March 19, 1898 showed the northbound passenger train leaving Milford at 8:35 p.m. and arriving in Salt Lake City at 9:35 a.m.²⁹

²⁵U. P. R. R. Condensed sketch of corporate history, op. cit., p. 4,

²⁶Jenson, op. cit., p. 221.

²⁷U. P. R. R. Valuation, Land and Tax Dept. record, loc. cit.

²⁸Beaver County Blade, December 16, 1899.

²⁹Ibid., December 23, 1899.

The extension of the line did not have quite the effect on Milford that many thought it would. It was a common feeling that it would now become little more than just a whistle stop, but the excellent watering facilities and cattle business caused the officials to maintain it as a division station. Business and traffic began to pick up and by November of 1899 one cattle train per day was leaving for the midwest markets.³⁰

Much of the freighting business began to drop off as the line was extended, but other types of work soon took up the slack and instead of a decrease in population there was a slight steady gain. A conservative estimate of the population during the middle Nineties would be about 150, but as the century mark came nearer, some of the families from the Beaver Bottoms and others were returning. An example was the Joseph S. Hickman family from the "Bottoms" who had been forced to move during the bad years of the late Eighties. The Blade commented that "Friend Hickman is no lover of dry farming and will not cultivate his land this season."³¹ And so by 1900 two hundred and seventy nine citizens were now making Milford their home.³²

The Spring of 1900, marking the 20th anniversary of the coming of the railroad, showed a steady increase in activity. Especially in April, dozens of teams were driven to Milford by Mormons who were taking advantage of the special rates given by the railroad each year to those attending the General Conference of the L.D.S. Church.³³ This always meant added business in caring for the wagons and feeding the teams while the owners were in Salt Lake City. This was also shearing time, and the town started to swarm with sheepmen, shearers, and wool buyers.³⁴ Andrew Morris was in charge of the local corrals, and many Beaver boys were hired to assist with the shearing.³⁵ It had been a good year for the sheep, and the owners were rejoicing over everything but the price which had gone no higher than 16 cents a pound.³⁶

³⁰Ibid., November 25, 1899. ³¹Ibid., March 24, 1900.

³²U. S., Bureau of Census, Compendium of the Eleventh Census: 1890 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1892), Part I, p. 402.

³³Beaver County Blade, April 7, 1900. ³⁴Ibid.

³⁵Ibid., April 21, 1900. ³⁶Ibid.

A new lumber yard was constructed on the corner northeast across the street from the Stoddard Hotel by the Grace Brothers, and the following year the first Forgie Hotel was erected.³⁷

The business outlook in the county was so promising that Beaver City was intent on having a branch of the railroad completed to that city and thus the Milford and Beaver Railroad Company was organized and a survey completed by W. M. White between November 20, 1901 and February 12, 1902.³⁸ Maps were filed showing the definite proposed location of the line which was to begin at the intersection of Eighth and K streets in Beaver and proceed southwest via Greenville, Adamsville, and Minersville, to connect with the Oregon Short Line at Milford. The route would cross the Beaver River five times while covering the 30.62 miles, but the proposed line was never started.

February of 1902 also marked the beginning of the telephone system in Milford. Lottie Barton Bardsley was one of the first operators of the exchange which was run during the daytime hours only during its early operation.³⁹

There was still much to be done in the growing little community by way of improvement projects. "For years Milford was a swampy, muddy place. The streets were covered with pools of pollywogs and people had to wade through this mud to get to the stores and depot."⁴⁰ Undoubtedly this condition was not too conducive to a real healthy environment and is probably partially responsible for the high rate of illnesses suffered during these early years. In 1903 there were 128 cases of Typhoid Fever and many deaths occurred.⁴¹

In spite of all this, by the latter part of 1903 the community was stirred up with enthusiasm for the organization of a town. Up until this time all the power of government was vested in County Court and

³⁷Merkley, op. cit., p. 316. ³⁸Deseret News, February 25, 1902.

³⁹Milford News, Sept. 29, 1955.

⁴⁰Jeanette Kohler, "Discovery of Rich Silver Ore In 1875 marked beginnings of Beaver County Settlement," Salt Lake Tribune, November 18, 1934, sec. B., p. 3.

⁴¹Ibid.

its successor, the County Commission. Consequently on October 31 a petition was presented to the County Commissioners asking that they incorporate the town of Milford.⁴² It proposed that the town include a one square mile area which had 400 inhabitants at that time.

The petition was signed by 141 of the 172 electors living in the proposed town. It was received on November 9 by the Commissioners in regular session, but was laid over until the last Monday in the month because of another petition protesting such action.⁴³ The Commission ask those who were not in favor to show cause why the Town of Milford should not be incorporated. Unfortunately the petition of protest was not filed by the Commission and its signers and their reasons for protest may never be known.

It is interesting to note that the petition for incorporation does not contain names from some of the first prominent families. No names appear from any of the Stoddard families, Williams families, or any of the Lateys.⁴⁴ There is no way of knowing whether they were against the incorporation, but people still living that knew these families insist that they certainly would have been in favor of the new organization.⁴⁵

Despite the protest a meeting of Milford citizens was called for the purpose of nominating a President and four Trustees to be recommended to the County Commission for appointment.⁴⁶ The meeting was held at the Opera House which used to stand across the street from the present Al Kirk residence, with 50 voters in attendance.

⁴²"Minutes of the Beaver County Court, 1895-1905," p. 409. MS in County Clerk's Office, Beaver, Utah

⁴³Ibid.

⁴⁴"A petition to the Beaver County Commission for the incorporation of the Town of Milford, October 31, 1903" MS in County Recorder's Office, Beaver, Utah.

⁴⁵Statement of Abner Tanner and Eva Evans Dearman, personal interview, June 20, 1957.

⁴⁶"Milford Is A Town," Milford Times, December 4, 1903. Clipping in office of the City Recorder, Milford, Utah.

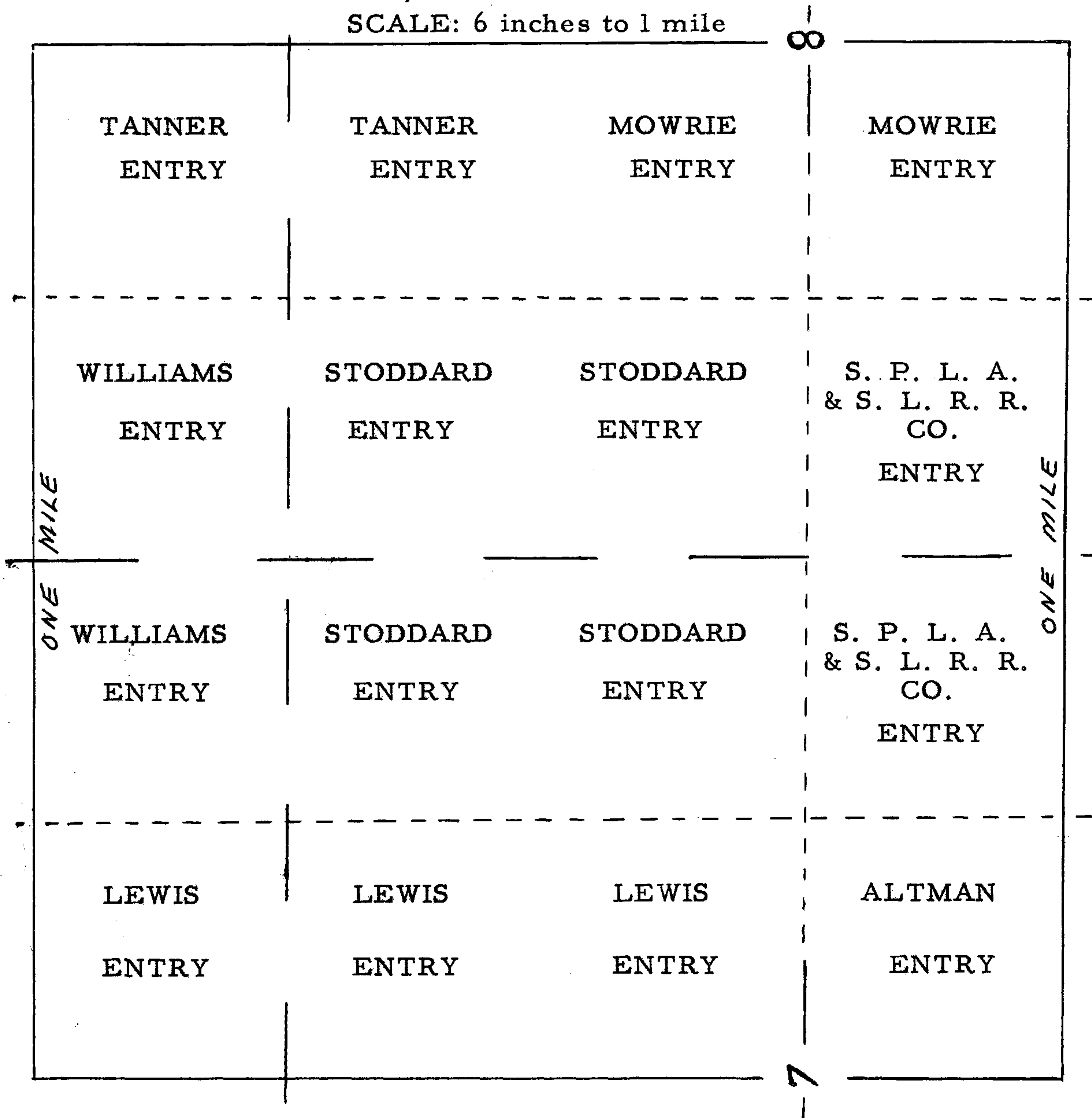
PLAT

Showing proposed corporate boundaries of Milford
Town
embracing

The S. 1/2 of the S. W. 1/4 of Sec. 5.
The S. 1/2 of the S. E. 1/4 of Sec. 6.
The N. E. 1/4 & N. 1/2, S. E. 1/4 of
Sec. 7.
The N. W. 1/4 & N. 1/2, S. W. 1/4 of
Sec. 8.



TOWN 28, SOUTH, RANGE 10
WEST, SALT LAKE MERIDIAN
SCALE: 6 inches to 1 mile



William Armstrong, after being elected chairman, congratulated the people of Milford for their decision to organize a town government and echoed their sentiments when he said it would help bring many improvements in local conditions. Charles C. Kizer was elected secretary and on motion of the chair, J. T. Tanner, John Forgie, and Nat Stoddard were appointed as tellers.

E. S. Sawyer was nominated for president by C. T. Harte, editor of the Milford Times. Dr. Fennemore presented the name of Arvin M. Stoddard, and a vote was taken with Sawyer winning by a margin of 34 to 16. When nominations for trustees began, J. T. Tanner nominated A. M. Stoddard, and the rules were suspended so that he could be elected by acclamation thereby paying a fine tribute to the town's pioneer settler who was then in his 78th year.

Angus Buchanan, W. D. Williams, James Forgie, J. T. Tanner, E. Tanner, and A. W. Winberg were placed in nomination for the remaining three places on the board. P. B. McKeon and William Armstrong were also nominated, but both declined. Armstrong declared that

. . . at 13 years of age, during the war, he had served as a corporal, the lowest rank in the army. Afterwards he had served for nine years as postmaster at Smith's Ranch, and his ambition for political honors had thus been satisfied.⁴⁷

The bolloting resulted in the following totals: Buchanan, 43; Forgie, 40; J. T. Tanner, 29; Williams, 20; Winberg, 12; and E. Tanner, 10. The successful nominees were then made unanimous choices and a resolution passed asking the Commissioners to appoint the candidates who had been selected by the voters of Milford.

When this meeting was held, the County Commission had not yet approved the action of incorporating the town so they called a special session on November 30 to consider the petition.⁴⁸ At this meeting J. T. Tanner was present on behalf of the petitioners and George B. Greenwood appeared as their attorney.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Beaver County Court Minutes, op. cit., p. 419.

The citizens who had filed the protest did not appear, but immediately County Attorney Christian challenged the group as to the advisability of the action at this time.⁴⁹ Christian questioned the population given by the petitioners, contending that the figures of the last Federal Census taken in 1900 should be used to prove the population. Attorney Greenwood quickly challenged Christian to show by the census what the population of this one square mile was or to even show how it could be ascertained from the figures of the last census. Furthermore, Greenwood said it should be the present population in consideration rather than that of four years ago.

Somewhat taken aback, the County Attorney said that at least there should be some reliable way of ascertaining the present population, and Greenwood quickly produced an affidavit for the purpose. The document was signed by James Forgie and J. S. Hickman stating that they had taken a census of the territory to be incorporated and found that there were 471 persons living within this territory, and 172 of them were qualified electors. A list of the names of every man, woman, and child was attached to the affidavit.

Peter S. Martin, one of the County Commissioners whose home was at Horse Shoe Bend just south of Milford, made a motion to have the petition granted and it was seconded by A. L. Stoddard.⁵⁰ The motion carried and a certified copy of the petition was filed with the county recorder, which completed the act of incorporation.

Acting according to the wishes of the Milford voters, the Commissioners appointed E. S. Sawyer as the first President of the Town Board, and Arvin M. Stoddard, Angus Buchanan, James Forgie, and J. T. Tanner as the first Trustees.⁵¹

The first business transacted by the newly organized board was on the next day, December 1, 1903. An ordinance was passed which designated the appointive officers of the town and regulated their

⁴⁹Milford Times, loc. cit.

⁵⁰Beaver County Court Minutes, loc. cit.

⁵¹Ibid.

tenure of office. William Armstrong was appointed the first clerk, and other matters pertaining to a seal and supplies were agreed upon unanimously before adjournment until December 8.⁵²

Two more ordinances were passed at the succeeding meeting held on the 8th. The first of these had to do with defining the duties of the town clerk, and the second did the same in regards to the town marshall. Applications were received from Thomas G. Reed and Joseph S. Hickman to become the first town marshall.⁵³

All the voters of Milford were invited to attend the next meeting which was held December 15, and in addition to the President and Board there were 50 voters present. The Board took this opportunity to pass Ordinance Four which defined the offenses against the public peace and provided the penalties for such offenses. To impress the citizens that they meant business, J. S. Hickman was appointed as town marshall to see that the ordinances were obeyed. Ordinance Five, passed at the same meeting, defined the duties of the treasurer and W. D. Williams was duly appointed at the succeeding meeting on December 23.⁵⁴

⁵²"Minutes of the Town of Milford, 1903-1947," p. 1.
MS in office of the City Recorder, Milford, Utah.

⁵³Ibid., p. 4.

⁵⁴Ibid., p. 10.

CHAPTER IX

Social And Cultural Development

The early settlers of Milford came primarily for economic reasons, but during the latter part of 1880 when the business activity began to slow down many of the people turned their attention to other important matters. Especially those who had families became concerned over the lack of educational opportunities and by December they had aroused a great deal of interest in organizing a school.¹

Early in 1881 they secured the services of Clara Latey, daughter of John H. Latey, to act as teacher, but they had no building to hold classes in.² This problem was solved temporarily by holding school in the Williams Hotel which had just been completed.³

By the first week of March thirty "scholars" were attending and several more had declared their intention to start.⁴ A couple of weeks later there were thirty-five students and five more applications had been received.⁵ This made it apparent that something must be done to obtain a school building, and so the property just across the street to the south from the Williams Hotel was secured for a building site. The townspeople went to work and by summer they had erected a frame building which stood, with some additions, for over twenty years as the little school house and community center.⁶

The enrollment continued to increase until one teacher was not sufficient to handle the number of students and so another one

¹Daily Tribune, January 1, 1881. ²Ibid., May 4, 1882.

³Statement of Margaret Hickman Rogers, personal interview, May 23, 1956.

⁴Daily Tribune, March 9, 1881. ⁵Ibid., March 29, 1881.

⁶Ibid., September 6, 1881.

was employed. The new building was also becoming too small and by the end of the summer they had enlarged it another eighteen feet.⁷ With this extension it was felt that it would now accommodate all the eligible school children in the community.

The attitude of the community toward the school under the management of Clara Latey was very good. Activities and programs given by the students were well supported and much encouragement was given to the entire educational program. There was ample money for the use of the school coming from the railroad and mining taxes. This was especially true for the years before all the schools in the county were consolidated.⁸

The enrollment continued to increase until it became necessary to divide the lower from the upper grades. The primary grades were transferred to a small building that was located where the present Methodist Church stands.⁹ During the school year of 1887-88 there were sixteen pupils enrolled including students from the first to the fifth grade with Nellie Schow as their teacher.¹⁰

Since the students were not separated by grades the only distinctions made pertained to the reader or book they were in.¹¹ Some of the books used were Barne's New National Readers, McGuffey's Eclectic Readers, Reed and Kellogg Grammar, and Ray's Primary Arithmetic.¹² Courses in addition to those associated with the foregoing books were spelling, geography, and history.

Quite often it was the mischief rather than the subject matter that endeared the school to the student's memory. A favorite prank during recess was to pester the drivers of the water wagons that went by on their way to the mines. Water was very scarce in some of the camps and generally sold for twenty-five cents a bucket. Some of the

⁷ Ibid. ⁸ Merkley, op. cit., p. 355.

⁹ Merkley, loc. cit. ¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Statement of George Simkins, personal interview, July 3, 1957.

¹² Ibid.

boys would run up behind the wagon as it started up the hill west of town (now the high school hill) and pull the cork out of the barrel allowing the precious water to run out.¹³ They delighted in thinking of the cussing and swearing that would take place when the driver found out.

There is very little available information regarding the school during the Nineties, but by 1899 the enrollment had reached sixty-five representing 98 per cent of the potential students.¹⁴ The school house was given a good renovation, and the grounds were cleaned, leveled and surrounded by a new board fence. A pump was also installed to solve the problem of having to carry all their drinking water.¹⁵

Other teachers in Milford's early schools were Minnie Smithson, Nellie Gunn, H. M. Fennemore, a Mr. Tippetts, William J. Burns, and Mamie Lindsay in addition to those already mentioned.¹⁶

The school building which stood where the L. D. S. Church stands today was used for all types of community functions such as dances, parties, political rallies, dramatic entertainments, and church meetings.

The same bell that called the "scholars" to class on weekdays was used to call the "Saints" to Church on Sundays.¹⁷

The Mormons were the only religious group active during the early Eighties, and they were allowed to use the school building by the District Board of Education.¹⁸ Their first activity of any record came during the fall of 1880. At a meeting held on October 29, William McMillan who had joined the Church in England and emigrated to Utah in 1879 was called by Apostle Erastus Snow's direction and ordained to

¹³Statement of David A. Tanner, personal interview, May 23, 1956.

¹⁴Beaver County Blade, November 25, 1899. ¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Statement of D. E. Kirk, personal interview, May 23, 1956.

¹⁷Madsen, loc. cit., ¹⁸Ibid.

be the Bishop of a newly organized Milford Ward.¹⁹ John P. Bush and Henry McCune were chosen as counselors to McMillan and each was ordained and set apart. Other Church officials who attended the first meeting were President John Ashworth of the Beaver Stake and Bishop William Fotheringham of Minersville.²⁰

The new ward was very favorably located in order to receive numerous visits from General Authorities of the Church as they came through on their way to other southern settlements. In addition to Erastus Snow who had local business interests, other Apostles who visited and preached in the local ward meetings were Francis Lyman, John Henry Smith, Brigham Young, Jr., George Teasdale, and Wilford Woodruff.²¹

As business declined in the early Eighties, Bush and McCune both moved away, and at a quarterly conference of the Beaver Stake held in March, 1882, McMillan was sustained as Bishop with John T. Bush as a counselor;²² by December of that year Ebenezer Tanner and Benjamin Hiskey were sustained as counselors.²³ Hiskey died and McMillan was released on December 8, 1883 as he was moving to Salt Lake City and so the ward was disorganized by the Church authorities. The Stake Historical report for December 31, 1883 said Milford was not reported because "there are but few members and they are mostly transient."²⁴

Sometime early in 1884 the Mormons who were still living in Milford were reorganized as a branch of the Minersville Ward

¹⁹ Andrew Jenson, L. D. S. Biographical Encyclopedia (Salt Lake City: Andrew Jenson Historical Co., 1914), Vol. II, p. 201.

²⁰ "History of Beaver Stake," "1856-1900," p. 130. MS in L. D. S. Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.

²¹ Deseret News, April 20, 1881.

²² History of Beaver Stake, loc. cit. ²³ Ibid.

²⁴ "Beaver Stake Historical Report," December 31, 1883. MS in Beaver Stake Clerk's Office, Beaver, Utah.

with Ebenezer Tanner as the Presiding Elder.²⁵ Tanner acted in this capacity for two decades holding mostly monthly meetings when missionaries or Stake authorities visited from Minersville and Beaver. On these occasions the men who were employed on the section gangs of the railroad and a few of the freighters who happened to be in town would generally attend these meetings.²⁶

While the Ward had first been organized Sunday School meetings were held quite regularly with Edgar Savage as the Superintendent, but these also seemed to fade out when the ward was disorganized.²⁷ For many years there were scarcely more than half a dozen Mormon families living at Milford, and in 1889 the meetings had entirely ceased.²⁸

Early in the spring of 1892, President C. C. White of Beaver Stake had Presiding Elder Tanner call a meeting to be held in the school house at Milford. He sent Bishop George Eyre of Minersville and Elder William Fotheringham, Stake Superintendent of Sunday Schools, to organize a Sunday School here.²⁹ There was a good turn out for the meeting and James C. Madsen, a convert from Denmark who had lived in Milford for about six years, was set apart as the Sunday School Superintendent on July 17, 1892.³⁰ Edrick Savage and Samuel Naylor were set apart as his first and second assistants, with Mrs. James R. Nielson as secretary.³¹

The new superintendency had no money or materials to start with so Superintendent Madsen started a subscription list and visited every house in town telling the people of their desire to start a Sunday School under the auspices of the Deseret Sunday School Union.

²⁵ History of Beaver Stake, loc. cit.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Madsen, loc. cit.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

Within a few days I had \$125.00. . . I sent up to Salt Lake City for a pulpit, Bible, New Testaments, large and small ones, Books of Mormon, Bible and Book of Mormon chart, a large map of the Book of Mormon, in fact a full supply of all books and cards, a Kimball organ and stool, a desk and a call bell, Sunday School Union Music Book, and cards, and books for our little friends too numerous to mention.³²

Sunday School was held in the community school building by permission of the School Board of which Madsen was the secretary and treasurer.³³ The meeting was announced each Sunday morning at 9:30 A. M. by Chester Madsen, son of the Superintendent, who would ring the school house bell, and again just before 10 A. M. The Sunday School was conducted in the same manner as all other Mormon Sunday Schools, and they seemed to get along with a good attendance of young and old. However, Madsen reported that

After a while some of my good friend non-Mormons suggested some changes that would make it more easy on me. They said to get in touch with the American Sunday School Union, and they would furnish me a complete program for each Sunday to follow. I told them that I was satisfied with our system and would not desire any eastern publishing Co., to help me out. These friends of mine also communicated with the American Sunday School Union and they sent a man out to see what he could do with me. They also asked me for the school house to hold a meeting and have him explain his system which I did not object to and at the close of the meeting I spoke and said that in my opinion we had a much better system than that which he advanced.³⁴

The Sunday School continued to meet with considerable success. In the first year of its organization, Andrew Jenson, L. D. S. Church Historian, paid a visit here in the interest of collecting the history of the Mormons in this area.³⁵ In addition, such men as Karl G. Maeser, President of Brigham Young Academy at Provo, and George Goddard, both representing the Deseret Sunday School

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ History of Beaver Stake, loc. cit.

Union General Board, were frequent visitors.³⁶

Throughout the middle and late Nineties the Sunday School improved and prospered each year along with other religious activities. Ebenezer Tanner, Jr., first missionary of record to represent the Milford Mormons, was set apart for the Northern States Mission on August 26, 1895 and returned October 30, 1897.³⁷ In 1898 James Edwin Tanner, another son of the Presiding Elder of the Milford Branch, was called and set apart for a mission on May 18.³⁸

During these years the Sunday School did well under the direction of Superintendent Madsen even though there was a large turnover in his counselors. Acting as first assistants following Edrick Savage were the following until the turn of the century: James Bigler, Charles H. Rollins, J. T. Tanner. Second Assistants following Samuel Naylor were: J. M. Fisher, J. T. Tanner, James Bigler, Charles H. Rollins, J. T. Tanner (second term), and E. R. Denny. In addition to Mrs. J. R. Nielson those that served as secretaries were Burlly Hickman, Dorothy Hickman, and Annie Denny.³⁹

In 1899 when the forwarding business was slowing up due to the extension of the railroad, Madsen was called to Salt Lake City so he was replaced by Ebenezer Tanner, Jr.⁴⁰

At the close of the century the Milford Branch contained only about ten families but Sacrament meetings and Sunday School were held regulary every Sunday with Ebenezer Tanner, Sr., presiding over the Branch. There was sufficient activity among this small group to cause the leaders to organize a Mutual Improvement

³⁶Deseret News, November 28, 1894.

³⁷History of Beaver Stake, loc. cit. ³⁸Ibid.

³⁹Edwin F. Parry (ed), Jubilee History of Latter-day Saint Sunday Schools (Salt Lake City: Deseret Sunday School Union, 1900), p. 88.

⁴⁰Madsen, loc. cit.

Association in October of 1900 with William J. Burns, President; A. T. J. Sorenson and Nora Dally, counselors; and Margaret Hickman, Secretary-treasurer.⁴¹

On July 12, 1903 Ebenezer Tanner, Sr. reported to the Beaver Stake that the Milford Branch of the Minersville Ward wanted to be organized into a ward.⁴² There had been much activity among the people including the building of a meeting house during this year.⁴³ However, no action was taken on the request until a meeting held after the afternoon session of Stake Quarterly Conference on January 9, 1904. At this meeting Bishop Dotson of Minersville, Presiding Elder Tanner, and several members of the Stake High Council spoke and it was decided to hold a meeting in Milford on the 11th. When the meeting was held a new ward organization was drawn up and Jacob T. Tanner became the first Bishop with William J. Burns and Thomas C. Reed as his counselors. Burns also acted as their clerk.⁴⁴ Along with the ward a Primary organization was established with Burly Hickman Kirk as President; Margaret Hickman and Henrietta Tanner were set apart as her counselors, and Bertha Skillicorn acted as their secretary.⁴⁵

The first real organization effected after that of the Mormons was the First Church of Christ, Scientist in April of 1904.⁴⁶ Miss M. Catherine Smithson was the leader of this group which was also composed of Sarah L. Harrington, Margaret R. Williams, Mary A. McKeon, Susan A. Peak, Merentha H. Smithson, John B. Smithson, Josephine Muldoon, James F. Muldoon, and Mrs. Julia Smithson.

There were people of many other religious faiths in Milford

⁴¹Merkley, op. cit., p. 345.

⁴²"Beaver Stake Historical Record, Book C," p. 294. MS in L. D. S. Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.

⁴³History of Beaver Stake, loc. cit. It was built on the Northwest corner of the block used by present fire department.

⁴⁴Merkley, op. cit., p. 342. ⁴⁵Ibid., p. 345. ⁴⁶Ibid.

during the years under discussion, but there was little organized effort made among them to hold meetings. Some Catholics had come to Milford very early but they held no meetings until at least 1895 at the home of John Ryan.⁴⁷ Their official organization did not take place until soon after World War I.

Bishop Scanlan of the Salt Lake diocese, a well-known Catholic in the intermountain area was an occasional visitor in Milford on his way to visit Catholic groups in this southern area, especially the mining camps of Southern Nevada. At that time Milford was the beginning of the stage line for the area.

During the two decades when Milford was the acting terminus of the railroad it was necessary for people traveling to Southern Nevada, Southern Utah, Northern Arizona, and Southern California from the north to relinquish their seat in a semi-comfortable railway car for a bumpy one on the stage. But since it was the adequate means of transportation at the time, they usually made the best of the situation.

A Salt Lake Attorney who came to visit the Second Judicial Court of Judge Boreman in Beaver has left a description of his ride from Milford to Beaver, which cost about \$5.00 at the time. He reached Milford about 5:30 A. M., had breakfast, and at 8:00 A. M. mounted

THE "STAGE,"

Which, on this occasion consisted of a buckboard. The seat beside the driver was the only one, and was made as comfortable as the rude circumstances would permit. The time made was five miles an hour, and may be deemed somewhat miraculous when we consider the condition of the stock. The near horse, a cayuse of the most radical type, and the off one--a little uncertain on his pins--would be described by an English jockey as "a trifle groggy before and a bit still behind." The driver--a man named Kelsey--was quite chatty and agreeable. At Minersville we changed horses, and got safely buckled on to the real stage, called with good reason by the drivers,

⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 352.

A "JERKEY,"

The team now consisted of a sorrel that had seen hard times, and a bay with a lame fore-foot. The driver, named McKnight, said he had got gravel or sand in it. I observed that if that was the case, it was all the "sand" there was in him. The 20 mile trip from there to Beaver didn't improve his gait or his appearance, and the keen eye of the Jehu was kept busy exploring new territory on which to administer the whip with the desired effect.

We reached Beaver at 3:30 P. M., notwithstanding these trifling impediments to travel.⁴⁸

Efforts had been made as early as 1882 to construct a road through the Big Canyon or "Pass" which would shorten the distance between Milford and Beaver by 11 miles.⁴⁹ Soldiers from Fort Cameron completed the Beaver side, but the Milford side was not improved and because of the steep grade in several places it was used very little for many years. One man related his attempt to use the "Pass" short cut with a balky team. "Two hours we labored diligently and faithfully but there was 'nary' ascend to the team, the stupid animals pulled tailward, and we fully realized how it was with the tardy schoolboy who took one step forward and slid two back . . ."⁵⁰

Using horse and wagons for transportation provided plenty of problems, but even the railroad was not without its difficulties. The Southern Utonian reported a visit to Frisco by Cunard of the steamship company, and his family; President Francklyn and Allen G. Campbell of the Horn Silver Company; and Bishop John Sharp of Salt Lake City.⁵¹ Their special car, the "Davy Crockett," was attached to the regular passenger train, and on their return an

⁴⁸Deseret News, April 1, 1885.

⁴⁹Territorial Enquirer (Provo), August 19, 1882.

⁵⁰Ibid.

⁵¹Deseret News, September 28, 1881.

attempt was made to wreck the train. As they were descending the grade about four miles below Frisco, suddenly they came in view of two railroad ties which had been placed across the tracks. Fortunately the engineer was able to see them in sufficient time to reverse the locomotive and avoid an accident. It was generally agreed that a man from Manti in Sanpete County had been responsible for the misdeed; whether Deputy Sheriff Hedges apprehended him was not reported.

The boys of Milford also liked to put things on the tracks, but usually they were nails or small pieces of metal to see what the wheels of the big locomotive would do to them. They enjoyed climbing the little hill on the west of town where they could watch the trains labor up the highline towards Frisco.⁵² During the winter when there was much snow and the train was late returning, it was a good guess that it was caught in one of the snowbound cuts in a blizzard. When this happened the boys would climb the hill to the Assay Office and get inside the wood box at the back. Here they could just lift the lid enough to poke their binoculars through to watch the train crews trying to shovel the train out which was under the necessity of backing down because there were no facilities to turn around at Frisco.⁵³ And if it was not too windy the boys could take along a 22 rifle and bring back a rabbit or two for supper.

Some of the more mischievous lads of the community turned their attention to pestering George Hardy the shoemaker.⁵⁴ His shop was on the corner where the Telluride Power Company is presently located, and he would often be seen working late at night. There was a small hole in the wall just opposite his bench and the boys would sneak up and spit tobacco juice through it. This would make him angry but he would go right on singing his little English songs and work all the faster.

The same boys were a little more refined where girls were

⁵²Statement of David A. Tanner, personal interview, April 2, 1956.

⁵³Ibid.

⁵⁴Statement of John Mitchell Williams, personal interview, May 22, 1956.

involved and usually confined their activities to candy pulls, playing marbles, dancing and other things common to the times.⁵⁵ Often Mrs. Peter Martin used to invite them to her home for an evening of entertainment. Each one present would have to take his or her turn with a story or stunt or else pay a forfeit.

When the old folks went to parties it was common to take the younger children with them. This is illustrated by an item which appeared in the Beaver County Blade. "On Monday evening last, practically the whole population of Milford loaded itself into wagons and descended upon John Forgie in the capacity of a surprise party. . . . Between 'hunting the slipper,' 'meeting the Hutchison Family,' refreshments and music, the guests enjoyed themselves until the wee small hours."⁵⁶

The older people of the community liked to gather at the end of a day's work and spend the evening dancing. The Williams Hotel, Mowery Hotel, and the school house were common places where this activity was carried on. This was during the time when daylight must be seen between the partners, and a floor manager kept an eye open for offenders who would be politely ask to leave. Different kinds of Quadrills, the Chicago Glide, and the Mazurka were among the popular dances of the period.⁵⁷ The music was supplied by various means including accordions, violins, organs, and often orchestras would be hired from Minersville, Beaver, and occasionally Dan Olsen's Band came from Fillmore.⁵⁸ In addition to the dances there were occasional masquerade parties and a wedding reception or two.

An unusual wedding took place in 1884. About half past one on a cold December morning, Justice C. B. Stevens was awakened from his slumbers by a young man named Billingsley from Minersville who

⁵⁵Statement of Mary Ann Reese, personal interview, August 27, 1955.

⁵⁶Beaver County Blade, February 17, 1900.

⁵⁷Statement of Abner Tanner, personal interview, June 20, 1957.

⁵⁸Merkley, op. cit., p. 332.

desired his services in tying the nuptial knot.⁵⁹ Learning it was an elopement, Stevens politely declined, but the couple just went on down the street to ex-Justice B. A. Spears, who satisfied their request by going over the marriage ceremony. The next morning a Mr. Dotson of Minersville, father of the bride, arrived in Milford in search of his runaway daughter and became intensely angry to discover that she had become a wife.

Notwithstanding an elopement now and then, social problems were relatively few in the early days of Milford in spite of the number of saloons and the towns proximity to the rough mining camps. Women were respected because the men knew that they must keep their place or suffer severe public condemnation.⁶⁰ A few men over the years had been tarred and feathered and run out of town for indiscreet actions in regards to the opposite sex, and one man was whipped for just slandering a woman on the street.⁶¹

For a few years a house of prostitution was operated just south of the Forgie Hotel, but public sentiment became so great that it was closed and an attempt was made to build southwest of town, but the house was never fully completed.⁶² Another business of this type was run just down the wash from Mineral hot springs to the northeast by "Nigger Mag."⁶³ Hot baths, massages, and a swimming pool filled from the warm spring water were conveniences available to the customers.

Milford was settled by a wide variety of different types of people, but over the years they became more or less adjusted to the

⁵⁹Deseret News, December 3, 1884.

⁶⁰Statement of Margaret Hickman Rogers, personal interview, August 25, 1955.

⁶¹Statement of Jennie Martin, personal interview, May 23, 1957. Statement corroborated by Abner Tanner, personal interview, July 10, 1957.

⁶²Statement of Emma Smith, personal interview, May 23, 1956.

⁶³Statement of Jennie Nichols Smith, personal interview, May 23, 1956. "Nigger Mag" was a colored woman who had come west in 1857 with Johnston's Army.

type of frontier life they found here. They enjoyed the happy times and mourned together over the sad ones. James C. Madsen in reflecting on his thirteen years in Milford from 1886 to 1899 said, "I married the young, buried the old, and administered to those who were sick."⁶⁴

One cold February morning as a teamster was watering his horses at the old well of Donald McKay, his bucket caught on to something in the well.⁶⁵ Gazing down into the well he could see the form of a man. An investigation showed that the dead man was a Peterson from Grantsville, who had last been seen the night before at about 10 o'clock somewhat intoxicated. It was supposed that he had started to turn the corner and not being aware that the well was there had walked headlong into it. There ~~was~~ ten feet of water in the well but a plank had kept him from sinking.

Two unusual deaths occurred in 1885. The first was a suicide committed by William C. Godbe, the 23 year old son of a prominent mining and newspaper man from Salt Lake City, William S. Godbe.⁶⁶ The second was the murder of Dan Severance for which Bill Orrick was sentenced to the penitentiary.⁶⁷

The men of the time lived a hardy life and many prided themselves on their robust physical appearance and outstanding athletic prowess. It is not surprising to find the following that appeared in the Salt Lake Daily Tribune.

A party of Friscoites and Milfordites who are now making the Clift House their headquarters, modest gentlemen, but egotistical enough to believe that they have among their numbers gentlemen of superior athletic ability, and whose proficiency in that line is only overcome by their personal attractions, are soon to have an opportunity to display their prowess at Black Rock or any other place they may select along the Lake Shore, in jumping, running, putting the stone (Caledonia style) or at single handed talking. And while we entertain towards them the highest feelings of friendship, we believe that they will meet their match on the Lake Shore.⁶⁸

⁶⁴Madsen, loc. cit. ⁶⁵Deseret News, February 2, 1881.

⁶⁶Ibid., February 11, 1885. ⁶⁷Ibid., October 7, 1885.

⁶⁸Daily Tribune, July 19, 1881.

Whoever the men were from Milford they probably had plenty of opportunities to practice in their particular line of athletic ability. During good weather the men made the most of their chances to pitch horseshoes, whittle, do some jumping, and practice high kicking, especially when business was slow around the freighting houses.⁶⁹ The boys did the same thing during the summer or whenever they could play hooky from school.

On one occasion the younger set assembled at Malloy's Hall for the purpose of having an exhibition and some recitations.⁷⁰ It was not long before two boys got into an altercation and one cut the other's head open with his sling shot causing a gash three inches long almost to the skull. Thus the recitations were ended for that day and Dr. Bailey was called to sew up the cut.

The boys would rather go fishing than be all dressed up in their fancy clothes to do recitations. Some of them liked to go with Hinkee the Chinaman to fish for suckers and chubs in the river across the pastures by the willows.⁷¹ Instead of using poles and line they would make large hoops out of gunny sacks and use them to scoop the fish. Hinkee would sell some of their prize catches in his restaurant and give the rest away.

The Chinaman played a rather unique role in the life of the community, and when one ate at his restaurant it was a good policy to lift the top of the pie and see if there were any little dark raisins (flies).⁷² Once a man was walking up by the old Stamp Mill and chanced to see a bobcat perched by the big stack. He told Ebenezer Tanner about it and Tanner shot it and gave it to the Chinaman who said he wanted to boil the oil out of it for "rheumatize."⁷³ The local citizens were not sold on all the Chinese remedies but felt like there was not much to lose by trying them.

⁶⁹Statement of David A. Tanner, personal interview, May 2, 1956.

⁷⁰Deseret News, February 16, 1881.

⁷¹Statement of David A. Tanner, personal interview, May 2, 1956.

⁷²Ibid. ⁷³Ibid.

Whether it was the Chinese with their restaurant, the Irish on the section gangs, the Swedes from the mines, or anyone else, they were all glad to see summer come because it meant the coming of the "Dixie Peddler." Even the hot windy weather and the abominable dust could be overlooked in anticipation of what the peddler brought.

To the barefoot boy, whose only pleasure was to chase half grown gophers around trees like grease-woods and over sun-baked alkali flats, he brought juicy melons, apples and the stomach ache. To the housewife, tired of trying to make meals tasty without the vegetables necessary, he brought rest in the shape of beets, turnips, carrots, etc. And to the tired cowboy, section Jerry, bullion guard, dead broke freighter, and miner he brought--well, of course, Beaver County is "dry" and Dixie peddlers are things of the past, so why conceal the other barrel besides the one filled with molasses?⁷⁴

⁷⁴Hickman, loc. cit.

CHAPTER X
POLITICAL HISTORY

The initial political institution established to govern Beaver County was the County Court.¹ This organization consisted of the Probate Judge and three Selectmen who conjointly possessed the power and authority given to our present county commissioners. Although it has a judicial name its duties were administrative such as

. . . jurisdiction over the conservation and disposition of timber resources, water privileges and the distribution of water for mill, community, and irrigation purposes, the districting of the county for road, precinct, school and other purposes, the levying and collection of the county taxes, and the submission to the people of ways and means of meeting extraordinary expenditures for public buildings, roads, and bridges.²

In addition the Selectmen and Judge had separate duties imposed on them which, together with the Sheriff, constables, justices of the peace, assessors, collectors, treasurers, and lesser officials, took care of managing all the county business. At this time the County Court had complete jurisdiction over the unincorporated villages and towns within its borders.

For over three decades every man elected to a county office came from the Southeast part of the county. There in the towns of Beaver, Greenville, Adamsville, and Minersville was where the great majority of the population was located and not until 1893 was a candidate from Milford successful.³ Further, no non-Mormon was successful in being elected to the County Court before it was terminated in favor of the commissioner form of government in 1896.⁴

In the four towns in the Southeast part of the county there were

¹Neff, op. cit., p. 200. ²Ibid.

³Merkley, op. cit., pp. 176-177. ⁴Ibid.

few Gentiles among the predominant Mormon population and because of the Mormon political solidarity it was usually a foregone conclusion that the latter's candidates would be elected. This caused bitter feelings to exist among the Gentiles who thought that an ecclesiastical organization should not have so close a connection to the political life of the area, and consequently this feeling was manifest whenever significant issues came up.

One issue that lingered on during this turbulent second-half century was that of statehood. Several attempts had been made to gain Congressional recognition early in the life of the Territory, but all had failed. Another big effort was made early in the Seventies, but there was such a growing sentiment against statehood particularly among the non-Mormon elements that it also was doomed to failure. The action taken by the Gentiles was based on the feeling that if Utah gained statehood it would throw the government back into the hands of the Mormons, whereas, even though they were unable to win local elections they could count on the Territorial officials being appointed who were sympathetic to their point of view.

A petition was circulated in Beaver County early in 1872 objecting to Utah's admission to statehood, and the great bulk of signers came from the mining districts where the Gentiles were in a large preponderance.⁵ This same attitude is manifest in a dispatch from the San Francisco Mining District on June 28, 1876 which said

Whether James G. Blaine is the nominee or not, he has many warm friends in this district who wish him success. I can safely say that about two thirds of the miners of Beaver County are Blaine men, for they consider him a staunch friend to the Gentile cause and true to the Union.⁶

Since Milford occupied a position between the mining districts and the communities of the southeastern part of the county it partook of the influences of both, but economically it faced the west and thereby received its greatest influence from that direction. Gentiles outnumbered the Mormons to the extent that the latter seemed willing to be rather passive in their political activities for a number of years,

⁵Deseret News, June 12, 1872. ⁶Daily Tribune, June 28, 1876.

and the County Court generally appointed Gentiles to the appointive offices in the districts where they were in the majority.

By the fall of 1876, the leading citizens of Milford petitioned the Court to organize the community into a precinct.⁷ This would make it possible for the local voters to choose some of their officials rather than having them appointed, and after some consideration the requested action was taken. The precinct was to include

. . . all that portion of Beaver County bounded on the North West by Grampion precinct thence running east to the quartzite Mountain thence along summit of said mountain to a point due east of the North Spring about 6 miles in a northerly direction from Minersville thence west to Star Precinct thence north on Star and Grampion lines to place of beginning. . .⁸

Until an election could be held, William H. Lighthall was appointed Justice of the Peace and E. H. Fisher as Constable of the precinct.⁹ When the election was finally held August 6, 1877, Lighthall was elected Justice of the Peace and James McGarry succeeded Fisher as Constable.¹⁰ There are no records available to indicate whether these men were Mormons or Gentiles.

The total votes cast in each of the precincts of the County during this election give at least a comparative idea of the size of Milford at this time. In Beaver there were 301; Minersville, 99; Grampion, 91; Milford, 50; Adamsville, 46; Greenville, 41; and Star, 35.¹¹

The main sources of information about the political warfare that was carried on during this period of Milford's history are the papers that were printed in the Salt Lake City. It was possible to get different points of view on political trends by carefully choosing the paper which you read. The Deseret News always gave the People's Party or Mormon Church viewpoint, while Daily Tribune was unhesitatingly outspoken in favor of the Gentile or Liberal Party cause. It is with this in mind that all information must be understood in order to get a fair analysis of the political situation as it actually was.

⁷Record of the County Court, 1856-1883, op. cit., p. 196.

⁸Ibid. ⁹Ibid. ¹⁰Ibid., p. 403. ¹¹Ibid.

During the existence of the Liberal Party, composed chiefly of non-Mormons, Beaver County was one of its strongest centers of activity. This was especially true of Milford and the adjacent mining districts, but throughout the state as a whole the Liberals were in such a minority that they had to influence issues by voice rather than by vote.

In the early Seventies when the move for statehood was being pushed rather vigorously, there had been some feeble attempts to harmonize the local situation with the larger political picture by organizing along national lines.¹² This was unsuccessful at the time because the Gentile leadership mistrusted the motives of the Mormons who showed quite a willingness.

After the election of 1874 where they enjoyed some success in local elections throughout the state, the Liberal Party started to lose ground in 1876 and 1878.¹³ In many areas they made no attempt to even put a candidate on the ticket.

As the election of 1880 approached, interest in the Liberal Party experienced somewhat of a rejuvenation. In Beaver County they started to organize for a vigorous campaign preceeding the August election.¹⁴ Local party leaders decided to take a little different approach and abandon their policy of insulting the opposition party. This brought no little laughter from the People's Party who poked fun at this announcement with the following editorial.

One of the most striking characteristics of the so-called "Liberals" of this Territory, apart from their extreme illiberality, is their remarkable inconsistency. In illustration of this we quote two or three paragraphs from the resolutions of the Beaver County "Liberal" Convention. They occur apart, but we place them together to show how much harmony there is between them:

"Whereas the party which has held power in this Territory since its first settlement have denied all exercise of political rights to American citizens who do not worship God according to their peculiar forms and mode of religious faith,

.....

¹²Whitney, op. cit., p. 241.

¹³Ibid. Liberals held Tooele County for 5 years.

¹⁴Deseret News, August 4, 1880.

"Be it resolved, that this convention of the Liberals of Beaver County believe that the cause of progress and enlightenment will be best subserved, and the moral and material interests of the community best promoted, by our candidates for county and precinct office being exclusively chosen from that class of the community who have no connection with the dominant Church,

.....
 "Resolved, that we wage war upon no class of the community, and disavow that we have any wrongs to avenge; but insist upon the right of the majority to choose and elect men to office whom they regard most fit for public position."¹⁵

When the election for the county was finally held it had repercussions that reached papers as far away as New York City.¹⁶ The People's Party carried every office but that of Sheriff by at least one hundred votes.¹⁷ The Liberal Party candidate for Sheriff received 619 votes to 480 for the People's candidate. The same dispatch that contained the voting totals said that one hundred and forty-five votes were sworn in at Frisco and Milford which had not be^{an} previously registered.

Sparks began to fly between the two parties, especially when the canvassers of the election started around the county.

. . .the clamors of indignation and murmurs of revenge began when they arrived at the brand new town of Milford. Here ambition had o'er leaped itself and the "Liberals," probably in the majority even in a fair election, resorted to "stuffin'", by means of the swearing in process. The People's Party had but one judge of election while the Liberals had the other two; every time a man or woman appeared whose name was not on the registrar's books, the People's representative objected to and protested against the reception of his or her vote, and each and every such occasion the vote was received by exactly two-thirds majority. This business was carried on to the extent of 58 votes and Milford returned a very decided minority for the People's ticket.¹⁸

When the canvassers found out what had taken place they refused to count the votes in Milford and three other precincts of the county where votes had been sworn in. This action gained space in

¹⁵Ibid. ¹⁶Ibid., August 25, 1880.

¹⁷Ibid., August 11, 1880. ¹⁸Ibid., September 15, 1880.

the New York Herald of August 12 which said, "The Mormons have been learning returning board tricks," and then referred its readers to the following dispatch it received from Salt Lake City.

The Mormon returning board of Beaver County threw out the vote of the Gentile precincts of Frisco, Milford, Adamsville, and Minersville, defeating the State Sheriff elect on the Liberal ticket. The Gentile voters of Frisco have resolved to refuse to pay taxes in consequence of this disenfranchisement.¹⁹

At the order of the County Court another election was held in Milford to elect a justice of the peace, but again some irregularity took place and it was necessary to set another election to get the matter settled.²⁰

Before all the excitement caused by the local elections had abated, during the month of September attention was shifted to the state and national political scene. On the 22nd of this month the Liberal Party held its nominating convention in Salt Lake City to determine a candidate for delegate to congress.²¹ The Deseret News in commenting on the convention said that during the proceedings there was somewhat of a deadlock among several prospective candidates and then chided what happened with the following.

. . . Just here the idea suddenly occurred to somebody to nominate Allen G. Campbell for delegate to Congress, the complete spontaniety and unpremeditation of which was evidenced in the unfurling of a flag, which bore his name, at the other end of the hall.²²

This action was apparently successful and the convention forthwith named Campbell as their candidate.

Though this action had been planned it came as a mild surprise to the candidate who was not at the convention. When he was told what had occurred he treated it as a "pleasant hoax of his partner in the mine"---Matthew Cullen, but when he was persuaded that it was a fact willingly accepted.²³

¹⁹Ibid., August 25, 1880. ²⁰Ibid., October 6, 1880.

²¹Roberts, op. cit., Vol. VI, p. 1.

²²Deseret News, September 29, 1880.

²³Roberts, op. cit., Vol. VI, p. 2.

Campbell was a familiar figure around Beaver County having business interests in Milford in addition to partnership in the Horn Silver Mining Company which had helped him become a millionaire. He was born in Pulaski County, Missouri in 1834, but moved to Colorado in 1859 at the time of the "Pike's Peak" excitement when the settlers in Denver were trying to organize the area as the "Jefferson Territory."²⁴ In 1870 the mining developments in Utah attracted him, and a few years later he had purchased into the Horn Silver Mine.²⁵ There was a general feeling that Campbell was sufficiently anti-Mormon to fit the best interests of the Liberal Party and had ample funds to support the campaign.²⁶

Campbell's opponent in the election was George Q. Cannon who was now running for his fifth term.²⁷ Cannon was recognized as one of the leading Mormons, an Apostle, and before the election was held he became first counselor in the First Presidency of the Church.²⁸

It is very questionable just how big a vote the Liberals expected to get over the state, but they certainly expected to be strong in Beaver County. When the returns were counted for the November election there was more than a mild surprise for Campbell who polled only 223 votes in the county as compared to 515 for Cannon.²⁹ This became all the more difficult to explain when it is remembered that just a couple of months before this in the local election the Liberals had polled at least twice that many votes.³⁰ Over the state, Campbell received 1,357 votes to 18,568 for Cannon.³¹

There are three factors that seem to be most important in the poor showing that Campbell made. First, the Liberal Party had

²⁴Ibid. ²⁵Ibid. ²⁶Ibid.

²⁷Whitney, op. cit., p. 215.

²⁸Joseph Fielding Smith, Essentials in Church History (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1947), p. 671.

²⁹Deseret New, November 10, 1880.

³⁰Ibid., August 11, 1880.

³¹Daily Tribune, January 9, 1881.

actually lost ground during the latter part of the Seventies and even this vigorous drive in 1880 was not enough to restore the party to its former strength.³² Secondly, Campbell did not appear to be as popular among his own party as many had thought we would be.³³ The vote he received represented about one-third of the party strength as indicated in preceeding elections. And the third factor involves his personal life which would certainly be common knowledge to those who knew him very well. In the early months of 1880 he was involved in a divorce action tried in the Second Judicial Court, and the Judge awarded Florence A. Campbell, \$5,000 to meet legal expenses, and \$300 per month alimony.³⁴ This would seem to at least indicate some marital difficulties that would not enhance his vote getting popularity.

It was the law that the successful candidate was to receive a certificate of election from the Governor. Just before the votes were to be examined, Campbell, at the insistence of some of his friends, sent a protest to the Governor against Cannon receiving the certificate on the grounds that he was both an alien and a polygamist.³⁵ Each of these charges had been made against Cannon during preceeding elections, the former having been disproved.³⁶

Even though Cannon had been seated after unsuccessful protests made against him on previous occasions, Governor Murray issued the certificate to Campbell and the contest was taken to the halls of Congress. The Deseret News leveled a blast at the Govenner's action.

It will amuse and astonish not a few to learn that our handsome-faced, weak-headed Governor has actually issued a certificate of election to Allen G. Campbell. Everybody knew that such was his will, but very few besides himself and his plotting advisers, supposed that he was really foolish enough to do it. If, as Solomon says, "There is nothing new under the sun,"

³²Whitney, op. cit., p. 216.

³³Roberts, op. cit., Vol. VI, p. 7.

³⁴Deseret News, March 31, 1880.

³⁵Daily Tribune, January 9, 1881.

³⁶Whitney, op. cit., p. 218.

this certainly comes as near to it in the annals of tomfoolery, as anything yet heard of in this wonderful land of liberty and equal rights. The will of 150,000 people (18,000 polled votes) ignored, and a 1,300 ballot candidate carried off the election certificate! Why, it's perfectly laughable!³⁷

The debate over the contested seat raged off and on for a period of almost two years, but was finally settled on March 22, 1882 when the Edmunds Bill was signed by President Arthur which made it illegal for a polygamist to hold public office. However, Campbell was robbed of his success when he failed in his quest to be seated, and the next delegate from Utah was John T. Caine elected in November of that year.³⁸ From the episode in 1880, local citizens called the liberal candidate "M. C." or "Minority Campbell."

Back on the local scene, the activity of 1880 had given the Liberals a renewed hope for some local successes, but by July of 1881, the Daily Tribune was lamenting the fact that they had received no news of any move being made by the Liberals of Beaver County.³⁹ There was a general concensus of opinion that the Liberals of Beaver County had a better opportunity to gain a member to the Legislative Assembly now than ever before. This was further emphasized by the Southern Utonian and the Beaver Enterprise, papers generally considered as allied with the Mormon Church, who were admitting that the Liberals now have "more than an even show."⁴⁰ To this the Daily Tribune added that "although the feeling of bitterness towards one another has nearly become extinct, yet it would be a base surrender to give up victory when it is so near our grasp."⁴¹

Inspite of all the encouragement by the press from every corner, no steps were taken to put any candidates on the slate for the coming election. This caused the Frisco Times to voice no little consternation, and it issued the following comment:

³⁷ Deseret News, January 12, 1881.

³⁸ Whitney, op. cit., p. 221.

³⁹ Daily Tribune, July 24, 1881.

⁴⁰ Ibid. ⁴¹ Ibid.

The non-Mormon population of Beaver County pays no small or mean portion of the taxes, yet no Gentile has ever been elected to a county office. We ought to have had the one Selectman, who is to be elected next Monday, but no effort has been made to elect him. As individuals, the Times has nothing to say against the present officers of Beaver County. We believe them to be honorable, upright gentlemen, who administered the affairs of the county, honestly, fairly, and impartially, yet we do most emphatically object to their being elected by an ecclesiastical instead of a political party. We most decidedly object to any church exerting such control over politics, believing as we do, that it is contrary to the spirit and institutions of our Republic.⁴²

If the press could not stir the Liberals to activity, passage of the Edmunds Act in the early part of 1882 seemed to succeed. This act disenfranchised anyone who was practicing plural marriage, and it was felt that it would greatly cut the voting power of the People's Party. The Frisco Times came out with a statement which probably reflects the attitude of the Liberals in Milford and the mining camps when it said, "Gentiles are rejoicing with The Tribune over the fact that God and the Governor will run Zion for awhile. They can beat the old Mormon revelators out of their boots."⁴³

Along with this renewed activity, a territorial convention of the Liberal Party was called for October to be held in Salt Lake City. It was announced that the convention was for "all who favor strict enforcement of the laws and are against Church rule in Utah."⁴⁴ The strength of the Liberals in Beaver County at this time might be estimated by the fact that only Salt Lake and Weber Counties were invited to send more delegates than Beaver County.⁴⁵

The election for the year never was held.⁴⁶ Congress had provided through the Edmunds Act for five commissioners to come to Utah to supervise elections and they arrived too late to hold the elections that should have been held in August. Congress then gave the Governor the right to appoint the officials, and two hundred persons

⁴²Ibid., August 2, 1881.

⁴³Ibid., August 15, 1882. ⁴⁴Ibid., September 7, 1882.

⁴⁵Ibid. ⁴⁶Whitney, op. cit., p. 220

were thus selected, but those who held the offices refused to relinquish until successors had been elected.⁴⁷ Before the matter could be settled, the November election came around and inspite of adverse conditions the People's Party still polled a tremendous majority over the state and were successful in Beaver county.⁴⁸

During the latter years of the Eighties the Liberal Party began picking up more strength until by 1888 they had 5 men in the Territorial Legislature.⁴⁹ The Edmunds-Tucker Act of 1887 had disenfranchised women and previous legislation had done the same to polygamists. This had a greater effect in the communities in the Southeast part of the county than it did in Milford, because apparently none of the Mormons living in this community were practicing plural marriage.⁵⁰

Much of the misunderstanding in this area between the Liberals and the People's Party was beginning to vanish, and the last real political battle between the two was in 1890 when John T. Caine defeated Judge C. C. Goodwin who ran on the Liberal ticket.⁵¹ During this year there was a great deal of realignment in political circles, and the two great national parties, Democratic and Republican, were organized later in 1891.⁵²

On June 10, 1891 the People's Party met and officially dissolved, encouraging its members to join either of the National Parties.⁵³ This same year there was much agitation by some ranking Liberals for the dissolution of the Liberal Party also. But due to the mistrust still held by many Liberals for the Mormons, it was two years later before they finally followed suite. This proved to be the last great obstacle which had stood in the way of Utah receiving statehood, and also proved to have a very calming effect on the political situation in Milford and Beaver County.

⁴⁷Ibid. ⁴⁸Ibid., p. 221

⁴⁹Ibid., p. 230. Included three from Salt Lake, one from Bingham, and one from Park City.

⁵⁰Statement of David A. Tanner, personal interview, July 11, 1956.

⁵¹Ibid. ⁵²Ibid., p. 242. ⁵³Ibid.

In Milford thereafter the Church was not brought into the political discussions as much, and attention was turned to problems of national concern.⁵⁴ There was also much crossing of party lines when the issues were such as to warrant it. This was the case in the election of 1896 during a period when the mining activity of the area was very much in need of some kind of assistance. The issue of the campaign which especially concerned the local inhabitants was that of unlimited coinage of silver. So it was that Milford (with the exception of one man.) went for William Jennings Bryan who advocated "free silver."⁵⁵ Later it was believed that P. B. McKeon was the exception because he was appointed Postmaster.⁵⁶ Little more can be told about local politics during this early period of Milford's development. The County Court records do not mention all the men who were elected to the Milford Precinct offices, nor is there any way to determine whether they were Mormons or Gentiles. The newspapers give a partial list of those elected prior to 1903. Justices of the Peace were: W. G. Taylor, C. B. Stevens, John Slater, William McGarry, Daniel D. Williams, and Arvin M. Stoddard. Constables included A. W. Mowrie, D. N. Hickman, Jesse Willis, A. W. Mowrie (second term), and William Manion.

Men who served as registration officers by appointment of the Utah Commission after the year 1882 were as follows: F. Whiteside O'Connor, James McGarry, C. B. Stevens, William Williams, Orson Rummel, B. A. Spear, C. B. Stevens (second term), and George A. Snow.

During the eight year period from Utah's admission to the Union until the incorporation of Milford as a town no men were elected

⁵⁴Statement of Mary Ann Reese, personal interview, August 27, 1955.

⁵⁵Statement of Dorothy Reese Williams, personal interview, August 27, 1955.

⁵⁶Statement of John Mitchell Williams, personal interview, May 22, 1956.

to the State Legislature from Milford. Those who represented the area came from Beaver, Minersville, and Frisco. A. B. Lewis of Frisco, and later Milford, was Chairman of the Mines and Minerals committee of the Senate in 1903, and as such was very active in bringing the attention of Eastern investors to the great possibilities of copper mining in the Rocky Mining District a few miles northwest of Milford.⁵⁷

With incorporation in 1903 the town turned to a new phase of its development. Vigorous civic activity was coupled with the continued improvement in economic conditions. Miners were able to live in Milford and ride horses back and forth to the Rocky Mining District where the copper companies were starting to work. The railroad was extended on from Caliente to Los Angeles stimulating more rail traffic and the farmers soon began improvements with the digging of deep wells to make the valley fruitful.

Looking to the future Milford's prospects looked bright, and as one early resident said, "things kept getting better and better all the time."⁵⁸

⁵⁷George E. Blair and R. W. Sloan (eds.), "The Mountain Empire" Utah (Salt Lake City: Authors, 1904), p. 129.

⁵⁸Statement by Jennie Martin, personal interview, May 23, 1956.

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ABSTRACT

The first known party of white men who entered the area that became Utah included a Franciscan friar, Silvestre Velez de Escalante. This expedition passed through the Milford Valley in the fall of 1776 and it was when they were camped at San Brigida, near or on the present site of Milford, that the important decision to turn back to Sante Fe was made.

Near the hot springs which are 15 or 20 miles farther south, Escalante recorded that the territory of the bearded Indians they had first encountered at the Sevier River extended to that point. It is not known for a certainty just what relationship these Indians had with those found in the same area nearly three-fourths of a century later, but the Indians found in the Milford Valley particularly, in the 1850's, were clans of the Paiute Tribe. The Toy-ebe-its had their headquarters near Milford and they claimed the area to the north nearly to the shores of Sevier Lake. The Pah-moki-abs, whose headquarters were at Minersville, claimed the rest of the valley from Milford south.

Before any settlement took place in this valley the Indians had become greatly diminished in numbers due mainly to the vigorous prosecution of Indian slavery by the Spaniards. The Paiutes were found to be rather easy prey for their enemies the Spaniards and the stronger Ute tribes.

The actual settlement of Milford by white men represents an extension of earlier colonization in Beaver and Minersville. Men from both of these settlements quickly recognized the superior grazing land for their cattle and sheep that could be found along the river in the Milford Valley, particularly near the Yellow Banks. Men from Minersville would make annual trips to the fields near the Yellow Banks about two miles north of the present Union Pacific Station at Milford to cut the tall meadow grasses to store in their fields for winter feed. Therefore it is not surprising that Joseph Turley of Minersville was the first

man to gain Federal title to land in that area in 1869, followed closely by Jerome Zabriskie, whose land was only about a mile northeast of the place where Milford was built. In the fall of 1870, Arvin M. Stoddard, a Mormon Pioneer of 1847, located on the site which developed into the community. Stoddard and the few others who first settled in the valley appear to have come for agricultural purposes, but had some difficulty because of the nature of the valley. Where there was ample water it was too swampy; alkali covered other areas; and where the good soil was found there was insufficient water and dry farming was unsuccessful. By the time they were planning to use water from the Beaver River which flowed north through the valley the Minersville people had constructed a reservoir and diverted much of the stream. This one factor, lack of sufficient water, has been a major cause for the slow development of the farming area.

At the same time the first men were settling in the valley prospectors were starting to pour into the hills to the west and southwest. Many rich strikes of lead, silver, and gold, were made and the area had an immediate boom. So important did the mining activities become that Milford was forced to live in the shadows of unimportance for nearly a decade.

It was not until the coming of the railroad in 1880 that Milford started to grow and rival some of the mining camps in economic importance. It became the terminus for freighting activities which included not only the mining region nearby but a large area including Southern Utah, Southern Nevada, and Northern Arizona.

Because of its proximity to the mining area and the coming of the railroad, many people expected the community to become almost a "second Cheyenne," but during the middle Eighties it suffered a temporary depression. During this period and a similar one which occurred during the national panic of the middle Nineties the freighting activities and cattle shipping industry are all that sustained the community and kept it from becoming almost deserted. Cattle from much of the Southwestern part of the Great Basin were driven to Milford and shipped to the eastern markets.

Milford was somewhat of a melting pot for a heterogeneous group of people who were drawn there primarily for economic reasons. It had a predominance of non-Mormons in the population, and consequently there was a fair amount of Gentile political activity through the early years. Real difficulties did not develop, however, because the small number of Mormons living in the community were apparently willing to take a passive part in the political affairs.

The big political year was 1880 when the Liberal Party ran Allen G. Campbell for Congress against George Q. Cannon. Campbell had become a millionaire through his part in the Horn Silver Mining Company and some other business interests, one of which was in Milford. It is interesting that the mining area of Beaver County did not support Campbell in the election as well as it had been anticipated it would.

The history of Milford from the coming of the railroad in 1880 to the turn of the century was characterized by three attempts to extend the steel rails on towards California. Work was done on the roadbed in 1881 and then abandoned; a second attempt was made in 1890 to 1892 but was cut short by the national financial difficulties; and finally the third attempt started in 1898 was successful, the road being completed to Caliente, Nevada, in 1901.

It was felt by most people in the area that Milford would be rapidly depopulated when the terminus was moved south and become nothing more than a way station, but the railroad decided to use it as a division terminal because of its location and excellent watering facilities.

At the turn of the century there were 279 citizens and the town continued to grow. New people moved in and some who had left during the bad years also moved back to take up where they left off. In addition to work afforded by the railroad there was a new surge of mining in connection with low grade copper shipments which promised a bright future.

By the latter part of 1903 the inhabitants of the community were petitioning the County Commission to incorporate them into a town and the request was granted on November 30. The Commission also appoint-

ed as the first President and board those men that the citizens had elected at a previous meeting as their choice to administer the local affairs of the 400 citizens who now resided in the one mile square area encompassed by the new organization.

With incorporation, Milford entered a new phase of its story.