A History of Murray to 1905

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A HISTORY OF MURRAY TO 1905

A Thesis submitted to the
Department of History
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements of the Degree of
Master of Science

by
Clinton R. Ahlberg
August 1959
It has been the purpose of the writer in preparing this thesis to make available to the people of Murray the early history of their community. With the growth of the residential and business areas of the Salt Lake Valley, there is a tendency to regard Murray as an appendage of Salt Lake City and to forget the independent efforts of early Murray citizens, and the circumstances which brought about the development of their city.

Much of Murray's history has been overshadowed by the events which took place in Salt Lake City, or has been submerged by general inclusion in the history of the valley. Considerable research has been required to find the information and to bring to light obscure features of Murray's past.

The author would like to give grateful recognition to Dr. LeRoy R. Hafen and Dr. J. Keith Melville of the Brigham Young University for their patient consideration and aid in the preparation of this thesis. An expression of gratitude is also due the Latter-day Saint Church Historian's Office for cooperation and for the use of their materials.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE ................................................................. iii

Chapter

I. THE SALT LAKE VALLEY BEFORE 1847 ...................... 1
II. EARLY SETTLERS AND THE AMAHA LIMAN SURVEY ........ 16
III. THE GROWTH OF SOUTH COTTONWOOD, 1849-1870 .......... 29
IV. PIONEER LIFE ...................................................... 45
V. THE SMELTERS OF MURRAY AND THE IMPETUS GIVEN THEM BY THE RAILROADS ........................................... 56
VI. THE SCHOOLS OF MURRAY ........................................ 74
VII. CITY DEVELOPMENTS AND INCORPORATION ................ 90
APPENDICES .............................................................. 107
BIBLIOGRAPHY .......................................................... 114

IV
CHAPTER I

THE SALT LAKE VALLEY BEFORE 1847

The valley and region in which Murray is located were well known by the explorers and mountain men before the Mormon pioneers entered the area. As early as 1776, the Catholic fathers, Francisco Atanasio Dominguez and Francisco Silvestre Velez de Escalante, were in the neighboring Utah Valley, and were told by the Indians of a lake just to the north which was salty and harmful to the body. ¹

The purpose of the Escalante expedition was to find a route from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Monterey, California. Monterey had recently been made a port for the entry of goods from Spain and Southern Mexico, so it was thought that if a road could be found direct from Santa Fe to Monterey, it would be of great advantage in the transportation of goods to California for the support of the missions there.

With this purpose in mind, the expedition had set out from Santa Fe on the twenty-ninth of July, 1776, and traveled north-westerly until they crossed the fortieth degree of north latitude. Here they turned west across the Green River, and through the

 Uinta, Duchesne, and Strawberry Valleys. From the Strawberry the expedition traveled down Spanish Fork Creek, which they named the Aguas Calientes, meaning River of warm water. It was named this because of the warm springs they found emptying into it.\textsuperscript{1}

Traveling down the Spanish Fork Canyon, the Fathers made their first camp in the Utah Valley, September the twenty-third, and gave the valley the name, "Valley and Lake of Our Lady of Mercy of the Timpanogatris."\textsuperscript{2} The Valley was described as sixteen Spanish leagues long and ten or twelve wide,\textsuperscript{3} and the land was surrounded by mountain peaks from which four rivers flowed into the valley.\textsuperscript{4} The fathers traveled north, crossing the Provo River, and on to American Fork Creek. From the American Fork they could see the outlet of the lake, the Jordan River, and named it the Rio de Santa Ana. They did not travel north of the American Fork to the Jordan, but estimated its size from what information the Indians gave them.\textsuperscript{5} The Indians told them that this river flowed into another lake to the north which occupied many leagues, and contained water which was harmful to the body. The Indians also

\textsuperscript{1}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 176.

\textsuperscript{2}\textit{Ibid.}

\textsuperscript{3}The old Spanish league is equal to 2.63 United States miles.

\textsuperscript{4}\textit{Ibid., o. cit.}, p. 184.

\textsuperscript{5}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 185.
stated that the Guaguampes lived around its shores. Guaguampes was the Indian word for witch doctors.\(^1\) Though the Timpanogotzis in the Utah Valley did not consider the Guaguampes as enemies, they did not regard them as neutral, for they had killed an Indian from the Utah Valley. They further described the Indians on the Salt Lake shore as quiet, living on herbs and drinking from the fountains near the lake. Their houses were reported to be made of dry grass and earth.\(^2\)

The fathers established friendly relations with the Indians on the Utah Lake, and taught them of God, and that while it was necessary for them to leave, they would send priests to teach them of Christ. The fathers required of the Indians a token to show their desire to become Christians, and that the returning priests might be able to use it for identification. Upon this request, the Indians painted three crosses with figures on them on a skin. These figures on the crosses represented the three

\(\text{\footnotesize 1Dr. Harris describes the Guaguampes, of Salt Lake, as an out lawed band of the Apanche-Yaqueros or Yute-Jenne. He states that in 1859 Lieutenant Simpson, while on his official survey of the Great Salt Lake region, encountered the Guaguampes on the northwestern corner of the Salt Lake. They were then known as the Fi-seed, "snake-eaters," and were described as more filthy than beasts.}


\(\text{\footnotesize 2Colton, op. cit., p. 186.} \)
men of authority of the tribe. 1

On the twenty-fifth of September, the expedition left its
camp on the American Fork and started its journey southward in
search of a route to Monterey. 2 They passed through the Cevier
Valley, on through the present Escalante Valley to the Virgin.
Before reaching the Virgin Valley, the expedition was overtaken
by the early October snows and gave up hope of finding a route to
Monterey. From here they started their journey back to Santa Fe.
After crossing the Colorado River and visiting the uni villages,
the group arrived back at Santa Fe in January, 1777. 3

Nearly a half century passed after the departure of the
Catholic fathers before the arrival of the next white men in the
Salt Lake region. These new white men were the trappers and
hunters of the great fur companies who contended with each other
for fur hunting territory, and were the first to thoroughly explore
the region. They converged on the Utah area from three directions:
southeast, northwest, and east. Traders from Santa Fe came in by
way of the San Juan, Green, and Winta Rivers. The British
trappers of the Hudson Bay Company came by way of the Snake and
Bear Rivers, and the Americans of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company

1 Ibid., p. 183.
2 Ibid., p. 187.
3 Ibid., p. 239.
came from the east by way of the Platte River, the South Pass, and
to the Green and Bear Rivers.

Early in 1822, the Rocky Mountain Fur Company had been
organized by William Ashley and Andrew Henry, and had advertised
in the Missouri Gazette and Public Advertiser for a hundred young
men to ascend the Missouri River to its source and there to trap
for the company.1 After meeting with disaster at the hand of the
Arikara, the trappers were forced to leave the upper Missouri
and move to the Yellowstone River and its tributaries. Few of
the trappers had trapped this stream the year before under Henry.2

From the Yellowstone, Jedediah Smith led a group of the
company's trappers up the Wind and Sweetwater River, and across
the South Pass into the Green River Valley. They arrived in the
Valley on the nineteenth of March, 1824. This group's crossing
of the Rockies by way of the South Pass marked the advent of its
effective discovery. There is little question that it had been
used before by white men. The Arikaras were reported to have
passed through it on their trip east in 1812, but a common knowledge
of it was not even among the trappers.3

1Dale Morgan, Jedediah Smith (New York: The Bobbs-

2Hiram H. Chittenden, The American Fur Trade of the Far

3Morgan, op. cit., pp. 90-93.
In the fall of 1824, Ashley led another company of trappers to the Green River, and spent the winter there. In the spring Ashley made an attempt to descend the Green, but at the confluence of the Ashley and Green, his boat was punctured on a rock and filled with water. While in camp there, he came in contact with the Provoost party and learned from them that a group of trappers belonging to his company had met Peter Skene Ogden at the Seber River and had obtained many of his furs, and caused some of his men to desert. With this news and with Provoost as guide, Ashley traveled into the Seber Valley and over to the Seber River. He then left Provoost, traveled up Chalk Creek Canyon to reach the Bear, and on up the Bear into Wyoming for the rendezvous in July.\(^1\)

In the party, which had the bout with Ogden, was a trapper named Jim Bridger, and to him goes the credit for the discovery of the Great Salt Lake. Though others had more than likely seen it before, he is the first of authentic record. The story is that the party had spent the winter in Cache Valley on the Bear River, and while there a discussion arose as to the probably course of the river. A wager was made, and Jim Bridger was sent to ascertain the truth. Following the river through the mountains they came in view of the lake. Upon reaching the lake, they found

\(^1\text{Ibid., pp. 159-171.}\)
that it was salty.\textsuperscript{1}

Peter Skene Ogden had made his first trip into the Utah area by ascending the Columbia and the Snake, and was tramping down the Bear River when he encountered the American trappers at Ogden's Hole. He had made the trip with Jedediah Smith who came to the British Flathead country as an unwelcome guest, in 1824. Upon reaching the Bear, Smith had gone north and Ogden south.

Some of Ogden's men saw the Great Salt Lake on May twelfth and twenty-second of 1825. Despite Ogden's bad experience with the trapping in Utah, he has left a considerable impression upon the state. His name has been given to a city and a river. In November of 1828, Ogden discovered the river which flows across Nevada which is known as the Humboldt—a name given it by Fremont, but which should rightly be known as the Ogden.\textsuperscript{2}

Fremont also has left an impression on Utah. Fremont and Le Clerc entered into a partnership at Pano, New Mexico, in 1823, and with a small band of trappers traveled west into the mountains and the Green River area. Little is known of their penetrations north and west in 1823 and 1824, but the next year they ranged over into the Green River country below the Uinta Mountains. During the early summer when Jedediah Smith had been

\textsuperscript{1}Ibid., p. 183.

trapping the upper valley of the Green, rovost and declerc had been just across the mountains to the south. In the fall, rovost had traveled west up the strawberry and down the provo into the Utah Valley. Here in the Utah Valley, rovost fell in with a snake Chief who was on "a stream flowing into the Big lake." The Chief invited the trappers to smoke the calumet with him, and insisted that it was not good medicine to have any metallic object near while smoking. rovost set aside his arms, and allowed his men to do the same. Then while in the circle unarmed, the Indians fell upon them with their concealed knives. rovost was able to free himself and escape with three or four others. The rest were massacred. The location of the incident is a controversial subject, with some holding that it was at the mouth of the provo, while others support the belief that it was on the opening of the Utah Lake into the Jordan. In the spring of 1825, rovost went back to the Great Salt Lake area from the Green, but traveled down the Weber instead of the provo. It was at this time that he came across named. rovost was more than likely very familiar with the wasatch Front along the lakes.

Jedediah Smith made two explorations which took him directly through the Salt Lake Valley, at the close of the

1Worson, or. cit., p. 147.

2Ibid.
rendezvous, in Cache Valley in 1826, Smith took a party of men to explore the basin area southwest of the Great Salt Lake. On the twenty-second of August, Smith is reported as having passed through the salt lake region and entered into the Utah Valley. From the Utah Valley, they traveled on through the Sevier, then down the Virgin, and the Colorado to the Mohave Villages. From the villages, they then crossed to California.

After having had some difficulty with Mexican authorities in California, Smith started back to the Salt Lake on May 20, 1827, crossing the sierras and passing just south of Walker Lake. The exact route he took across Nevada to the Utah border is not known. It is known, however, that he passed south of the Salt Lake and reached the Jordan River on the twenty-eighth of June.

It is true that he was happy to see the lake because it had become a home in the wilderness. He reached the rendezvous in Cache Valley on July second with only two of the horses left out of the nine he had started east with in California.  

When the rendezvous of 1827 broke up, Jed Smith took eighteen men and started out on another expedition to the southwest. They retraced the route that had been taken the previous year into California, but returned in 1829 by way of the Columbia and Bitterroot Rivers of Oregon. On this expedition, Jedediah had

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1Ibid., pp. 210-214.
two major disasters. One was at the hand of the Mojave Indians on the Colorado where the Indians jumped his party while they were crossing the river, killing all but eight of the men and leaving the rest destitute to cross the desert. Again in the summer of 1826 while on the Omquin River, they were attacked by Indians and all of the party perished except four. Most of their furs were recovered later through the intervention of John McLoughlin of Fort Vancouver.

The expeditions that Smith had led, and which had traversed the salt lake Valley, were the first two overland routes to California. The routes led from the South Pass to San Angeles, and from the San Joaquin back over central Nevada to Salt Lake. His second trip which took him from San Diego to the Columbia was the first traversing of the coast.¹

After the first trapper periods in the intermountain west, the region began to be visited by travelers and explorers, in somewhat of a semi-official capacity. Captain S. B. B. Bonneville with a party of one hundred and ten trappers arrived in the Green River Valley in 1832. After the rendezvous on the Green in July of 1833, Bonneville sent an expedition of forty men under Joseph Walker to trap and explore the area immediately around the Salt

¹Hafen, op. cit., p. 315.
Lake.  

The party left on the twenty-fourth of July, 1833, but were not faithful to their objective. They skirted the north shore of the lake and then allowed themselves to stray from the original intention and made their way to the Humboldt River. They trapped their way along this stream to the Sierras and then crossed over them to Monterey.  

Though it is doubtful if Bonneville ever saw the Salt Lake himself, this partial exploration of the Great Basin has brought him lasting fame. The great ancient lake, which in remote geological time practically filled the western half of Utah, has been given his name. Grove K. Gilbert, in 1876, gave the ancient lake Bonneville's name because he supposed Bonneville had given the first authentic description of the existing Salt Lake during his expedition in 1833.  

Another trapper and adventurer who visited the Salt Lake region and left a good description of the area was Osborne Russell. He had come to the mountains with Nathaniel Wyeth in 1834, and after helping build Fort Ball in that same year, began  

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2. Ibid., p. 231.

trapping and traveling throughout the region. He spent the Christmas of 1840 on the present site of the city of Ogden with a party of whites and half-breeds and their Indian wives and children.¹

The following spring, Russell moved south along the mountains east of the lake and traded with the Ute Indians and their Chief Sant-a-Sheep on the Utah Lake. He described the lake as being about sixty miles in circumference, with an outlet about thirty yards wide. Russell said that the time he spent there passed as pleasantly as any he had spent among Indians. He rode about the valley hunting water fowl, which were numerous at that time of the year, and trapping beaver.²

Russell took his furs to Fort Hall, and then early in 1842 started, in company with Alfred Chutes, to go to the Salt Lake and spend the spring hunting water fowl eggs and beaver. They arrived at the mouth of the Bear River on the second of April, and found the ground dry, the grass green, and myriads of water fowl making a constant hum in the air with the beating of their wings. On the twentieth of May, after having been successful in trapping beaver and feasting on eggs, they started their return to Fort Hall.³

¹Hafen, op. cit., p. 323.
²Ibid., p. 324.
³Ibid.
After the advent of Captain Bonneville and Osborne Russell, the next exploration of importance was that of John C. Fremont. He had left Missouri in the spring of 1843, on an exploration journey which took him through Utah, the Oregon country, California, and back to Missouri, passing through Utah a second time, but not into the Salt Lake Valley.

On August twenty-first, the Fremont expedition started down the Bear River with the goal of reaching the Great Salt Lake. They traveled through Cache Valley to the mouth of the Bear, but because of the marshiness of the delta, they crossed over the foot hills of the Wasatch Mountains to the Weber River, where they made camp. On the sixth of September, they ascended a butte, rising from the plain, and came in full view of the object of their search. Fremont said that as they looked at the Salt Lake they felt as Balboa must have felt when he looked upon the Pacific Ocean.¹

The seventh and eighth were spent in reaching the lake shore and preparing to visit one of the islands to make observations. As part of his equipment, Fremont had an India rubber boat which was inflated to make the trip to the island. The boat developed an air leak which, with some waves on the lake, gave

them concern while passing to the island. On the ninth of September, they sailed out on the lake itself. In the boat with Fremont were Dr. Treuss, his map maker, Kit Carson, Baptiste Lernier, and Basil Lajeunesse.  

When they reached the island, they found that it was simply a rocky hill six or eight miles in circumference, with a height of eight or nine hundred feet. The party was quite disappointed to find that the island had no trees or fresh water. Because of this, Fremont named the rocky peak of land, disappointment Island. 

After spending the night on the island, the party returned to shore.

Later when the Mormons came to the valley, they named the island Castle Island, but when Stansbury made his topographical survey of the lake, he named it Fremont Island in honor of those who first visited it. This name has remained with it.

On September twelfth, Fremont's party doubled back on the route they had traveled to the lake, to reach the Snake River, and then continued their journey to Oregon. In 1845, Fremont camped again upon the shores of the Great Salt Lake on an expedition which took him west from Colorado through Utah and Nevada. He spent two weeks in the Salt Lake Valley examining the streams.

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1Ibid., p. 244.

2Ibid., p. 251.

3Roberts, op. cit., p. 258 footnote.
and various other points, and fixing their positions for mapping.¹

¹Nevins, op. cit., p. 443.
CHAPTER II
EARLY SETTLEMENT AND THE NAUVOO SURVEY

The settlers who first moved into the South Cottonwood area, and established what became known as the Amasa Lyman Survey, were some of the most active in the Latter-day Saint Church. They were among the first pioneers to enter Salt Lake Valley, and from their number were drawn men for exploring expeditions and families to establish colonies elsewhere for the Church.

The story of the Mississippi Company, which settled on the Amasa Survey, had its real beginning in the winter of 1845 and 1846. While the Mormons were being expelled from Nauvoo, Illinois, a group of members from Monroe County, Mississippi, left Nauvoo, and went back to their home state. It was their purpose to settle their affairs and prepare to move west with the main body of the Church.

In the spring of 1846, John Brown and five other men, William Crosby, D. M. Thomas, William Ray, James Harmon, and George Bankhead, received instruction from Brigham Young to leave their families in Mississippi, and accompany those families which were ready to cross Missouri and go into the Indian Country, where they were to contact the body of the Church moving west. A group of fourteen families left Mississippi in early April and arrived at Independence, Missouri, on the twenty-sixth of May. Here they
met Crow and Kartchner families.  

The Mississippi Company with the two additional families numbered twenty-four men and nineteen wagons. They traveled along the south bank of the Platte to within a few miles of Fort Laramie, where, not being able to obtain any definite information concerning advanced companies from Nauvoo, they decided not to go farther, but to seek a suitable location on the east side of the Rockies until they should learn something definite as to the movement of the main body of the Church.

At their encampment on the Platte, they met a Mr. John Nesbaw who suggested that the upper waters of the Arkansas River would be the best place for them to winter, as corn was being raised there and it was near the Spanish country where supplies could be had. This was also the destination of Mr. Nesbaw who was traveling by ox team and was acquainted with the route. In July, they left the Oregon Trail and started south, reaching the site of present Pueblo, Colorado, on the seventh of August, having traveled 1,600 miles from their initial starting point in Mississippi.

At Pueblo the Mississippi Company learned that the main body of the Church had stopped on the Missouri River and that five

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1John E. Brown, Pioneer John Brown (Salt Lake City, Utah: Stevens and Ballis Inc., 1941), p. 67.
hundred of the men had joined the army and were on the way to California.\textsuperscript{1} Arrangements were made with the mountaineers for the exchange of supplies for work, and the company was organized into a branch of the Church. After thus being settled, eight men of the group, D. N. Thomas, John D. Holladay, William Lay, James Smithson, George Bankhead, John Brown,sales Bonny, and the captain of the company, William Crosby, started on a return trip to Mississippi. They left on the first of September, traveling down the Arkansas to the Santa Fe Trail and along that route to Missouri. On their way, they met the Mormon Battalion.\textsuperscript{2}

Reaching their homes in Mississippi, they began preparations to join the rest of the Church at winter quarters, come spring. During the winter, however, an epistle was sent by the quorum of the Twelve asking them to remain one more year, but to outfit and send as many men as possible to go with Brigham Young as pioneers. The group decided to send six, and of this group of six all were negroes except two, David Powell, who had been sent by his brother John, and John Brown. Because of the number of negroes, John Brown was designated as the one to superintend the group.\textsuperscript{3}

\textsuperscript{1}Ibid., pp. 68-70. \\
\textsuperscript{2}Ibid. \\
\textsuperscript{3}Ibid., p. 71.
The weather was so severe on their journey to winter quarters that two of the slaves contracted pneumonia and perished. These were Henry the slave belonging to John Brown, and another who belonged to John Bankhead. The negroes who were left, Oscar Crosby and Mark Lay, joined Brigham Young's pioneers with John Brown a few days before that party left for the west. ¹

Traveling in this pioneer company was another slave who belonged to James M. Flake. Flake, who was also from Mississippi, had spent the winter at winter quarters, and upon the call for the best prepared to go as pioneers, he equipped and sent his servant, Green. Green was equipped with a mountain carriage and a team of mules. His instructions were to go with the pioneers to the Great Basin, send the outfit back with some of those who would return in the fall, and for himself to stay and build his owner, James, a house. ²

The pioneers from Council Bluffs traveled up the north side of the Platte River and reached Fort Laramie on June 1, 1847. Here they found a portion of the Mississippi Company from Pueblo waiting for them. This part of the Mississippi Company consisted of the Crow and Therkill families. The remainder of the company at Pueblo were waiting to come with the detachment of the

¹Ibid., p. 72.

²O. D. Flake, Life of William Jordan Flake. MS in Brigham Young University Library, p. 9.
Battalion that wintered there. On the third of June, Amasa Lyman
and three others were sent to Pueblo to meet the remaining part
of the company and hasten them. 1

The pioneer company crossed to the south side of the Platte
at Fort Laramie, and traveled on to the Green River where they
left the Oregon Trail and took the route known as the Hastings
Cut off. An advanced company of twenty-three wagons and forty-two
men was sent ahead to locate the route of the Bonner-Reed party
which had taken the cut off, via Emigration Canyon, the previous
year. Orion Pratt and John Brown, who were the scouts for the
advanced company, ascended Big Mountain, in Emigration Canyon on
the nineteenth of July, and there became the first of the pioneers
to have a view of the Salt Lake Valley. By the twenty-fourth of
July, the pioneers were all in the valley, but it was not until
the twenty-ninth of July that the families and soldiers from
Pueblo arrived. 2

John Brown's accomplishments as an early pioneer gives an
indication of the people who were to settle in the area known as
South Cottonwood. They were willing to make great sacrifices and
face all the dangers of pioneer life for their religious faith.
Brown was to settle at South Cottonwood in the fall of 1848.

1 Brown, op. cit., p. 75.
2 Ibid., p. 78.
The first month in the valley in 1847 was spent by the pioneers in planting crops near City Creek and in exploring the valley. Mr. Brown, in his journal, gives an account of climbing the mountain east of Murray called Twin Peaks. This climb turned out to be more difficult than presumed, so he spent one night stranded on the side of the mountain. With a barometer, they determined the height of the mountain to be 11,219 feet.¹

On the twenty-sixth of August, Mr. Brown started back east with the second company of returning pioneers and Battalion members. In his journal, he mentions meeting the different companies of Mormons as he passed them on his return journey to the States. He mentions meeting a Mr. Charles Crisman who was driving a team and wagon of John Brown's which was loaded with seed, grain and provisions. Brown then engaged one of the soldiers, John Gould, who was traveling to winter quarters, to turn back, taking the outfit with him, and plant a crop for him.²

Those who had returned to Mississippi sold their farms and plantations and purchased the necessary provisions and equipment to travel to the Salt Lake Valley. In March of 1848, the group left Monroe County, Mississippi³ to rendezvous with the

¹Ibid., p. 82.
²Ibid., pp. 83-84.
³Ibid., p. 88.
Mormons in Iowa. Upon their arrival, on May third, the entire Mississippi Company then present consisted of fifty-six white people, making up thirteen families, and thirty-four negroes.  

The emigrants of 1848 were organized into three large companies. The first one left under the leadership of Brigham Young during the first few days of June; the second a few days later under the leadership of Heber C. Kimball, and the third company, led by4 Hillard Richards and Amasa Lyman, left on June the twenty-ninth. This third company consisted of 508 white people, 24 negroes, and 165 wagons. The Mississippi saints were members of the third company.  

On the night of October sixteenth, the company camped in the mouth of Emigration Canyon, in sight of the fort, and the next day most of them moved to Cottonwood. Cottonwood was the general term of the time for that part of the Salt Lake Valley extending southward from the vicinity of the Big Cottonwood Creek.  

It was some time before they could find exactly where their farm land would be located. As a result, they were delayed in getting their houses prepared for winter. It was finally

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1Ibid., p. 96.  
A list of the families can be found in the appendix.  

2Flake, op. cit., p. 10.  

concluded that the group should settle between the two Cottonwood Creeks about ten miles from the Salt Lake Fort and about one mile southeast of the present South Cottonwood Ward house. This tract was about one mile square, and it was divided into ten acre lots.\(^1\)

Because of Amasa Lyman's close association with these settlers from Mississippi, and his position of leadership in establishing the settlement, the tract was known as Amasa Lyman's Survey.

After the survey of the land, the new arrivals, who had been living in tents and wagons, began to cut logs and build log cabins in which to spend the winter. The home builders were favored with good weather until December fourth, when it snowed and turned cold. This wintry weather lasted until March of 1849, but it seems that most of the stock, which had crossed the plains, survived the winter.\(^2\)

One of the families which came that fall found a home waiting for them. William J. Flake, the son of James H. Flake, related that, "when we reached the valley, there was a log house awaiting them, that Green had built on the 'Amasa Survey' on Cottonwood, the first town settled in Utah outside of Salt Lake


City. If Murray can lay claim to being the oldest settlement outside of Salt Lake City, it is because of this log house, and the evolution of the South Cottonwood area into the town of Murray. The town of Murray developed from the interaction of many different factors, but the community background and the organization from which the town grew makes its claim, as to its age, is as strong as any in the near vicinity.

It is quite possible that the house that Green built was not the whole extent of the settlement before October, 1846. Though none of the writers mention it, it could well be that the negroes, Mark Lay and Oscar Crosby, were also in the area with some of the Mississippi Saints who had arrived in 1847. John Brown does mention in his journal that the "boys I left behind have raised a tolerable good crop of corn..." There may be a possibility that the negroes, brought by Brown in 1847 had aided John Gould in raising the crop, and that it was in the vicinity of Green's house.

Included in this new community were the families of William Crosby, James W. Flake, John Tanner, his sons Nathan and Sidney, Daniel N. Thomas, John Brown, John E. Bankhead, William

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1 Flake, op. cit., p. 13.

Ray, Simpson M. Safflower, Robert Green, Henry Breck, and John
Park. In 1848, the Jonas Breck family came to the settlement,
and in 1850, Aaron T. Reynolds, John Benbow, and Nathaniel Beach
moved their families to South Cottonwood.1 As the number of
families increased, they settled along the two Cottonwood Creeks
where they could divert the water onto their fields.

The pioneers on the Cottonwoods had their tragedies also.
John Brown recorded that upon entering the valley, they found
many of the children with whooping cough. John's little two-
month-old son, who had been born on the plains, contracted the
disease and died on December 21, 1849. John wrote: "I buried
him on my farm on the east hill of the South field, between the
two Cottonwood Creeks." Two months later, his mother-in-law died
and was buried beside the boy.2 These two deaths were more than
likely the first deaths in the new settlement.

A small crop of wheat was planted in 1849, but it grew
so scattered and short that when harvest time came most of it
had to be pulled by hand. Proper farming methods for new land, and
the crickets had taken their toll.

The number of families in the settlement along the

1R. E. Kirkham and H. Lundstrom (eds.), Tales of a
Triumphant People (Salt Lake City, Utah: Stevens and Wallis Press,

2Brown, op. cit., p. 102.
Cottonwoods increased until in February of 1849 the area was
organized into a ward of the Church with Jillian Crosby as bishop.
The ward boundaries were the Big Cottonwood Creek on the north,
the Wasatch Mountains on the east, the Jordan River on the west,
and Draper on the south. This gave the ward the whole southeast
quarter of the valley. At this same time the rest of the area
south of Salt Lake City was divided into wards. These were
Canyon Creek, afterwards called Sugar House, Mill Creek, and
Bolladay, afterwards called Big Cottonwood. 1 It was reported by
the several bishops of the ward on April 30, 1849, that there
were 450 houses in Salt Lake City, forty-seven in north Mill Creek,
and fifty-three in South Cottonwood. 2

Late in 1849, a number of pioneers who had settled just
south of the Little Cottonwood Creek were organized into a small
ward. Elias Richards was appointed to preside over it, but he
was not ordained until July of 1851. In the beginning of 1865,
the Union, or Little Cottonwood ward, was joined with the South
Cottonwood Ward under bishop Andrew Cahoon. It remained this
way for thirteen years, during which time a temporary district

1 Frank Bassom, Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah (Salt
Lake City, Utah: Utah Pioneers Book Publishing Company, 1915),
p. 1312.

2 Journal History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
day Saints, April 30, 1849, Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake
City, Utah.
was organized at Union with a presiding elder. In July of 1877, the \textit{Union Ward, consisting of the Union and Sandy districts of south Cottonwood Ward}, was organized. \footnote{Kirkham, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 264.}

The citizens of South Cottonwood were active in other affairs. John Brown relates that he was a member of a company of militia which engaged a small group of Indians in Utah's first Indian battle. In February of 1869, this group of men went into Utah Valley to investigate and put a stop to the stealing of cattle from the settlement onillow Creek, now Provo. Upon investigation, they found that a small group of outlaw Indians had been causing the trouble, and while attempting to apprehend them, a fight broke out in which three of the Indians were killed. This took place near the present town of Pleasant Grove. \footnote{Brown, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 103.}

Mr. Brown talks of the organization of a company of men which explored part of southern Utah under the direction of early \textit{_DRV.}, saying that on November 23, 1849, the company was organized at his home, and that he was elected a captain of fifty. It was a sizable company of some forty-seven men and thirteen wagons. The company left on November 24, 1849, and did not return until the end of January 1850, after suffering
many hardships caused by the winter weather and rough terrain.¹

¹Ibid., pp. 106-113.
CHAPTER III

THE GROWTH OF SOUTH COTTONWOOD, 1849-1870

The terrain of South Cottonwood was striped by a series of low lands which had been cut by the canyon streams as they flowed toward the Jordan River. When the pioneer families settled in the area, they settled the low or bottom lands where the moisture was sufficient to produce grass for the cattle, and the streams easier to dam and divert into irrigation ditches for their crops. The higher ground, or bench lands were covered with sage brush and produced very little grass useful to their cattle. Because of the great amount of work necessary to bring water to the bench lands, they were left, in most instances, for later utilization.¹

At the present intersection of Vine Street and Fifty-sixth South in Murray, there was a strip of high bench land nearly surrounded by lowland. This raised section was considered almost worthless by the first settlers. They mutually agreed that no individual should fence or take title to the land, but that it should be set aside and considered as belonging to the South Cottonwood Ward.

¹Kirkham, op. cit., p. 258.
Before and after the advent of the pioneers, the land was used by the Indians as a camping ground. Water and grass could be obtained on either side of it, and enemies could not approach without being seen. In 1853, when the teamsters began hauling granite rock from Little Cottonwood Canyon to the Salt Lake Temple, they made this high ground their halfway camping ground.¹

In the spring of 1851, a company of about five hundred Saints from the Salt Lake Valley left under the direction of Amasa Lyman to settle on an eighty thousand acre ranch at San Bernardino. Their purpose in settling this extensive ranch, which was being purchased by the Latter-day Saint Church, was to make a receiving station for the emigrating members from Europe. It appears that the San Bernardino company took a heavy toll of the Mississippi settlers on the Amasa Lyman survey in South Cottonwood. John Brown on his return from his mission for the perpetual emigration fund found all his old friends gone, and new homes were filled with strangers.² After the Mississippi settlers had left the survey, the land went back to the Church.³

The leaving of such a large portion of the South Cottonwood settlers seemed to have no effect upon the industry and

¹Ibid., p. 259.
³Jenson, op. cit., p. 213.
resourcefulness of those who remained behind or took their places. By the fall of 1851, the first meeting house was built in the ward. It was a small adobe building which became known as Jonathan C. Bright's school house. Previous to its erection all meetings had been held in private homes.¹

Among the number who went with Apostle Lyman to California was Bishop William Crosby. Appointed in his place was Jonathan Bright, and though he served but a short time, the ward seemed to do well. In February of 1852, the bishop reported to the First Council in Salt Lake City that eighteen spinning wheels were kept in active operation, keeping the children clad in homemade jeans. He also stated that the ward membership was enjoying good music made by some of its more talented members.²

Jonathan Bright was succeeded by Abraham C. Smoot as bishop of South Cottonwood some time in 1852. It is not known when Bishop Bright left the ward, but he is known to have settled in 1854 in Box Elder County where he died in 1850. He had at one time served as Marshall of Nauvoo.³

In 1852, while Smoot was bishop, a millrace was dug by Archibald Gardner for the purpose of erecting a grist mill near

¹Ibid.
²Journal History, February 7, 1852.
³Andrew Jensen, Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia (Salt Lake City, Utah: Deseret News Publishing Company, 1941), III, 287.
the property of James P. Miller, at Ninth East and Forty-eight South. The water was taken from Spring Creek, in the Austin Green and Huffaker fields. This water was collected in a pond to give a continuous supply for the mill. Shortly after its completion, the mill was sold to Ruben Miller. This mill is claimed to be the first in that immediate locality, and was capable of supplying the needs of a larger group of people than was living in South Cottonwood district. Later the mill came into the hands of the sons of Ruben and was operated under the name of Miller Brothers. The mill burned in 1896.1

In October, 1853, bishop Smoot reported the South Cottonwood Ward's membership as 517 souls.2 Then early in 1854, Smoot was called by Brigham Young to supervise the construction of the sugar factory in what is known today as Sugar House. Smoot left South Cottonwood sometime before March, 1854, leaving the ward in need of a new bishop.3

In the six years that transpired since Green had built his master's cabin on the Joseph Lyman Survey, the South Cottonwood

1Kirkham, op. cit., p. 262.

2History of the South Cottonwood Ward, Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.

area had become part of Salt Lake County under the proposed state of Deseret, and had taken part in the government's activities and organization.

On January 31, 1850, the state of Deseret passed the ordinance providing for the location of counties and precincts. Salt Lake County was one of those provided for, and it was divided into five precincts. South Cottonwood was included in the Cottonwood precinct. The ordinance from sections four to ten read:

Section 4. All that portion of the country known as the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, and north of Stoney Creek, shall be called Great Salt Lake County.

Section 5. The county seat of said county shall be at Great Salt Lake City.

Section 6. Great Salt Lake County shall be divided into five precincts as follows, to wit: All north of the Hot-Springs, and west to the Jordan; then down that river, eight miles; thence west to the Great Salt Lake; to be called North Kanyon [sic] Precinct.

Section 7. City Precinct shall include all part of said county lying east of Jordan, and between North Kanyon Precinct and farming lands on the south line of the City, and to the western limits of said county.

Section 8. All that portion of the county known as the farming land east of Jordan, south of City Precinct, and north of the south line of the Big Field, thence to the eastern line of said County, to be known as Farmer's Precinct.

Section 9. Cottonwood Precinct shall include all of that portion of said county lying south of Farmer's Precinct, and east of Jordan.

Section 10. All of that portion of said County lying west of the Jordan River, and south of North Kanyon Precinct, shall be known as Western Jordan Precinct.¹

South Cottonwood remained a portion of this precinct until 1863, when the precinct was broken into a number of new ones and South Cottonwood became an independent precinct.¹

The day after the ordinance organizing counties and precincts was passed, another ordinance was passed providing for a state road to run from Carbon to Provo.² This road was later extended past Provo, and in 1854, the United States Congress appropriated $105,000 to help make it into a military road to run from Salt Lake City through Provo, Fillmore, Cedar City, and on to the east boundary of California in the direction of the Cajon Pass. Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, notified Colonel Edward Stentoe that he was to supervise the building of the wagon road.³

Though the money appropriated was not enough to accomplish all that was necessary, some good improvements were made. This road, which has now become known as State Street, has played an important role in the development of South Cottonwood into the town of Murray. It is today one of the main contributors to the prosperity of Murray business.

¹Report of the elections returns for Salt Lake County, August 3, 1863, Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

²Alter, op. cit., p. 179.

Other roads were designated in the area at the time the state street road was developed. In June of 1852, Ezekial Lee and Henry J. Lee petitioned the county commissioners for a county road to start at a point near George Thompson's in South Cottonwood Ward, and running by the adobe school house on the east side of said ward to a crossing of Big Cottonwood Creeks at or near Georgia Gibson's, to continue north to the Holladay settlement.

There were a number of these county roads built throughout the South Cottonwood vicinity, including one to commence with the old Mesa survey and run directly north to the county road, No. 1. Other, going east and west were constructed. In March of 1853, Simon Buffaker was made supervisor of the roads in South Cottonwood Ward.

It had become a policy when the persons came to Utah to grant certain individuals control over such natural resource areas as canyons. This allowed them to charge a toll for their use, but the person holding the rights to the canyon had to maintain good roads to make the canyon accessible to users. This same policy was used for the Big and Little Cottonwood canyons. In September of 1852 Joseph Young was granted control of Big

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1 Road Book of Salt Lake County, Minute Book 1, June 7, 1852, Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

2 Ibid., March 26, 1853.

Cottonwood Canyon, and in November of 1853, Jeter Clinton was given control of Little Cottonwood.\textsuperscript{1}

It was in this atmosphere of great effort and growth that Andrew Cahoon became bishop of South Cottonwood Ward in 1854. The new bishop stimulated the industry of the ward, and by 1856 they had built themselves their first chapel. It was a substantial adobe building, and was, at the time of completion, the finest meeting house outside of Salt Lake City.\textsuperscript{2} This meeting house was erected on the south end of the tract which the settlers had set aside for the ward, and in the close vicinity of the present South Cottonwood Chapel.

After the news of Johnston's army reached Utah in 1857, the men of South Cottonwood responded cheerfully to the call of the Nauvoo Legion for men to stave off the entrance of the army into the valley. At the time of the general removal of the Saints from the valley in the spring of 1858, the settlers of South Cottonwood left their homes and businesses ready to be burned and settled temporarily in Utah County, principally in Pond Town, now Salem.\textsuperscript{3}

The need for burning their homes was avoided when General

\textsuperscript{1}Road Book, \textit{op. cit.}, September 21, 1852, November 16, 1853.

\textsuperscript{2}Jenson, \textit{Encyclopedia History}, p. 112.

\textsuperscript{3}History of South Cottonwood Ward.
Johnston agreed to have his soldiers pass through the Salt Lake Valley, and make their camp and headquarters in Utah Valley. They made their camp on the west side of Utah Lake and named it Camp Floyd. With the danger past, the people returned to their homes, including the settlers on the Cottonwood Creeks.

The settlers continued to grow in numbers and spread out along the lower lands on the creeks and springs. James C. Cahoon in a letter to Mr. R. R. Rasmussen in 1897, said that in 1860 there were six families living along the Little Cottonwood Creek between what is now the Union Pacific railroad tracks and Second Street. He names them as Reynolds Cahoon, his grandfather, Andrew Cahoon, his uncle, William Corruth, John Allen, and John Larson. In that same year the Swiss family of Christian Berger bought the Andrew Cahoon place. This property later had a number of houses built on it and became known as Berger Town.

With the growth of these scattered groups on the more usable land throughout the area, it was felt necessary to provide easy access to the Sunday Schools for them. So in 1865, the ward was divided in districts and a small Sunday School was started in each. The Sunday Schools were presided over by a leading teacher who was appointed by the bishop, and on the first Sunday of each month they generally met conjointly in the ward

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meeting house.¹

For the farmers of South Cottonwood, the year 1867 was one of disaster. They had always had trouble with the crickets and grasshoppers, as had the farmers throughout Utah, but in this year the crops were so seriously damaged that a number of the farmers of the ward were forced to seek employment with the Union Pacific Railroad in order to earn means to support their families.² Joseph Hibbard in looking back upon those days of his boyhood tells of digging trenches around the fields, and filling them with straw and other materials that would burn. Then the family would go into the fields and drive the grasshoppers before them into the ditches where they would be set afire.³

In 1869, the church and the community showed more signs of growth, when they undertook and completed a new ward chapel. The building was made of adobe, and was sixty feet in length and forty feet in width. This building was erected on the site of the 1856 meeting house and was in use for over sixty years.⁴

In the year previous to the building of the new chapel

¹History of South Cottonwood Ward.

²Ibid.

³Rasmussen, op. cit., p. 33 of appendix.

⁴History of South Cottonwood Ward.
the Relief Society was organized. This act took place on May 17, and Mrs. Jeanette Cahoon was made its president. The Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association was organized two years later, in 1870, while the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association was not organized until December of 1876. James Godfrey was its president, and William Boyce and Job Reading his counselors.\footnote{Ibid.}

In 1870-71 two events took place in South Cottonwood which were to change the complexion of the community from that of a village eventually to an incorporated city. The first was in June of 1870 when the Woodhull brothers built the first economically successful smelter in Utah at the junction of the Big Cottonwood Creek and the State Road, where the Murray Laundry is now located.\footnote{T. R. H. Stenhouse, \textit{The Rocky Mountain Saints} (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1873), p. 720.} This was the beginning of an industry which was to give to the area a new growth in both its population and economy. Some seven different smelters followed this one by the year 1900, all gave opportunity for employment and drew new people to South Cottonwood. A treatment of the smelting industry follows in another chapter.

Second, was the coming of the Utah Southern Railroad. The Utah Southern had broken ground in Salt Lake City on May 1, 1871,
and by September, 1871, it had built and was operating the
thirteen miles of track to Sandy. The coming of the railroad
provided cheap and easy transportation for ores and goods, boosted
the development of the industries in the area, as well as increased
local business opportunities. The railroad was continued on into
the mining areas of Southern Utah, making the ore available to the
smelters of South Cottonwood.

It is difficult to determine when the first stores
developed in the locality, but it is known that the ward opened
a Cooperative Mercantile store in 1872. It was located just south
of the ward meeting house. Henry Brown is reported to have been
the first manager. There are other claims as to the first store,
but no definite dates of establishment have been found. It is
most likely, however, that there were other stores before 1872.
Mr. James Cahoon and Mr. John Berger, in their letters to Mr.
Rasmussen in 1937, stated that the first store was located on the
corner of State Street and Vine and was operated by a Mr. Hall.
Later this store was bought by Edward Kareski. A second store
was operated as a partnership by a Mr. Jonas Erickson and a Mr.
William McMillan. This store was located at the foot of the hill
where the Murray Junior High School is now located.

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1Arrington, op. cit., p. 275.
2Zirkham, op. cit., p. 255.
3Rasmussen, op. cit., np. 29, 32 of appendix.
Around 1871, Simon Atwood built a brick yard where the
Diamond feed and coal yard is now located on Forty-eighth South.
The bricks produced here were similar to the old adobes, but they
were smaller in size and were baked, making them much harder.¹
There were other businesses also, such as the Huffaker sawmill and
blacksmith shop, where Mr. Huffaker was known to make furniture
and caskets.²

In 1873, a new school building was constructed on the
State Road near the site of the present Arlington School. It was
a one-room brick structure which had been built from brick
produced at the Atwood brick yard. The building was dedicated on
January 12, 1874, and was described as a "first class" structure
costing $3,600.³

Growth and developments kept pace with those of
the community. Shortly after Joseph Rawlins had replaced Andrew
Cahoon as bishop in 1872, a cemetery was planned on the high land
tract using the north quarter on the west side of Vine Street.
The men of the ward were called out to clear off the sagebrush,
level the ground, and fence it. Each man was given a receipt for
a burial lot one rod square for $3 paid in labor or cash. It

¹Ibid., p. 4 of appendix.
²Kirkham, loc. cit.
³The Deseret News, January 14, 1873, p. 3:7.
seems that the first grave was filled by John Senbow who died on May 12, 1874.\footnote{Kirkham, op. cit., p. 259.}

In 1872 the Federal Government began issuing patents for the lands which made up the ward properties. The patents were issued with the understanding that the person owning the largest acreage in any one hundred and sixty acre claim would apply for and receive the patent for the whole one hundred and sixty acres. He in turn was under moral obligation to issue deeds to any and all who owned smaller acreages within the boundaries of his patent. William Scootten received the patent for the land on the east side of Vine Street and north of Fifty-sixth South, and part of the land on the west side of Vine Street. He willingly deeded the land to the bishop. William McMillian received the patent for the land containing the west half of the benchland on the west side of Vine Street. Mr. McMillian was unwilling to deed the land to the bishop, so he turned the land over to the ward by deeding it to the Relief Society. Chauncey Webb received the patent for the land which contained the two acres south of Fifty-sixth South and on the east of Vine Street where the chapel stood. He was paid $200 for the deed.\footnote{Ibid.}

After the panic of 1873, the Church attempted to establish
throughout the communities a type of united order in which the
resources of ward members were pooled in an attempt to benefit the
whole by doing away with individual profit seeking.\footnote{Arrington, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 324.} In June,
1874, a branch of the united order was organized at South
Cottonwood with bishop Rawlings as president and illiam Boyce and
Thos wheeler as vice-presidents. Nothing further ever came of
this organization, neither farming nor any other enterprise was
ever started under it.\footnote{History of South Cottonwood Ward.}

On July 1, 1877, Daniel H. cells divided the South Cotton-
wood ward into three parts. The western part retained the name of
South Cottonwood, while the southern portion was made the Union
ward, and the eastern part Granito ward.\footnote{Ibid.} This seems to be the
first major division of the old South Cottonwood ward; however, it
appears that some portions had been taken off previously. When the
road districts were set up in March of 1853, the Willow Creek Ward,
or Draper, was designated a district with the other wards,\footnote{Road Book, \textit{op. cit.}, March 26, 1853.} and
in the census of 1870 it was listed separately.\footnote{U. S. Bureau of the Census, \textit{Ninth Census of the United
States: 1870. Population}, I, 276.}
Despite this great reduction in area in 1877, the population in South Cottonwood in 1880 was one hundred and forty-four persons greater than in 1870 when the number of inhabitants in nearly a quarter of the county only numbered 1, 144.\(^1\)

The locality, which in later years was to become Murray, would seem to have made impressive growth and improvement, yet it made an unfavorable impression on Alice Godfrey. Arriving in South Cottonwood from England in 1879, as a young woman of twenty-three, she described the settlement as a "dirty little place with only two small stores or trading posts and a number of saloons."\(^2\)


\(^{2}\)Rasmussen, op. cit., p. 35 of appendix.
CHAPTER IV
PIONEER LIFE

To the newly arriving pioneer, the Murray area provided a barren and forbidding appearance. Except for the green growth along the streams and in the low marsh lands, it was a land of sagebrush and thirst. Despite this, the settlers scattered along the creeks, and cleared the best land so they might provide the necessities of life for themselves. Holidays were few, but the pioneer developed an ability to find some enjoyment through his everyday labors.

There were several methods used by the early settlers in acquiring lands, but the most popular method was by "squatter's rights." Using this method caused a little difficulty when two parties wanted the same ground, but the first party usually maintained his claim. Land was necessary to provide the family with food and income, but equally important was the need for a house for shelter.

Building material was scarce, and for the sake of economy the early settlers used three types of building materials in the construction of homes. Logs were used in many of the houses, but to obtain logs meant long trips to the canyons, and the better timber continually became more difficult to obtain.

The next major type of building material was adobe. To
make adobes the pioneer need not travel so far, but a considerable amount of work was necessary for their preparation. First a good clay had to be found and then mixed with water and straw into a mud. After mixing, it was put into a wooden mold which formed it into the shape of an over-sized brick. After being formed, they were placed in the sun to dry and harden. These adobe blocks were placed into the walls in much the same manner as brick, using a clay mud for mortar. Today we would consider such a house unsightly, but the adobes made quite an effective building material. It kept the homes comparatively cool in the summer and warm in the winter.\footnote{Rasmussen, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 11.} Adobe houses appeared very early in South Cottonwood. John Brown is reported to have built the first house of adobe in the summer of 1849.\footnote{Jenson, \textit{Encyclopedia History}, p. 813.} It is difficult to determine whether logs or adobes were the more popular type of building material, but much use was made of both.

Dug-outs were also used, but in most cases they were a temporary dwelling. These were usually dug into the side of a hill in order that the earth could make the greater portion of three walls. Substantial posts were then placed in each corner to support a roof made of poles and thatching, and the front wall was made of logs, stone, or other types of building material.
Farming, for the South Cottonwood settlers, consisted chiefly of raising those grains which could be turned into immediate use for the farmer and his family. The wheat would be taken to a small water-powered grist mill, and while the farmer waited, it would be ground into flour. When the miller finished, the farmer would take home a small supply of flour, bran, or shorts. Corn would be ground as meal and used in cooking, or used as feed for stock. Both rye and oats were raised on the drier high ground.\(^2\)

With sugar scarce, a number of the farmers grew a sorghum cane for the making of molasses. The molasses was produced by crushing the cane for the juice, and then boiling it in vats to reduce the water content.\(^3\)

It became customary for the settlers to place their cows in a common herd to be driven to pasture by two or three of the boys of the settlement. The cows were driven out in the morning, attended to by the boys, and driven back in the evening to be milked.\(^4\) It was also a custom for the dry stock to be placed in

\(^1\)Harnissensen, *op. cit.*, p. 13.

\(^2\)Ibid.

\(^3\)Ibid.

\(^4\)Ibid., p. 10.
one large common herd to be driven to the hills in the spring and returned in the fall. In 1870, Seuben and Wilcox Miller took charge of the settler's cattle herd, and drove them to what was known as west Tintic or the Cherry Creek in Juab County.¹

The settlers were plagued with the crickets and grasshoppers from the very start. Bishop right in a letter to the First Presidency in 1850 stated, "the swarms of locust commenced making their appearance this week, and increased so fast that already in many places through the wheat fields there are two locust to one stalk of wheat."² Joseph Hibbard says that when he was a boy, in the 1860's, the crickets seemed to march down the roads from their foothill breeding ground to the green fields below.³ In modern life, we pay little attention to these pests, but in pioneer life, they were disastrous, and sometimes reduced the South Cottonwood settlers to the eating of sunflower seed mush and thistle roots.⁴

The pioneers, though sometimes reduced to eating wild plants, often made use of them, and other articles from around their homes, to manufacture what they needed. Soap was made from

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¹ Kirkham, op. cit., p. 290.
² Journal History, June 14, 1850.
³ Rasmussen, op. cit., p. 22 of appendix.
⁴ Kirkham, op. cit., p. 256.
the fat of butchered animals, and the lye made from boiling ashes from the wood which had been burned in kitchen stoves. Dyes for their home-spun clothing were made from roots and plants. Green dye was produced by boiling a blue dye, obtained from Salt Lake stores, with sage leaves; red dye by boiling the roots of the "mader" plant which grew wild in the garden; and brown from the boiling of the "dock root," another wild plant.¹

Sheet straw, gathered green, and the green corn husks, along with leaves, were made into summer hats to supplement the knitted and crocheted hats of wool, which were made and used for winter. Decorations, such as artificial flowers, were made from material like hair, flax, and wool.²

While the pioneers were working to establish themselves on the land, they were bothered, somewhat, by the Indian making a nuisance of himself with his begging and stealing. The excitement other early pioneers had experienced with Indian troubles seemed to be absent from the lives of the early South Cottonwood settlers. Almost without exception the early settlers say there was little trouble.

The Indians would migrate in from Rush Valley and Skull Valley every spring and fall and pitch their tents in a big

¹Ibid.
²Ibid.
pasture between Tenth and Thirteenth east and south of Forty-eighth South, along the river on what was known as the "Big Bend," west of the Bonnyview School, and a large pasture near Sixty-fourth South by the old Waxfield farm.  

From these camps the Indians would go to the settlers' homes and beg for "food" to eat now, "store grocery" to eat "per-soon," it being packaged, bottled, or canned, and "crub," anything that came in a sack to cook later. Tea, beans, or sugar would particularly delight them. If the settlers were not watchful their gardens would be raided and the produce carried off.  

Mr. Hibbard relates, in his letter to Mr. Kasmussen, that the Indians would sometimes steal horses and cattle, but as a general rule the animals could be repossessed by the searchers without much trouble. Though the Indians were blamed many times, there was more trouble with white horse thieves than with red ones. It seems that even when the Indians had been drinking, they usually quarreled among themselves at their camping sites, and did not involve the white men.  

In these early days of Murray, the Indian and white boys would compete with one another in outdoor games such as running,

1 Kasmussen, op. cit., p. 10.
2 Kirkham, op. cit., p. 297.
3 Kasmussen, op. cit., p. 10.
jumping, and other games of physical competition. The early settlers tell of one game which was quite interesting, and many times ended in a free-for-all fight. In this game a fire was built during the dark of evening, and the boys would gather up a number of short dry willows. The ends of the willows would be put in the fire to light them. Then each boy would take his willows and form in one of two lines on either side of the fire. A line of white boys was on one side and the Indian boys were in a line on the other side of the fire. With the lines complete, they would take the willows and throw them arching up into the air toward the other line. The object of the game was to make the other side retreat from the field.

As the game progressed and the night darkened, some of the willows would be thrown without a lighted end, and consequently could not be seen to be dodged. After a number of the boys, on one side or the other, had been struck by these unlighted willows, tempers flared up and a gang fight would start which usually ended with the parents of both sides being involved.1

Because of the scattered condition of the settlers and the distances between them, the earliest settlers were deprived, to a great extent, of the social association of a better organized community. The amusements of the people were mostly of an outdoor

1Ibid., p. 21 of appendix.
nature, such as riding broncos or calvers, fishing, and other outdoor competitive games. As a result, the boys and girls were carefree and perhaps a little roudy, but the impression is given by the old pioneers that they were honest, thrifty, and that their word was as good as their bond.

The boys became expert riders and often on holidays a crowd would gather to watch them ride wild horses brought in from Skull Valley and other areas. The spot often referred to as the Lovendahl Corner, located on sixty-fourth South and State Street, was the popular place for such sport.\(^1\)

It seems that there was a form of rivalry between the boys who took the common herds from the different sections of South Cottonwood to graze in the pastures west of the settlement. These boys would make surprise raids on one another, chasing off the horses of the other, and engage in a free-for-all fight. These battles were of a friendly nature, but many a lump resulted from the game.\(^2\)

Along with the tales of hard riding and friendly rivalry, there are other tales which give Old Murray, or South Cottonwood, a Wild West setting. Joseph Hibbard reports that on one Christmas Eve, the local boys met at Joe Summers Saloon, which was a short

\(^1\)Ibid., p. 9.

\(^2\)Ibid., p. 25 of appendix.
distance from the corner of Vine Street and State Street, and after consuming some refreshment went up and down the street firing their guns.

There was another side to the social life which developed in South Cottonwood. Out of their daily work routine, such activities as corn husking bees and rag bees brought entertainment from association, while the work was being done. Even while just visiting a neighbor, the conversation was accompanied by the click of knitting needles. Nearly all the social gatherings were held on a ward basis and usually on Friday nights, with members providing such refreshments as dried apples, pumpkin pie, and molasses candy.

Dancing became a popular type of recreation, in South Cottonwood, even though the music was often only a lone accordion or fiddle. According to Mr. Hibbard, a large orchestra would consist of a bass violin, two small violins and a piccolo or flute. Despite the lack of a proper orchestra, the old settlers are reported to have been good dancers who could waltz in perfect time with the music and keep the correct distance between couples at the same time.

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1Ibid., p. 24 of appendix.

2Kirkham, op. cit., p. 261.

3Rasmussen, op. cit., p. 3.
Although shows of different types came quite early to the settlers of South Cottonwood, it was not until later that they gained any popularity. One of the principle shows which made a stop was that of a Mr. Dibble. He would travel through the community displaying a painting, on a large canvas, along with some smaller pictures and scenes and incidents which had occurred in the trek of the Mormon Battalion between Santa Fe, New Mexico and California. Along with the exhibiting of the paintings, he would explain the scenes and characters in them and sing an old song which had the closing words "the lonesome, howling wolves."\(^1\)

Mr. Cederstrom, who was reported to have lived west of Utah Lake at what is known as pelican point, traveled with Mr. Dibble. He was a phrenologist and would read the bumps on people's heads. The usual price of admission was a little wheat or garden produce.\(^2\)

Later in the history of the community, the Costello Circus used to make regular visits. It traveled up from Provo on the State Road, and displayed its elephants, camels, monkeys, and other wild animals. The circus is reported to have been very popular, drawing large crowds to see the aerial show as well as the animals.\(^3\)

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1Ibid.

2Ibid., p. 24 of appendix.

3Ibid., p. 75 of appendix.
The major holidays, such as the Boy Roy and the twenty-fourth of July, were celebrated by the families going to the ward grounds for dinner and ceremonies. The Fourth of July was celebrated starting at ten in the morning with a parade. The members of the Male rode horses with the young ladies all wearing clothes that were made alike. Following the parade, a program of patriotic music and speeches was held, and, by noon, dinner was served in the grove east of the meeting house. Later in the day, races and races were held for the children, and high jumping and pole vaulting contests were held for the men.

In the evening, a sham battle was fought near the high sagebrush on the north end of the ward grounds. The wagons were circled with the white men, women, and children preparing the evening meal on the inside. Joe Reeding acted as Buffalo Bill, the guide. White men dressed like Indians attacked the camp and the battle was started. The battle was carried out with much noise and commotion, and at its conclusion, the Indians were invited into the circle for the feast. The celebration was ended with a dance, which was used as a ward benefit.¹

¹Kirkham, op. cit., p. 261.
CHAPTER V
THE SNIFTER'S OF MURRAY AND THE IMPETUS GIVEN THEM BY THE RAILROADS

The railroad and mineral developments throughout the state played a great part in the development of Murray. To fully realize the effect and scope of these developments and the impetus which they gave to the Murray area, they must be considered on a state-wide scale. The smelting industry, which brought early prosperity to Murray, was dependent upon the mines of the region and the railroads which provided the ore shipping system.

The growth of Utah's railway system has been tied in very closely with that of the mining industry from its beginning, and the effects of the two have been interrelated. Without the local railroads, the mining industry of Utah would not have existed; and on the other hand, had the mining industry not developed, most of the railroad lines of the state would never have been built. The through lines, the Utah Central, and the interurban roads are about the only companies in the state which were not organized to serve a definite need of the mining industry.\(^1\)

As soon as it became apparent that the Union Pacific was

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going to by-pass Salt Lake City, steps were taken to insure a railroad connection with the Utah capital. On March 3, 1869, just two months before the completion of the transcontinental railroad, Church officials met in Salt Lake City to discuss formation of a company to construct and operate such a road.¹ Five days later, the day the transcontinental reached Ogden, the Utah Central was organized.

The labor for the laying of the track and the ties was supplied by the Mormons of northern Utah on a ward basis. Their labor was paid for in stock in the road. A settlement was effected with the Union Pacific which gave the Utah Central $550,000 worth of rail, rolling stock, and construction equipment for payment on the grading contracts which were held by the Mormons on the Union Pacific. The first rails on the new road were laid at Ogden on September 22, 1869, and seventy men laid a mile of track every other day during October and November. A corps of 150 men was hired to complete the track to Salt Lake in December. The last spike was driven in Salt Lake City, the southern terminus, at a public ceremony on January 10, 1870.²

This railroad was an immediate success. Most of the mining, manufacturing and trade of the territory was concentrated

¹Arrington, op. cit., p. 270.
²Ibid., pp. 371-372.
in the Salt Lake Valley, and this connection with the main line at Ogden was vital. Two days after completion, the first carload of ore was shipped over the line; and by March, 1870, two passenger trains were operating daily over the thirty-seven miles of track between Salt Lake City and Ogden.\(^1\)

The rapid development of smelting in the Salt Lake Valley is indicated by the heavy shipments inward of iron ore and coke, used in smelting operations, and the outbound volume of bullion. Sloan reports the exports of ore and bullion from May 1, 1871 to May 1, 1872, to be valued at $2,347,891.\(^2\)

The Utah Southern Railroad was a natural extension of the Utah Central, southward through Utah Valley to Juab County. The road was first completed to Sandy; then in succession to Lehi, Provo, Payson, York and Nephi. This road was organized largely under the same leadership as the Utah Central, but was later financed with eastern capital.\(^3\)

The road to the south was expected to serve three purposes. First, it would provide closer rail connections with the quarry in Little Cottonwood Canyon from which granite was being taken to

\(^1\)Johnson, op. cit., p. 19.

\(^2\)Edward L. Sloan, Gazetteer of Utah and Salt Lake City Directory (Salt Lake City, Utah: Herald Printing and Publishing Company, 1874), p. 32.

\(^3\)Johnson, op. cit., p. 23.
build the Salt Lake Temple. Second, it would provide rail connections with important settlements south of Salt Lake City to aid in the marketing of their produce, and their receiving of supplies. Third, the road would tap the rich mining districts which had been located during the 1860's. This alone was expected to make the road profitable. Branch lines would make the road serve the mines of Big and Little Cottonwood on the east side of the Jordan River, and Bingham Canyon and Camp Floyd on the west side. Reaching south to York, the road could ship the ores of the Tintic mines in Juab and Beaver Counties. 1

The Utah Southern was organized on January 17, 1871, a year after the completion of the Utah Central, and first broke ground on May 1. Work commenced immediately, and the road was open to traffic to Sandy, thirteen miles south of Salt Lake City by September, 1871. 2 The author has not been able to find information as to when the road passed through the Murray area, but in view of the fact that Murray is nearly half way between Salt Lake City and Sandy, it may be safe to assume that it passed through a month or two before reaching the Sandy station.

The work on the road continued until in September, 1872, when the road was completed to Lehi, thirty-one miles south of

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1Arrington, op. cit., p. 277.

2Ibid., p. 278.
of Salt Lake. From Lehi, the railroad was completed to American Fork by September of 1873; to Provo by November of the same year, and by the end of 1874, the road had been completed to York in Juab County.¹

Shortly after reaching York, the Utah Southern Extension was organized, but construction on the extension was not started until 1879. The purpose of the company was to extend the Utah Southern southward to the Frisco Mining District where the famous Horn Silver Mine was located. The railroad reached Frisco by June 23, 1880.²

In June of 1881, the Utah Central, the Utah Southern, and the Utah Southern Extension were all combined, under the Union Pacific into a company called the Utah Central Railway System. The combined lines ran from Ogden to Frisco, a distance of 280 miles. Later, in 1889, this system was combined with the Utah and Northern Railroad to become the Oregon Short Line System, and in 1903, this system became part of the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad.³

While the main railroad systems were being built throughout the length of Utah, and making the ores of the major mining

¹Ibid., p. 201.
²Johnson, op. cit., p. 36.
³Ehrington, loc. cit.
districts available to the smelters of the Salt Lake Valley, smaller railroads were being built to serve the mines of the Salt Lake area. These railroads were especially important to the early smelting in the area.

The first of these early mining railroads was the Bingham Canyon and Camp Floyd, which was organized on September 10, 1872. This railroad ran from a junction with the Utah Southern near Sandy to the Bingham Canyon. Sixteen miles of this line had been completed to Bingham by November 21, 1873. It was built both broad and narrow gauge from Sandy to the smelters in West Jordan, and narrow gauge from West Jordan to Bingham. This was done to facilitate the shipment of supplies to the smelter from the Utah Southern. In 1879, the line was extended from Bingham to the Highland Mine. The grade was too steep for locomotives, so the empty cars were pulled up by mule power. This line became part of the Rio Grande Western in September, 1881.1

Another of the early mining railroads was the Wasatch and Jordan Valley. This road was incorporated on October 11, 1872 to build a narrow gauge line from Sandy to Alta in the Little Cottonwood Mining District. This railroad was promoted for two local interests: first, for the hauling of granite from the quarries at the mouth of the canyon; and second, to facilitate the

1Johnson, op. cit., pp. 49-50.
shipping of ores from the mines farther up the canyon.

Construction started in January of 1873, and the road was complete to Granite on May 3, 1873. By September, it was finished to Fairfield Flat, eleven miles from Sandy, and was complete to Alta before 1879. Between Casatch and Alta, the grade was so steep that the empty cars had to be drawn up by mule power as they were in Bingham. This railroad was acquired by the Rio Grande Western in December of 1881.1

The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railway was incorporated in Utah on July 21, 1881, as a subsidiary of the Denver and Rio Grande Railway of Colorado. In 1881 this company purchased the Bingham Canyon and Camp Floyd, and the Casatch and Jordan Valley railroads. Then early in 1882, it started construction of a narrow gage line from Salt Lake City south and eastward to the Colorado border. This route utilized the line of the Utah and Pleasant Valley, running from Springville to Scofield which the Rio Grande acquired in June of 1882.

By the fall of 1882, the Rio Grande had a through line from Salt Lake to the coal mines in Carbon County. This line broke the coal monopoly which the Union Pacific held in the Salt Lake Valley, making possible more economic operation of the smelters as well as cheaper coal for its workers. When the line reached the Colorado

1Ibid., pp. 50-51.
border and joined the rails of the company in that state, the
monopoly of the Union Pacific on shipping in and out of the
territory was also broken. 1

The coming of the railroads brought an end to a number of
the smaller uneconomic industries of the territory by making
available manufactured materials from the outside. It did, however,
stimulate better suited industries to take their place. Chief
among these new industries was mining and its related industry,
smelting. Precious metals had been discovered at several places
in the territory, but the developmental work of the mines had come
to a standstill awaiting better transportation facilities. In
1875, some five years after the completion of the first railroad
into Utah, more than five and one-half million dollars worth of
gold, silver, copper, and lead were produced. The Utah Central,
Utah Southern, Bingham Canyon and Camp Floyd, and the Wasatch
and Jordan Valley railroads can share the credit for making this
production possible. Annual production continued to rise as rail
lines were built into new districts, and the mines increased
production until in 1880 a figure of $12,000,000 had been reached.
In 1890, Utah stood third among all the forty-nine states and
territories of the Union as a producer of nonferrous metals. 2

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1 Ibid., pp. 59-60.
2 Ibid., pp. 93-94.
as early as 1849-50, Eldred M. Hard had discovered iron ore in Southern Utah, and shortly after, primitive operations were carried on in an attempt to refine it. Other discoveries and attempts to produce metal were made; and such an attempt was that of Isaac Grundy who located a lead mine near Minersville in 1856, and built a crude recovery furnace to produce lead for bullets. He was unsuccessful because something in the lead made it too hard. This was later found to be silver. 1

Despite these early efforts, to Colonel Conner of the California Volunteers goes the credit for building the first sizeable smelting furnace. It was erected at Stockton, Utah, named after the city in California. This establishment was destroyed by fire and does not remain. A second one of the reverberatory type was built by Conner in 1864 at Camp Relief, on the site of the present town of Stockton near Rush Valley. During the summer and fall of 1864, many draft furnaces were built. The Knickerbocker and Argenta Mining and Smelting Company was organized in New York City to operate in Rush Valley, but after spending about $100,000 on machinery, the company failed, because of distance, freight rates, and inexperience. 2


In 1870 a new era started in South Cottonwood which was to last for nearly eighty years and changed the little village along the State Road into the city of Murray. In June of that year, the Woodhull brothers built the first economically successful smelter in the territory. This smelter was built at the junction of the Big Cottonwood Creek and the State Road near the location of the Murray Laundry. From these workings was shipped the first bullion produced from the mines of Utah. It was smelted from the ores of the Monitor and Magnet, and other mines of Little Cottonwood Canyon. At this establishment, eight tons of ore were treated every twenty-four hours. 1

There is evidence that another smelter was built in the Murray area contemporary with that of the Woodhull brothers. This was by Robbins and Company. It was begun in the spring of 1870 at the junction of the State Road and the Little Cottonwood Creek. The plant seems to have been impractical and never operated successfully. 2

Aside from the smelting works established by the Woodhull brothers and Robbins, there have been seven other smelters built in the immediate Murray area. The writer has not been able to obtain information as to the exact dates of establishment of a

1Ibid.

2Ledyard, op. cit., p. 5.
number of these smelters, or the order of sequence in which they were built. There is some confusion as to whether the smelter of the American Smelting Company was built first or the Germania. The old pioneers in writing to Mr. Pammussen in 1937, state that the American was first and the Germania shortly after. The date they gave for the Germania was 1871, but in any case the American passed out of the picture quite early, while the Germania remained for nearly thirty years.

The American Smelting Company's works were located on what became known as the American Hill and later Freeza's Hill. This hill is the one upon which the Murray armory for the Utah National Guard is now located. The Utah Mining Gazette of September 13, 1873, described the plant as undergoing extensive alterations to meet the requirements of a large custom business. A forty horsepower engine was being put up, and two new furnaces were just completed, with the largest blast ever introduced in the territory being readied for smelting. Despite this favorable description of the expanding operation, the smelter was short-lived.

The Germania smelter occupied the area between the

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1 Pammussen, op. cit., p. 9 of appendix.

2 Ibid.

3 Utah Mining Gazette, September 13, 1873.
Union Pacific and the Rio Grand railroad tracks, and was a short distance south of forty-eighth south. Such things as part of the old slag dump, bricks, and concrete foundations still remain to mark the spot. The articles of incorporation of this company were not filed until 1877, yet evidences show that it was operating much earlier and most likely was built in the year related by the old pioneer.

The Utah Mining Gazette reports in 1873 that the Germania had made a number of improvements and additions, and that in June of that year, it had turned out 85,000 ounces of silver bullion, 400 tons of pure lead, and 50 ounces of gold. In that year, the company purchased the exclusive rights to the Flack process, for Utah and California, and had increased its capital to $600,000.1

The Germania grew in both size and reputation. In 1874 it was reported that there were seventeen establishments using forty-six smoke stacks in Utah; and in the operation of these establishments, 2,000 tons of bullion were turned out per month. Of these seventeen establishments, Robert Sloan states that the Germania was the most systematically run and that most of the lead bullion was refined there.2

Ten years later the Germania plant had expanded considerably.

1Ibid.

ith the railroad developments in Utah nearly complete, the mining and smelting industry was reaching a new high in production. In 1895, the plant produced 16,930,791 pounds of lead, 2,691,759 pounds of copper, 1,772,746 ounces of silver, and 9,793 ounces of gold. It employed 350 men, and was making plans to increase production in 1896 by fifteen per cent.¹

The Germania continued its successful operations until 1899 when it was bought by the American Smelting and Refining Company. The new company continued to operate the plant a short time until it had completed the building of its new smelter in 1902.²

The third smelter built in West Cotton in 1871 was the West Cotton Silver and Lead Smelter. It was built on the Utah Southern Railroad in the proximity of the Hunt's Pond Canning Factory. This smelter was equipped with one reverberatory and one blast furnace with a combined capacity of fifty tons daily. It treated ores from Little Cottonwood and Bingham.³

In 1873 the smelter was reported to be undergoing a thorough remodeling and improvement. Two new blast furnaces of a


²The Mining Industry of Utah (Salt Lake City, Utah: Chamber of Commerce, 1941), p. 22.

capacity of thirty-five tons of ore each, were being added, and
the working floor was moved a story higher. The old smelter had
produced eighty-five tons of bullion from 233 tons of ore in one
of its furnaces in nine working weeks.\(^1\) This smelter was another
which was short lived, for there seems to be no mention of it in
later publications. It possibly closed when the mines of little
Cottonwood began to fail in the late 1870's.

The 1880's brought two more smelters to the Murray
locality. The Horn Silver Mining Company built a smelter on
forty-eighth south near the present location of the Murray Lumber
Plant early in 1881. The smelter was known as the Francklyn, and
it operated continuously until March of 1885. This smelter's
five blast furnaces were capable of handling 250 tons of ore
daily.\(^2\) Sloan wrote in 1884 that the smelter was equipped with
the most modern machinery of the day, and that the Francklyn,
along with the Germania, was considered the best works of the
country.\(^3\) Reasons why it stopped operations were not available
to the author.

About a mile north of the Germania, near the Big Cotton-
wood Creek and near the Utah Southern railroad, the Morgan Smelter

\(^1\) *Utah Mining Gazette, loc. cit.*
\(^2\) "Smelters in Salt Lake Valley," *loc. cit.*
\(^3\) Robert Sloan, *op. cit.,* p. 70.
was built about the same time as the Fracklyn. In 1873, this
plant was sold and the name changed to the Hanauer smelting
company. In its beginning the plant consisted of two blast fur-
naces, but in later years its capacity was increased until 1899,
when it was purchased by the American smelting and refining
company. In that year it was closed and dismantled. Between
the year 1771 when it was built and 1893, the smelter treated
115,774 tons of ore. 1 In its highest year, 1893, the Hanauer
produced 6,171,000 pounds of lead, 624,000 pounds of copper,
770,000 ounces of silver and 7,820 ounces of gold. 2

The turn of the century brought changes and new develop-
ments in the smelting industry of Murray. In 1899, the American
Smelting and Refining Company had organized as a New Jersey
 corporation, and shortly thereafter acquired a number of smaller
 smelters operating in the Salt Lake Valley. Then it became known
that the company was looking for a site to build a new and more
extensive plant, the interested citizens of Murray formed a
committee to investigate possible sites in Murray and to induce
the company to build there. This committee, under the leadership
of James O. Cahoon, purchased the land directly south of Fifty-
third South and west of State Street, and offered it to the

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2. ibid., loc. cit.
company for a location. The land was bought for something more than $1,000 which was raised by the business interests of Murray.1

In 1906 the construction on the new smelter was started, and at the same time the Hanauer and the Bingo, a smelter in Sandy, were dismantled. The Germania was left running until 1908 when the operations of the new Murray plant began.2 The new plant was equipped with eight blast furnaces with a capacity at the time of approximately 1,200 tons daily. It was the largest smelter in the valley at the time.3

Also in 1906 a copper smelter was built near the Jordan River on land now called Bullion Street. These works were known as the Highland Boy, and went into full operation in February, 1909. The plant was built to treat the sulphide copper ores produced from the Highland Boy mine at Bingham. The company purchased very little ore from other sources. The plant was in continuous operation until January 1, 1913, at which time it closed and went out of business by order of the United States Court, because of the damage to the crops of the valley.4

1Mannusen, op. cit., p. 5 of appendix.


3The Mining Industry of Utah, loc. cit.

4"Smelters in Salt Lake Valley," op. cit.
in the process of refining the copper sulphide ores, the smoke and fumes drifting out into the valley from the stacks of the plant caused damage to the crops. As early as 1904, the farmers met in Murray, and organized in an effort to get satisfaction from the smelting companies. John Acley of Brungor was made chairman of the farmers committee and a levy of ten cents per acre was put on each farmer's land to finance the legal proceedings against the smelters. 1 Though the led smelters experienced some difficulty with the legal action of the farmers, they were not forced to close down their operations.

For nearly thirty years after the Murray smelter of the American smelting and refining company was built, it operated at or near capacity, smelting ores from York City, Bingham, Tintic, Southern Utah, Southern Idaho, and Nevada. During this period, the oxide ores which could be easily smelted, slowly depleted, made it necessary to use the more complex sulphide ores which were beginning to be developed as Utah mining progressed to deeper levels. 2

The record of near continuous operation was broken in 1931, when the smelter closed for nearly seven months because of the shortage of ore and the depression. From this time until its

1 Salt Lake Herald, October 21, 1904.
2 The Mining Industry of Utah, op. cit., p. 23.
closing in 1930, with the exception of the war years, the smelter operated only a part of each year, averaging about seven months. In 1949, the company announced that it was stopping operations entirely; and by November of 1950, the plant was closed permanently and dismantlement was begun.

The closing of the Murray Smelter brought to an end the smelting industry in Murray, an industry which had existed there since 1873, when the Goodhue brothers built their smelter. The smelters in Murray, which had been made practical by the railroad systems of Utah, were the biggest influence which changed the little village on the State Road, in South Cottonwood, into an incorporated city. Now all that remains to remind the people of the past are the discarded dunns and the giant smoke stacks near Fifty-third South and State Street.
The schools in Murray started with meager beginnings. The first settlers conducted school by the neighbors taking turns instructing the children in their homes. By 1851 Jonathan S. Wright built his school house on the east side of the ward a short distance north of the early survey. It was the second school house to be built in Salt Lake County outside of Salt Lake City and consisted of a single room, rather rudely constructed and heated with a small centrally located stove. In the winter time the pupils sat around the stove according to their age with the youngest children nearest this source of heat. A two-months term was taught by Helen Homes in the fall and winter of 1851. The term became longer as new teachers were engaged in the succeeding winter seasons.

Until 1852 there had been no educational organization established by civil law. Each community created and maintained its own schools to suit itself. On March 3, 1852, an act was

1. Read book, Salt Lake County, June 7, 1892.
passed by the legislative assembly which directed the county courts of the various counties to divide their territory into school districts and cause an election of qualified voters in the districts to elect three trustees. Their duties would be to provide a suitable building and in a very general way to superintend the schools in their respective districts. 1

On receiving local authorization from the territorial legislature, the Salt Lake County Commissioners in 1852, divided the county into school districts, four of which were eventually incorporated into the South Cottonwood precinct. These districts were numbers twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-six, and forty-five. District forty-five was later designated as Union and separated from South Cottonwood after 1854. Of these districts only two, the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth, were included completely within the corporate limits of what later became Murray City. In 1935 most of the twenty-sixth district became a part of Granite School district. 2

The twenty-fifth school district comprised the area now served by the Arlington and Bonaparte elementary schools. This is

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1Journal of the Joint Sessions of the Legislative Assembly of Utah Territory, 1852, p. 148.

roughly from the city's north limits south to about 5600 South Street. The first school house in this area was a one-room log structure located near the present site of the canning factory operated by Hunt's Food, near 4900 South and the Union Pacific Railroad. As near as can be determined, the first teacher was Mrs. Ann Evans Brown who had taught in England before immigrating to South Cottonwood in 1864.¹

The first building to be erected near the site of the present Arlington School was a one-room brick structure with a gabled roof. The bricks were manufactured and the construction supervised by Simon Atwood, one of the district's trustees. The building was dedicated on January 12, 1874. The Deseret News described the building as a "first class structure costing about $3,600, in procuring means for which, liberal assistance was rendered by persons connected with the smelters in the district."² While there was one school house in each of the South Cottonwood districts in 1873, this was the first brick building in the area.

The south end of the structure was partitioned off to make a hall where the pupils could hang their coats and hats, and deposit their lunches. The large room was divided a little later

¹Ibid., p. 4.
²The Deseret News, January 14, 1874.
and Eliza Blase Pennion became the teacher of the primary grades.\footnote{McHenry, op. cit., p. 45.}

The school term of 1873 was still very short, lasting only about three months, and even then the boys went to school only when the snow was too deep to work on the farms or haul wood from the canyons. Children from the ages of seven to twenty attended at a cost of about seventeen dollars per pupil, with the tuition charge usually being paid in labor or produce. In that same year the district boasted an enrollment of forty-eight pupils and an average daily attendance of forty. There was an enrollment of seventy-five and an average attendance of seventy in District Twenty-four.\footnote{Ibid.}

The first school in the Twenty-fourth District, the area presently served by the Liberty and Hillcrest elementary schools, was held in the home of Mrs. Elizabeth George, a widow whose small adobe house was located about 6300 South near the State Road. She taught only the small children, older pupils attending the Central School in District Twenty-five. These young children were taught to read and write and do "sums."\footnote{Ibid.}

The second school house of the district was built in 1873 as an addition to the old school house constructed in 1874. It was built on the property which had belonged to Owen Rovendahl near

\footnote{Ibid.}
the Utah Central Railroad tracks. It was located just west of the present Liberty School and was known as the inclester school. James inclester had been one of the district's trustees whose efforts led to the financing of the new structure. The new school building was a one-room brick building built by Simeon Atwood to nearly the same plan as the brick building in the Twenty-Fifth District. The school was also used as a war meetinghouse.1

The first teachers in this new building were Mary Alija inclester and Mary Cora Atwood. During their first year teaching at this school, they lived at the school house from Monday through Friday because of the poor roads over which they had to travel. At the end of each month the teachers sent home a card showing what each parent owed the teachers for instruction.2

Apparenty the first and only truly denominational school to operate in Murray was an English school conducted by the Methodists in 1850. The school seems to have disappeared after the depression of 1855; however, there is evidence that the Methodists sponsored a mission school in the Murray Opera House as late as 1878.3 The County Superintendent of schools, William W. Stewart, reported in 1890, that there was at least one mixed

1Ibid., p. 47.
2Ibid., p. 48.
3Ibid., p. 49.
primary and grade school in each of the Murray districts. Katie Deane was listed as principal of the school in District Twenty-four with her sister, Emily Deane, as a teacher. In the Twenty-fifth District the principal was ... Christensen and Mary Lee Bowers was a teacher. The teachers were listed according to religious affiliation also. The two faculty members in District Twenty-four were Mormons, and the two in District Twenty-five were non-Mormon.¹

The classes taught in the two districts included reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, grammar, composition, history, and physiology. Because of the better facilities of the Twenty-fifth District some additional subjects were offered in the program of that district.²

Two years later the county superintendent reported the teachers in the Twenty-fourth District to be Nora Pennion, Katie Deane, and Namie Knowlton, and those of the Twenty-fifth as C. F. McCormick, Mrs. I. F. McCormick, and Ella Middle.³ By 1897 the commencement exercises for the entire county were held at Murray, probably because of its central location; and in that year, fifty-one students graduated from the eighth grade. Only four of the

¹Circular of the public schools of Salt Lake County, 1875, pp. 31-32.

²Henry, op. cit., p. 56.

³Circular of the public schools of Salt Lake County, 1892, pp. 25-26.
In the year 1897, the school buildings of the Perry districts which had received such kind acclaim twenty-five years earlier, had become over crowded and out-dated. " Movements were started to secure improvements in both districts. One of the trustees of district Twenty-five reminded the community of the fact that while the district was one of the richest in the county it still had one of the poorest buildings. He suggested that a two-story brick building with a basement be erected, but he also cautioned that the case and evaluation of the district at that time was not over 133,000 including the Germania Welter.  

A movement for a new school building was started in the Twenty-fourth district also, and came to the forefront at this same time. An announcement was made to the taxpayers of that district advising them of a meeting to be held on August 1, 1897, for the purpose of settling the question as to whether the old school house should be repaired or have it replaced by a new one.  

The Twenty-fifth district was the first to carry through its building program. In 1899 the so-called Central School building was erected on the hill directly behind the present 

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1 American Mailo, June 5, 1897.

2 Ibid., January 29, 1898.

3 Ibid., July 30, 1898.
Arlington School. It was a large three-story red brick building containing twelve class rooms, an office, and a library. The building cost over $25,000.¹

A branch school house had been built in the Twenty-fifth District in 1895 just west of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad tracks at about 500 South. It was a white burned brick building containing two rooms with a long hall or vestry between and was heated by a hot air furnace located in the basement. The structure was known as the Pioneer or West Side School, and Ellen Steffensen taught the first, second and third grades, while Beber Saunders taught the fourth and fifth. The sixth, seventh, and eighth grades attended the Central School after 1899.²

The school year of 1893-1894 saw the enrollment of the Twenty-fifth District reach 765, an increase of 717 from the enrollment of 1873, and the number of teachers had increased from two to thirteen.³

Since District Twenty-four had less financial assets than did the Twenty-fifth, their building program naturally moved ahead more slowly. On March 11, 1905 a bond election was held for the purpose of determining whether bonds to the amount of $20,000

¹McHenry, op. cit., p. 53.
²Ibid., p. 55.
³American Eagle, September 12, 1903.
should be issued for the erection of a modern school building.
Thirty votes were cast in the election, and of that number, twenty-seven were recorded in favor of the measure, which was therefore declared carried.¹

Construction was begun almost immediately, and within the comparatively short space of eight months, a well equipped twelve-room building was completed, dedicated, and put into service. The new building was occupied for the first time in January, 1936.
That same year the school was incorporated into the Murray School District.²

By November of 1901, plans had nearly been completed for the establishment of a high school to be located at Sandy. Murray had been mentioned as a possible site because of its central location, but nothing had come of it.³ Early the next year the County Superintendent announced plans to hold an election to determine the feeling of the public toward the establishing of high schools at various key points in the county. The trustees of District Twenty-five in Murray called for an election for the purpose of voting on the issue of forming a high school district, or if high school classes should be incorporated in the common schools provided the high school was not built. The high school unit was to be composed

¹Henry, op. cit., p. 56.
²Ibid.
³American Eagle, November 30, 1901.
of districts Twenty-four, Twenty-five, Twenty-six, and Thirty-eight.\(^1\)

The vote was negative, for while in district Twenty-five the vote for and against the establishment of a high school was balanced, those opposed held the upper hand in all of the surrounding districts. Opposition to additional taxes was probably the most important reason for the defeat of the measure.

The movement for the consolidation of the schools of Salt Lake County had been going on for some time. By December of 1904, the County Commissioners had won enough trustees of the school boards of the county that a consolidation resolution was passed. The entire county except for Salt Lake City was to be divided into two school districts. The Mormon Church before this time had divided the county into two smaller stakes, Granite and Jordan. When the resolution was approved, the school districts were divided on the same basis. The County Commissioners passed a formal resolution creating the two new districts on July 3, 1905, and set the time for the first board meetings.\(^2\)

As consolidation moved on in the county, local rivalry and antagonisms caused bitter opposition to the movement in the Murray locality. The fear of losing part of their autonomy and that

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\(^{1}\textit{Ibid.}, \ March \ 29, \ 1902.\)

\(^{2}\textit{The Salt Lake Tribune}, \ July \ 4, \ 1905.\)
increased taxation was inevitable, made the residents seek a
course of action to keep the Murray districts from being included
in the new county districts.

It was realized that the only solution to the situation lay
in petitioning for a change in the status of the city from that of
a third class city to that of a second class city. Cities of the
second-class were allowed to organize their own school districts
independently from the county in which they were located, and to
conduct their business independently.

With this idea in mind the city council annexed an area of
land adjacent to the southwest boundary. This action was taken to
give Murray the required population to become a city of the second-
class. At the time this action was taking place, provisions were
made for a census to be taken within the new boundaries. The
population was reported to be 5036, so the council voted on June
20, 1905, to petition the governor for a reclassification of the
community. The Governor granted the petition and shortly afterward
the city was divided into five municipal wards for the purpose of
electing a board of education.¹

Murray’s status was changed from a third-class city to that
of a second-class on July 1, 1905. The city’s new school district
encompassed the old Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Districts, and

¹Rasmussen, op. cit., pp. 143-144.
at a meeting of the trustees from these districts, Gideon H. Humford, a teacher of some thirty years' experience, was selected to be the acting supervisor of the Murray Schools until the new board of education could be elected and qualified. Mr. Humford had been serving as principal of the Twenty-fifth District school since 1902. He was given a raise of $100 per year making his salary $1420 for a ten-months term.¹

The new Murray District made its start with four school buildings. Two of these buildings were modern structures for their time. They featured good lighting and ventilation and steam heat. These were the Central Building which had been completed in 1899 at a cost of $25,000, and the south side building which had been completed and occupied early in 1906. The old five-room brick building at the south end of town was sold in December of 1906. The fourth building was the westside School. It was a modern two-room structure maintained principally to accommodate primary school children who were quite far removed from the Central School.²

The schools had never received official names, so in 1906 a contest was held among the pupils of the schools down to and including the third grade. From the names submitted the board

¹Minutes of the Murray City Board of Education, July 28, 1905, I, 4.
²McHenry, op. cit., p. 70.
named the Central Building the Arlington School, the South side
Building the Liberty School, and the West side Building the Pioneer
School.¹

The large number of school-age children began to plague
the school district with overcrowding, especially in the primary
grades. In the summer of 1907 a number of citizens in the vicinity
of Highland Boy smelter, the area near 5800 South and 900 West,
petitioned the board to open a branch school for the beginning
pupils in a twenty-three by forty foot building which had been
offered rent free by the smelter. The petitioners claimed that
there were thirty-five to forty-five children under the age of
eight who could be schooled there.²

The board deferred action until after the official school
census had been completed, but the experiment was tried out during
the 1907-1908 school year. The results were not satisfactory, so
the following year the students were assigned to the Liberty
School and transported by team and wagon through the winter months.³

The pressure of an overcrowded student population was still
unsolved in 1909. It was first proposed that a bond election be

¹Minutes of the Murray City Board of Education, February 1,
1906, p. 21.

²Ibid., August 3, 1907, p. 55.

³McHenry, op. cit., p. 72.
held to authorize a bond issue of $30,000, but by the time the
election was held the amount had been raised to $35,000. The
issue was approved, and the board immediately secured two acres
of land on what was called Brewery Hill, near 5000 South on 200
west and the property on State Street where the junior high school
is now located.¹

Hiljenberg and Sundberg were selected as the architects of
the two new buildings, and construction started in May, 1910. The
building on the west side was built for $12,310, while the building
on State Street cost $19,476. When the buildings were occupied at
the beginning of the 1911-1912 school year, Mrs. Mae C. Scott was
appointed principal of the new building on Brewery Hill. The
students of the school selected the name of Bonnyview for the
school. The first principal at the school building on State Street
was Mrs. Jean H. Reiger, and the building was called the Hillcrest
School.²

The matter of providing a high school for the district
was brought to the attention of the board in 1907, but no action
was taken because of the lack of funds and space. Some time later
the state established a high school fund by which the legislature
could give aid to any school district attempting to establish a

¹Ibid., p. 73.
²Ibid., pp. 73-74.
high school. This provision revived the matter in the Murray District, and it was proposed by one of the district's principals in 1910 that if Murray could not provide its own high school that the board unite with the Granite District for the purpose of maintaining a high school.1

It seems that legal complications discouraged the completion of such a merger. The Granite District did invite the Murray students to attend if the Murray District would pay the difference in what the state allowed, and the cost per capita for each student. A tuition fee of twenty dollars was also charged each student.2

Late in 1913 a series of events started which led to the establishment of the high school. In the fall of that year, Superintendent Gauvin submitted plans to change the Hillcrest School into a junior high school. Notice was given for a bond election early in 1914 for the purpose of building and furnishing more facilities for a junior high. The bonds were passed and the work completed so that the new class met at the Hillcrest Junior High during the 1915-1916 school year.3

It soon became apparent that if more students in Murray were to go on past the junior high grades Murray would have to

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1Ibid., p. 20.
2Ibid.
3Minutes of the Murray City Board of Education, February 11, April 17, 1914, pp. 329-359.
provide a high school. The assessment of a high tuition rate by
the Salt Lake and Granite schools, and their distance were arguments
for a Murray school.

The high school was organized for the school year of 1916-
1917 with James H. Moss as principal. The first commencement was
held in the spring of 1917 with five students awarded diplomas.¹

The name Hillcrest was dropped almost completely with the
organization of the high school, but the name of Murray High did
not become the official designation until July of 1919.²

¹Henry, op. cit., p. 93.
²Minutes of the Murray City Board of Education, July 7,
1919, p. 27.
CHAPTER VII
CITY DEVELOPMENT AND INCORPORATION.

It is interesting to note that it was not until after 1880 that the area of South Cottonwood now known as Murray received its name. By that time an ever increasing population had made it necessary for the establishment of a branch of the Salt Lake City Post Office somewhere in the vicinity. It was during the administration of the territory by Governor Bidg Murray that the post office was located in South Cottonwood, so in honor of the governor it was called the Murray post office.¹ The town gradually took up the name.

In the early days of the Murray area, anyone who received mail had to go to Salt Lake City to get it, and anyone who happened to go to Salt Lake City would collect the mail for all who lived in the vicinity. Finally Henry Atwood started a post office in his home. He drove to Salt Lake once or twice a week and picked up the mail which had been brought by immigrants or the mail service. Later the Atwood home became the stop for the stage and the delivery point for the mail.²

¹Rasmussen, op. cit., p. 3 of appendix.
²Kirkham, op. cit., p. 286.
The first public home of the post office was in the store of Edward C. Fareniski, which was located a short distance east of State Street of Forty-eighth South. Shortly after the mail delivery was started at "Mr. Fareniski's store, Governor Murray appointed his friend Harry Haynes as postmaster, and the location of the post office was shifted to a store owned by him. Mr. Haynes's store was opposite and a little north of the present site of the Arlington School, 5025 South State Street. This store later became part of the old Opera House Building. The actual date as to when the post office was established in South Cottonwood could not be determined by the author, but the Utah Gazetteer of 1884 lists Murray as a post office.

Mr. James Cahoon in his letter to Mr. Rasmussen relates that among the first postmistresses were two sisters, May and Marie Jacobsen. One of the sisters affiliated herself with the Democrats while the other was a Republican. It seems that the sisters had a system of taking turns as to who held the position as postmistress depending on whose party was in office.

There is some evidence that the name Francklyn was

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1 Interview with G. R. Berger, August 5, 1959, Murray, Utah. A former mayor of Murray, and a son of pioneer Gottlieb Berger.

2 Rasmussen, op. cit., p. 4 of appendix.

3 Sloan, op. cit., p. 271.

4 Rasmussen, loc. cit.
associated with the Murray area also. This more than likely stems from the fact that the Francklyn Smelter served as a railroad station and an office for the Deseret Telegraph Company.¹

Among the men employed at the Germania and Francklyn smelters were a number of Scandinavians who had come to Utah as converts to the Latter-day Saint Church in the early 1880's. A great many of these people had settled on the west side of the South Cottonwood ward on the property of Gottlieb Berger. Mr. Berger had built a number of homes there for rent, and had driven one of the first flowing wells in the area to furnish culinary water.²

For the convenience of these Scandinavians who were faced with a language problem and were located some distance from the South Cottonwood meeting house, Bishop Joseph Rawlins gave permission to hold Church services in their settlement. The first meeting was held November 1, 1883, and Johan Anderson was appointed presiding elder.³

Elder Anderson presided for nearly two months and then early in 1884 Chas Hols was appointed to preside. For a year or so meetings were continued in private homes. Then a cottage or hall

¹Iloian, op. cit., p. 269.
²Records of the Murray Stake and Ward, Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.
³Ibid.
was rented in Berger Town near the residence of J. N. John. For
the use of the hall a monthly rental fee of $4.00 was paid.1

In 1893 the Scandinavian saints erected a meetinghouse at
a cost of about $600. The structure was built of lumber, and the
walls were lined with adobe. The building was forty feet by
eighteen feet, and was located on the high ground on what was then
known as the lower road, or the first road running north and south,
west of State Street. According to Dr. G. N. Berger, this location
was just south of the Ponnyview School on Second east.2

The new meetinghouse was dedicated in December, 1893, by
angus M. Cannon, after which it housed the regular meetings held
on Sundays and Wednesdays. In 1894 to accommodate these members a
branch Sunday School was organized, a Mutual in 1895, and the
Relief Society in 1896.3

The Scandinavian people who immigrated to the west end of
South Cottonwood made a large contribution to the community. They
came to the area with their families and a determination to
establish permanent homes, and as they were able to acquire means
to purchase small farms or to go into business, many would leave
the employ of the smelters. Their manner and mode of living was

1Ibid.
2G. R. Berger interview.
3Murray Stake and Ward, op. cit.
more adaptable and acceptable to the Murray community than were the other foreign laborers who came to work in the cottonwoods in the twentieth century.

The influx of people into the South Cottonwood area in the 1880's and 1890's caused considerable change in the community, not only in its development from a town to a city, but in the old South Cottonwood Ward which had been a fundamental organization of the area since its beginning in 1848.

On Sunday October 28, 1900, a special meeting was held at the South Cottonwood meetinghouse for the purpose of dividing the old ward. This was the first major division of the ward since 1887, when the Granite and Union wards were formed. In this occasion apostles Eber J. Grant and Anthon S. Lund organized the western part into two new wards to be known as the Murray Ward and the Grant Ward.1

At this same meeting the bishopric and Sunday School of Murray Ward was organized. Uriah B. Miller was made bishop and Per Gustaf Johnson and Char Brown his first and second councilors respectively. Daniel B. Jones was set apart as the superintendent of the Sunday School. Warren H. Lyon and James Gilbert were his councilors.2

The Murray Ward boundaries were the Big Cottonwood Creek

1 Ibid.
2 Ibid.
and forty-fifth south on the north, the Jordan River on the west, Ashland Street and fifty-first south on the south, and on the east a line running directly north to the Big Cottonwood Creek from the line separating the old Henry Brown and John Gordon properties.¹

Soon after the organization of the Murray Ward, the bishop rented the old school house of the Twenty-fifth District situated on the east side of State Street. The first meeting was held there on December 23, 1900. Between the time the ward had been organized and its meeting in the school, the Scandinavian hall had been used.²

The organization of Grant Ward was not accomplished until Sunday, December 16, 1900, at this time a special meeting was held at the old Winchester school house of the Twenty-fourth District, and apostle Grant ordained Peter J. Sanders a high priest and set him apart as bishop. Henry Bird and David Howell were set apart as first and second counselors respectively. According to the records of December 31, 1900, Grant Ward contained 146 families. The total population was 625 with 277 of these being children under the age of eight years.³

Grant Ward was bounded on the north by the Murray Ward, on the east by South Cottonwood Ward, on the south by the Midvale Ward,

¹Ibid.

²Ibid.

³Records of the Murray South Stake and Wards, Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.
and on the west by the Jordan River. Since February 13, 1905, the
portion that was left of the old Grant ward has been made the
Murray Tenth ward of the Murray South Stake. 1

The Murray ward was again divided in March of 1906. The
Oregon Short Line track was made the dividing line which separated
the ward into east and west halves. The eastern half was made the
Murray First ward and the western half the Murray Second ward. The
old bishopric was kept as the bishopric of the First ward while
Jacob E. Erickson was chosen bishop of the Second ward. Joseph G.
Park and Andrew E. Anderson were his counselors. 2

The Murray Second ward encompassed that which had been the
old Scandinavian settlement, and much of the ward population was
composed of Scandinavians. At first the ward held its meetings in
the old Scandinavian Hall, but steps were taken to erect a new
meetinghouse. A parcel of land containing about one and one-half
acres was bought from Peter Adamson for $300 on the west side of
Second east Street, and in 1909 the Second ward's building was
finished. The little chapel cost nearly $13,000, and with its
completion the old Scandinavian Hall went into disuse and was later
torn down. The building of the Murray First ward meeting house had

1Ibid.

2Murray Stake and wards, op. cit.
commenced in 1937 and was completed at a cost of $25,000.\textsuperscript{1} Both of these buildings, with their newer additions, are still in use.

While the growth of the community was bringing changes in the ward organization, the businesses of the area were growing in number, size, and variety. The description by Mrs. Godfrey, that "Murray was a dirty little place with only two stores and a number of saloons, may have fit in 1874, but it was not suitable for the Murray of 1893.

Out of the better known and most advertised businesses of the 1890's, the most celebrated establishment in Murray was the Murray Grand Opera House. The Opera House had been built by Harry Haynes and John Cahoon in 1889. It was a sizeable structure of two stories which included the store Harry Haynes had built earlier, a barber shop, and a drug store on the first floor. The Opera House boasted that it was equipped with electric lights. John Cahoon had installed a small electric plant in the rear of the house, and with this plant the Progress Light and Power Company was organized in 1895 by Mr. Cahoon to sell power to nearby establishments.\textsuperscript{2} In 1897, C. B. Sorley the manager of the opera house advertised in the American Eagle that the opera house was the "handsomest and most complete opera house in the state outside of

\textsuperscript{1}Ibid.

\textsuperscript{2}Rasmussen, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 5 of appendix.
Ogden and Salt Lake City, and is second to none in point of convenience and comfort. Steam heat and electric lights.\(^1\)

The drug store which occupied a part of the ground floor of the Opera House was the Murray Pharmacy, and was run by Dr. ... Verree, Verree was a practicing physician as well as a druggist, and according to Mr. G. R. Berger he enjoyed a good reputation.\(^2\)

Harry Hayes' store which had occupied part of the ground floor later was operated by the Germania Smelting Company as a company store, and was known as the Germania Mercantile Company with R. L. Dayton as manager. The smelting company gave up its interest sometime later, and stock was sold in the company making it a cooperative.\(^3\) The barber shop was that of C. P. Durand who was also the agent for the New Paris Laundry.\(^4\)

These establishments which made up the Opera House block were located northwest of the Arlington School on the west side of State Street near the corner of Second Avenue.\(^5\)

There were a number of businesses which occupied space

\(^1\) American Eagle, May 6, 1897.

\(^2\) G. R. Berger interview.

\(^3\) Ibid.

\(^4\) American Eagle, loc. cit.

\(^5\) G. R. Berger interview.
along State Street from Forty-eighth South to Fifty-sixth South during the time of Murray's incorporation efforts. On the west side of State Street nearly across from the park was the Murray Meat and Live Stock Company. This company had a market located on the street and a slaughterhouse farther west and near the little Cottonwood Creek. Across the street in the Murray Park entrance was the Greater and Cottonwood Divery and Feed Stable, and just one door north was the blacksmith shop of Frank J. Decker. Across the street again and just south of the Opera House was the Gilbert Shoe Store run by James Gilbert.¹

Further north on the west side of the street where the Fraternal Hall is now located was the Jones Building. In July of 1901, this building took fire, and it became necessary to press every man in town into the bucket brigade to control the flames until a fire engine could arrive from Salt Lake City. Then the news reached Salt Lake, an engine and six men were placed on a railroad car of the Oregon Short Line and rushed to Murray. By the time they had arrived, however, the fire had nearly consumed the building.² In October the building was being reconstructed with improvements. The new one was to be two stories high and

¹American Eagle, loc. cit.
²C. E. Berger Interview.
³Journal History of the Church, July 17, 1901.
have a basement. 1

Up and down the streets on both sides were a number of other businesses such as the Murray Bakery run by J. W. Connegister, Sucley Brothers Meat Market, Lawson Saddle and Harness Shop, the Eagle Grocery Store (Fred Buck, manager), and the undertaking parlor of J. D. Courie. 2

There was a liberal number of saloons such as the B. F. Saloon and Billiard Hall run by P. Carlson, and the Murray Exchange owned by W. H. Binder and later by J. C. Cahoon. Probably the most colorful of all was the Phoenix, which was located on the southwest corner of forty-eighth South and State Street. It was run by C. J. Olsen and later by Gallagher and Trel. They advertised in the American Eagle, "the last chance saloon—the last chance to get a drink before reaching Salt Lake." 3

There were other businesses and industries off State Street which were products of Murray's growth. J. C. Cahoon owned a planing mill on forty-eighth South near First West; and located a short distance west of the Denver and Rio Grande railroad tracks near the Little Cottonwood Creek was the Salt Lake Vinegar Factory

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1 American Eagle, October 19, 1901.

2 Ibid., May 8, 1897.

3 Ibid.
run by M. M. Foy.\footnote{American Eagle, May 8, 1897.}

In 1890 Murray had a convenience added to the community in the form of an electric street car line connecting it to Salt Lake City. The line was built into Murray by the Salt Lake Rapid Transit Company.\footnote{Franchise Record of Salt Lake County, July 16, 1890, Utah Historical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.} The street car brought rapid transportation, but the early cars lacked many comforts. These first cars were an open type and consequently a person riding them in the winter ran the risk of getting frostbite or chilblains. In 1933 the street car line was replaced by busses with gasoline engines.\footnote{Rasmussen, op. cit., p. 239.}

One of the few businesses left in Murray from these earlier times is the weekly newspaper, the \textit{Murray Eagle}. The greater part of the history of this paper was lost in a fire which occurred in 1924. J. Cecil Alter in his \textit{Early Utah Journalism}, points out that the paper most likely started in 1894. In that year it was known as the \textit{Murray American}, and was published by a Mr. W. F. White. In 1896, with a change of ownership, the paper became known as the \textit{American Eagle}, and its publisher was H. C. Rasmussen.\footnote{J. Cecil Alter, "Early Utah Journalism," \textit{Utah Historical Quarterly}, (1938), p. 131.}

From its beginning, this paper supported the incorporation
of Murray into a city. An editorial in the paper of May 8, 1897, called attention to the Tuesday before when the town had been overrun by a cowboy element just in from shearing sheep and the smelter boys on their after payday spending spree. The editor declared that the only way to stop this element from taking over the town, when it desired, was to incorporate, and provide the protection necessary. The opposition to the incorporation were called "slow thinking mossbacks."

1 a week later in another article the editor pointed out that Sandy had levied no new taxes and yet had a surplus of $1,400 at the end of a year as an incorporated city.

The newspaper sponsored a petition for incorporation, advertising that it might be signed at the office by calling there. In June, 1897, an incorporation committee was formed with Mr. Illumsen as chairman and James Saunders, a local school principal, as secretary. The smelters had apparently expressed some opposition to the movement for the possibility of incorporating only the business district was given at least some consideration. The response to the petition seem to have been unsatisfactory.

In August of 1901, another petition for incorporation was prepared, circulated, and sent to the county commissioners. The

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1 ibid., May 15, 1897.

2 ibid.

3 ibid., September 4, 1897.
name Murray was proposed for the city, and the boundaries defined.\textsuperscript{1}

The commission took no action upon the petition. Having received no response from their petition, a second one was drawn up a year later and signed by 127 persons of the Murray area. It was submitted to the county commissioners on September 7, 1902.\textsuperscript{2}

On September 23, a meeting was held at the Murray card meeting house at which time the candidates were chosen for the Peoples' Ticket. A mayor, five councilmen, a clerk, a treasurer, a city judge, and a marshall were nominated.\textsuperscript{3} Nearly a month later, October 20, another group of citizens feeling that there should be an opposition ticket met at the school on State Street and organized the Citizens' Ticket. The platform of the Citizens' Ticket consisted of six planks which stated:

1. We believe in good economical government.
2. We believe in keeping the expenses within the city's revenue.
3. We believe in the saloons being closed from 12:00 midnight until 5:00 a.m. and from 12:00 midnight Saturday until 5:00 a.m. Monday.
4. We believe in enforcing the law regulating the sale of liquors to minors and preventing them from entering saloons.
5. We believe in encouraging all kinds of industry for the public welfare.
6. We believe in enforcing a strict sanitary law.\textsuperscript{4}

\textsuperscript{1}Ibid., August 31, 1901.
\textsuperscript{2}Rasmussen, op. cit., p. 23.
\textsuperscript{3}Ibid.
\textsuperscript{4}American Eagle, October 25, 1902.
The election was held on November 13, 1902, and on November 25, 1902, Murray was proclaimed a city of the third-class. Despite the opposition made by the valuing interest, those in favor of incorporation were able to gain a plurality of fifty-nine votes. C. L. Miller was elected the first mayor. The notice of incorporation which appeared in the Salt Lake Tribune stated that the population was 2,456.¹

A number of improvements were made in the community in the three years before Murray was reclassified as a second-class city. In 1903 the city granted franchises to two telephone companies, which gave them the right to place poles along the street and string the telephone wires. These were the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company, and the Utah Independent Telephone Company.²

The Progress Company which was owned by W. J. A. Cahoon had grown into a money-making enterprise with more applicants that it was capable of giving adequate service. The company offered to sell out to the city, but the city did not feel that it was financially able to buy the system at that time. This company was in existence until 1924.³

The site for the old city hall was purchased in 1903,

¹Salt Lake Tribune, January 3, 1903.
³Ibid., p. 140.
during Mayor Miller's term, for $2,200. The property was in the middle of the block between forty-eighth South and Nine Street. The architects, Irwin and Eljimberg, were given permission to draw a rough sketch.¹

As has been discussed in chapter six, the consolidation movement of Salt Lake County caused the people of Murray to seek a change in the classification of the city to maintain the independence of Murray's schools. The city passed an ordinance annexing to the city certain areas mainly to the southwest of the city to raise the population to that required of a second-class city.

The census taken of Murray with its new area was 9,036, so the governor was petitioned, and the city became a city of the second-class. There seems to be some doubt as to the accuracy of the count and consequently the legality of the change in incorporation. The national census taken in 1910 places the population figure at only 4,057.² There is no evidence to indicate that nearly 1,000 people left Murray between 1905 and 1910. The increase in school children would seem to indicate no such loss.

The business of the city was carried on in a regular manner under the new status. The Progress Company was granted a franchise

¹Ibid., p. 147.

for a culinary water system in 1905. The company owned some wells near the intersection of
sixth east and forty-eighth south, and from these ran a pipe line down forty-eighth south into the

city area. 1

The city's fire department came into being in July of 1906 when the city purchased $16,000 worth of equipment, and a month later the by-laws of the department were drawn up. 2

Also in 1906 construction was started on the Murray City Hall. The building had a foundation of granite blocks, and buff pressed bricks for the walls. The jail was constructed as a separate building. The sum of $2,700 was spent in building the structure and this included an eight-day clock installed by the

Foord Park Jewellery Company. The hall was completed in May of 1908 and was to house the city government until 1958, when it was torn down. 3

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1 Manuscript, op. cit., p. 10 of appendix.
2 Ibid., p. 152.
3 Ibid., pp. 164-165.
The Latter-day Saints that arrived at Winter Quarters, Nebraska, from Mississippi, as reported by John Brown on May 27, 1848.

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<td>William Crosby</td>
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<td>Sklea Truly</td>
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Taken from:

## MAYORS, COUNCILMEN, AND COMMISSIONERS TO 1937

### Mayors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mayor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chilliam Miller</td>
<td>January 1903 - January 1904</td>
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<tr>
<td>James H. Stratton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Brown</td>
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<td>Shillig Bents</td>
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<tr>
<td>George W. Buscher</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. M. McHenry</td>
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<td>Norman W. Erickson</td>
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<td>Noah J. Anderson</td>
<td>&quot; 1920 - &quot; 1924</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isaac Jester</td>
<td>&quot; 1924 - &quot; 1926</td>
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<td>Arthur Townsend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred Peters</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. W. Berger</td>
<td>&quot; 1930 - &quot; 1932</td>
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### Councilmen

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<tr>
<td>James Gilbert</td>
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<tr>
<td>William McGlorey</td>
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<td>Arthur White</td>
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<td>Heber S. Sander</td>
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<td>James Godfrey</td>
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<td>J. B. Sowell</td>
<td>&quot; 1904 - &quot; 1908</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Wood</td>
<td>&quot; 1904 - &quot; 1906</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Ferguson</td>
<td>&quot; 1904 - &quot; 1906</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Birch</td>
<td>&quot; 1904 - &quot; 1906</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter Atwood</td>
<td>&quot; 1906 - &quot; 1908</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Smith</td>
<td>&quot; 1906 - &quot; 1912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander Lee</td>
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<td>Arthur Townsend</td>
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<td>Andrew J. Halquist</td>
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<td>Peter B. McIllan</td>
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<td>Arthur Short</td>
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<td>J. H. Lyon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank C. Howe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel B. Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Parkinson</td>
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<td>J. H. Atwood</td>
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<td>James C. Cahoon</td>
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<td>Joseph C. Kirk</td>
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<td>George B. Watts</td>
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<tr>
<td>George H. Catton</td>
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<td>Ottilie Berger</td>
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<td>James E. Clay</td>
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<td>D. E. Churchill</td>
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<td>Edward L. Eekman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clifford J. Hansen</td>
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<td>Sherman Reeves</td>
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"Murray changed to the Commission form of government with the election of November 1911.

Taken from:

### APPENDIX III

**EARLY BISHOPS OF THE MURRAY WARD**

#### Murray Ward

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bishops</th>
<th>Term of Office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uriah G. Miller</td>
<td>1900 1906</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First Counselors</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Gustaf Johnson</td>
<td>1900 1906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Second Counselors</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Brown</td>
<td>1900 1906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ward Clerks</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Warren H. Lyon</td>
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#### Grant Ward

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<tr>
<th>Bishops</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter James Sanders</td>
<td>1900 1902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Wallace Mackay</td>
<td>1902 1907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew J. Wahlquist</td>
<td>1907 1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas M. Warmock</td>
<td>1915 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Lawrence Meyers</td>
<td>1918 1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Silas Sharp</td>
<td>1920 1924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nils L. Jenson</td>
<td>1924</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Nichols Bird</td>
<td>1900 1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew J. Wahlquist</td>
<td>1904 1907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Christenson Jr.</td>
<td>1907 1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George E. Watts</td>
<td>1915 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry H. Turner</td>
<td>1918 1920</td>
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<td>1920 1924</td>
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Second Counselors

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Borgan Jewell</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Richardson</td>
<td>1907 1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Jewell</td>
<td>1915 1917</td>
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<td>John T. Wahlquist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uriah Rumm</td>
<td>1920 1921</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elma Lorenzo Jenson</td>
<td>1922 1924</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louisa Pettet</td>
<td>1924 1926</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Elmo McVillan</td>
<td>1926 1930</td>
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<td>Heber E. Jensen</td>
<td>1930</td>
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Are Clerks

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<td>Jacob E. Brinton</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Richardson</td>
<td>1903 1924</td>
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<td>Michael Elmo McVillan</td>
<td>1924 1926</td>
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<td>Heber W. Peterson</td>
<td>1926 1930</td>
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<td>Gustave A. Sundako</td>
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Syracuse first ward

Bishops

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<tr>
<td>William T. Hagedon</td>
<td>1926 1928</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel E. Bringham</td>
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<td>Alma E. Crane</td>
<td>1937</td>
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First Counselors

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Norman T. Breckson</td>
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<td>David J. Campbell</td>
<td>1928 1933</td>
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<td>1933 1937</td>
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<td>Cyrus Keith Fineman</td>
<td>1933 1937</td>
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<td>Lawrence W. Harby</td>
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<td>Joseph W. Hansen</td>
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<td>Fred H. Petersen</td>
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<td>C. M. Blacker</td>
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<td>Perley Richardson</td>
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<td>Leonard A. Lomdott</td>
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<td>Constance Lomdott</td>
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<td>Leonard Lomdott</td>
<td>1919</td>
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<td>Alma Thomas Martin</td>
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<td>Albert L. Lomdott</td>
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<td>Franz H. Westover</td>
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<td>Nivald Edmund Nygren</td>
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<td>Melv Joseph Ohberg</td>
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<td>Raymond W. Pammunson</td>
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<td>Floyd A. Chryst</td>
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<td>Carl J. Price</td>
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<td>Ellis Joseph Hiberg</td>
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<td>Ralph T. Herr</td>
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<td>Vernon A. Katheringham</td>
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<td>W. Marvin Healey</td>
<td>1930-1930</td>
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Taken from:

Records of the Murray Stake and wards, and the Murray South Stake and wards. Church historians office, Salt Lake City, Utah.
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The Mining Industry of Utah. Salt Lake City, Utah: Chamber of Commerce, 1941.


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Ledyard, Edgar F. "Early Mining and Melting South of Salt Lake City," *Z-1-Dent-Cx,* May, 1931.


**Salt Lake Herald.** 1904.

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Records of the Murray Stake and Wards. Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Records of the Murray South Stake and Wards. Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Personal Interviews

G. R. Berger, a former mayor of Murray City and son of pioneer Gottlieb Berger, August 5, 1959.

M. P. Ingalls, head accountant of the United States Smelting and Refining Company, Salt Lake City office, March 13, 1959.
A HISTORY OF MURRAY TO 1905

(117 pages)

An Abstract of the Thesis of
Clinton R. Hlber

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
For the Degree of
Master of Science

in

The Department of History

LeRoy R. Hafen
J. Keith Melville

Chairman, Advisory Committee
Member, Advisory Committee

Brigham Young University
August 1959
The valley and region in which Murray is located was well known to the trappers and explorers before the Mormon pioneers entered the area. The Escalante expedition visited the general area as early as September of 1776, and left a description of Utah Valley and its inhabitants. While in the Utah Valley, the Indians gave the Spaniards information about the valley to the north and the lake there.

Some fifty years later, the region became well known to the fur trappers of the great fur companies. Peter Skene Ogden, Jedediah Smith, and Provost with their companies of men traversed the region and became well acquainted with it. After the arrival of the first trappers, the area was often visited by white men, either trapping or exploring.

With the Mormons entering the valley, came the settlers who were to make the first settlement at South Cottonwood. Green Flake, a member of the first party of pioneers, is reported to have built a house for James Flake in the area where the Mississippi Saints settled in 1842. This area became known as the Amasa Lyman Survey and was the nucleus from which the South Cottonwood ward grew.

The South Cottonwood ward originally included the whole southeast corner of the Salt Lake Valley. As the population grew
and the area developed, the South Cottonwood Ward was divided into wards encompassing smaller areas.

The bottom lands along the creeks were settled first, leaving the less desirable land for later development. A ward house was built in 1856, and some time later a small village developed on the State Road near Little Cottonwood Creek.

When the railroad system of Utah made mining more practical, the smelting industry began to take shape in South Cottonwood. As early as 1871 the Woodhull brothers built a furnace on the State Road and the Big Cottonwood Creek, and did the first economically successful smelting in the territory.

As the railroads made more ores available, the smelters grew in size and numbers, and gave to South Cottonwood the economic potential which changed it into the city of Murray.

The influx of people into the vicinity of the smelters brought more business opportunities and consequently the size of the community became such that many of its citizens felt that the town should be incorporated into a city. The road to incorporation was not a smooth one; and it took a number of years to achieve the incorporation of Murray as a third-class city.

The schools of Murray developed from the meager beginnings which many frontier schools experienced to districts which boasted two-story brick buildings. The consolidation of school districts in Salt Lake County brought about the incorporation of Murray as a second-class city because of the desire to keep local control of
the schools. To do this a new area was annexed to the city to gain the population required for a second-class incorporation. With this incorporation in 1905, the city continued its growth and development.

Approved:

[Signature]

[Signature]