Early Exploration and Settlement of the Tooele Area, Utah

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EARLY EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT OF
THE TOOELE AREA, UTAH

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

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science in History

by
Thomas Keith Midgley
July, 1953
PREFACE

Investigation of state and local history is one of the most fruitful fields for historical research, particularly in the newer regions of the west.

This thesis has been undertaken in order to make more lucid and available the historical material on and about the early exploration and settlement of the Tooele area in Utah.

Following a discussion of the physical features of this region, a description of the early natives and their habitat will be presented. This will be followed by an examination of the origin and meaning of the name, Tooele.

This work will then deal with the early explorers of this locality and the early settlements. The heart of the thesis is based on the settlers themselves, discussing their early problems, achievements, as well as the early growth and advancement of their communities.

Carl Becker, a noted writer and historian, made the following statement with regard to procuring and recording historical facts:

Left to themselves, the facts do not speak; left to themselves they do not exist, not really, since for all practical purposes there is no fact until some one affirms it. The least the historian can do with any historical fact is to select and affirm it.1

The writer has conscientiously followed this procedure, and has also tried using as source material as many new primary sources as possible—material that has not been available in previous published form, such as diaries, family manuscripts, newspaper articles, letters, reminiscences, as well as personal interviews.

The author wishes to express his appreciation to the librarians of the Brigham Young University, to Alex F. Dunn, Alfred M. Nelson, Carl Eric Lindholm, and many others in Tooele for their outstanding helpfulness and cooperation; also to his dear wife, Elaine M. Midgley, for the typing of the rough drafts, etc.; and last but not least, the writer extends his sincere thanks to his Thesis Committee, Drs. Richard D. Poll, Brigham D. Madsen, and Joics B. Stone, for their encouragement, helpful assistance, and suggestions. Thanks also go to Drs. R. B. Swensen and S. L. Tyler for their part in developing the writer's interest in history.
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Physical features, flora and fauna of Tooele area.--
The area now known as Tooele County is located in the western
central part of the state of Utah between approximately $40^\circ$ and
$41^\circ$ north latitude and $112^\circ$ and $114^\circ$ west longitude. The
Tooele area is bordered on the north by Box Elder County, on
the east by Davis, Salt Lake, and Utah Counties, on the south
by Juab County, and on the west by the state of Nevada.

This region consists mainly of two sections—the habitable eastern third, which includes three main valleys, Tooele,
Rush, and Skull Valleys, and the western two-thirds, which is
primarily desert.

The eastern section is bordered on the north by the
Great Salt Lake and its large adjacent desert areas, on the
east by the thirty mile long range of the Oquirrh Mountains,
on the south by the lofty Tintic and Sheeprock Mountains, and
on the west by the Cedar Mountains.

Dividing this area from north to south through the
middle are the Stansbury Mountains, and lying between these
mountains and the Cedar range to the west is Skull Valley.
East between the Stansbury and the Oquirrh Mountains are
found two other drainage basins known as Tooele and Rush.
Valleys.\(^1\)

Most of the mountains in the area, except for the Cedar Mountains, range from 5,000 to 6,000 feet above the valley floor which is approximately 4,900 feet above sea level in Tooele Valley. The highest point in this area is Bonneville Peak, in the Stansbury Mountains, which rises to approximately 11,000 feet.\(^2\)

These old volcanic hills and granite mountains typify the kind that surround the Great Basin on every side. The strata exhibited most abundantly are limestone, sandstone, and quartzite.\(^3\) Gold, silver, and copper are among the most important of the minerals that were discovered in these mountains in the 1860's.

Due to extensive faulting in the Oquirrh, Cedar and Stansbury Mountains many rocks have been exposed containing marine fossils of the Paleozoic age, which tend to show that this part of the state was covered by the ocean during at least a part of the Paleozoic era.\(^4\) Following this era, this body of water gradually was reduced in size until it formed Lake Bonneville, which covered much of western Utah including

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\(^2\)Ibid.


\(^4\)Ibid.
all of Tooele County except the mountainous sections.

This great lake at its height covered an area of some 19,750 square miles, and at its greatest extent was 346 miles long and about 145 miles wide, with an actual coast line of over 2,550 miles. At the deepest part it was probably 1,050 feet.\footnote{Ibid.} A portion of this lake drained through Red Rock Pass, located in the Idaho sector of what is now Cache Valley, into the Snake River.\footnote{Grove Karl Gilbert, \textit{Lake Bonneville} (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1890), p. 173.}

As the lake gradually dried up within the Great Basin, Great Salt Lake was all that remained, but it is not more than a remnant of the old Lake Bonneville. In some areas this dry lake bed has left salt three to twelve feet deep. This vast, level, glittering expanse of barren alkali extending nearly one hundred miles north and south and approximately seventy-five miles in width became the most dangerous country along the whole of the Overland Trail for emigrant travel.

The original lake has left other marks evident in the sand and gravel bars formed by the action of longshore currents in the old lake. The Stockton Bar at the north end of Rush Valley in Tooele County is the most notable evidence of these constructive forces.\footnote{Utah Writers' Project, \textit{W.P.A., Utah, a Guide to the State} (New York: Hastings House Pub., 1941), p. 17.} This broad, flat topped ridge or divide separates Tooele Valley from Rush Valley.
Probably the main action of the old lake in influencing the lives of the people who later came into the area was its help in forming the narrow belts of alluvial land which lie along the bases of important mountain ranges and at the mouths of once great rivers. If it were not for these areas there would not have been much land that would have been reclaimable. The soil of the Tooele area is not very fertile, most of the land being covered with desert wastes and mountain slopes. Only a small portion of the land is good for agricultural purposes, this being between the gravelly soils of the upper slopes and the dry, alkali soils of the flats. The early agricultural situation in the area certainly was not favorable because of the lack of sufficient water.

A small portion of Great Salt Lake is included in the northeast corner of the Tooele area, and outside of this most of the other bodies of water are seasonal, occurring when gullies or sink holes fill with water from melting snows. There are, however, south of the present location of Wendover some large, warm, slightly alkaline springs which emerge from the foot of a flow of basaltic rock and form several ponds, some as deep as eight feet. These springs were evidently often frequented by the Indians, inasmuch as imperfect arrow points and chipped obsidian flakes were found scattered about in this locality in early days. In the Deep Creek area located within

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8 From personal observations.

9 V. Jorgensen, "Human Geography of Tooele" (Microfilmed copy of typewritten article in Brigham Young University Library, Provo, Utah), p. 4.
the southwest corner of the present county is another important but small spring. There are also several important springs in the Tooele and Skull Valley areas which should be mentioned because of the important part they played in early exploration and settlement. They are the Twin or Adobe Springs and the Old Mill Pond near the mouth of Tooele Valley; the springs at the site of Grantsville; and the springs near Iosepa in Skull Valley. Though there are no streams flowing into the Great Salt Lake from this area, there are these fresh water springs found around its borders. Some of these springs flow a few feet toward the Great Salt Lake, then the waters disappear into the thirsty earth. Whether this area is approached from the east or west, water is equally destitute.

Nearly all of the more prominent canyons in the Tooele area mountains have small streams or creeks, but in early days most of these waters would evaporate or sink into the ground before reaching the parched valley floors. The mountains, not being very lofty in this area, lose their snow very readily during the early spring months, even though they are usually covered with abundant, heavy snows during the winter.

Water plays an all important part in the quantity and type of vegetation which grows in this region. Vegetation, of course, varies in response to rainfall and temperature as well as the depth of ground water. In the higher areas there is usually a good growth of Douglas fir, with a fair stand of spruce, pinon, and yellow pine. In the gulches and canyons there is a considerable amount of scrub oak, aspen, box elder,
and alder. On the lower slopes of the mountains juniper, pinon, and scrub oak are found along with the smaller cliff rose, juice berry, chokecherry, buck bush, service, and elderberry as well as several varieties of mountain mahogany. At still lower altitudes the bulb cactus, sagebrush, and prickly pear can be found as well as match brush, rabbit brush, and shadscales. Along the water courses and on the alluvial deposits, greasewood is quite abundant. In the dryer desert basins, sagebrush, salt sage, and bulb cactus are found along with prickly pear, bunch grass, and salt grass. Grasses were rather plentiful in early times until the grass lands were overgrazed. Sego lily, gilia, pieweed, lupine, and numerous other varieties of flowering plants are found widely distributed throughout this region except in the deserts west of the Cedar Mountains.10

This variety of vegetation supplied foliage and forage for an equally varied wild life. Some of the most common included ground hogs, squirrels, chipmunk, coyotes, wildcats, and various reptiles. The notes of John A. Bevan, an early settler, add to the list:

Speaking of the game that was here, there was [sic] bear, deer, antelope, mountain sheep (I mean this is where the sheep were—in the mountains east of Tooele). The antelope were in the valley and on the foothills. There were sage-hens, grouse, pine hens, mountain hare, jack rabbits, wild geese, and ducks. There was also a gray snipe that was very plentiful in the valley. There were three kinds of bears—the brown or Cinnamon, the small

10 Ibid., p. 6.
black bear and the grizzly.\textsuperscript{11}

There were some elk and wild horses. In addition to the larger birds such as eagles, hawks, crows, pelicans, and cranes, there were also many varieties of small birds, and, of course, there were sea gulls in abundance.

**Indians of the Tooele area.**--It might be assumed that the Indians of this region would be well off inasmuch as they had such an excellent variety of natural resources at their disposal. This, however, does not seem to be the case inasmuch as the majority of the Indians lived under very destitute conditions brought on no doubt by the lack of quantity in the above mentioned resources. The first attestation of this fact was presented by Jedediah S. Smith in 1827 after crossing into the Tooele area from the west:

... when we found water in some of the rocky hills, we most generally found some Indians who appeared the most miserable of the human race, having nothing to subsist on (nor any clothing), except grass seed, grasshoppers, etc.\textsuperscript{12}

Twenty-three years later the condition of these Indians seems to have made little change, as is evident by a notation in Stansbury's journal dated Wednesday, June 12, 1850. Stansbury's party had been rowing along the southern shore of the Great Salt Lake when they saw an old Indian, his squaw,

\textsuperscript{11}John Alexander Bevan, untitled manuscript containing events of the early history of Tooele County, Tooele Carnegie Library, Tooele, Utah (transcribed 1937), p. 13; hereafter this reference will be referred to as Bevan manuscript.

\textsuperscript{12}A. M. Woodbury, "Route of Jedediah Smith in 1826 from the Great Salt Lake to the Colorado River," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, IV (1931), 45.
and papoose standing near the shore. The old Indian was one whom they had befriended the year before in Spring Valley (Skull Valley). The group landed, and the following incident was recorded:

He was an old man, nearly sixty, quite naked, except an old breech-cloth and a tattered pair of moccasins. His wife was in the same condition precisely, minus the moccasins, with a small buckskin strap over her shoulders in the form of a loop, in which, with its little arms clasped around its mother's neck, sat a female child, four or five years old, without any clothing whatever. She was a fine-looking, intelligent little thing, and as plump as a partridge... I gave them something to eat, and, what I suspect was more welcome, a hearty draught of water. The poor child was almost famished. The old man was armed with a bow and a few arrows, with which he was hunting for ground-squirrels.13

This journal entry certainly paints the pitiful condition in which this family was living. Other reports which are available also testify that these early Indians of the Tooele area were living in some of the direst circumstances to be found in the United States at that time.

The Indians in this area had not always lived under the previously described conditions; at least, this is the idea gained from reading the studies of Dr. Julian H. Steward. This noted archaeologist and anthropologist discovered in the early 1930's some projectile points, awls, and scrapers along with some skeletal remains in the Black Rock cave at the northern end of the Oquirrh Mountains near the shore of the lake. This research, as well as finds at several other sites in the Tooele

area, has located material which shows evidence of a culture much higher than that had by the Indians of the middle nineteenth century. This culture would be comparable with that of the late Basket Maker and early Pueblo peoples. Artifacts consisting of bone and stone implements, projectile points, pottery, and signs of corn and squash all tend to show that this area was the home of an agricultural people prior to the coming of a hunting people who also left signs of their occupation. In the caves were found their bows and arrows, moccasins, distinctive pottery, and other characteristic implements distinguishing them from the previous occupants. These hunting peoples were then supplanted by the Shoshoni. At the time when the white man came into this region this was still the home of the Shoshoni, who were locally known as Gosiutes. These Gosiutes in early days were quite secure until warring tribes came into the area and made raids on them. They were gradually driven further back into the desert valleys leaving their fertile hunting grounds. The stronger Indians were killed because of their resistance and warring tendencies until only the weaker of the Indians were left living in the deserts, subsisting on small animals, grass seed, snakes,


grashoppers, and bugs. This was the condition the Indians were in when the white men came into the area.

The origin and meaning of the name Tooele.--The Indians who lived in this area were noted at one time for their fine horses, which they raised in the valleys. In fact, the Navaho Indians would make regular trips to this locality for the purpose of trading their blankets for the horses of the Gosuutes. Captain John H. Ferguson, who first passed this information on, was a Navaho Indian and was acquainted with the traditions of his people. He stated that the Indians in the Tooele area had a chief whom they called Chooele, and it was very possible that the area was named after this chief, eventually being called Tooele instead of Chooele.

Tullidge makes the following statement:

Tooele valley . . . was named Tule, the Indian name for the water flag which grew in considerable quantities along the lake shore; but in the first writing the orthography was changed to Tooele which form has been retained. In the manual Origins of Utah Place Names, this idea is also promulgated.

This explanation seems to be the most accepted theory,

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16Personal interview with Alex F. Dunn, Tooele City, June, 1952. He received this information from Captain John H. Ferguson, a Navaho who had been acquainted with the early Tooele Indians and their traditions.

17Ibid.

18E. W. Tullidge, Northern Utah and Southern Idaho (Salt Lake City: Juvenile Instructor Press, 1889), II, 75.

19Utah Federal Writers' Project, Origins of Utah Place Names (2d ed.; Salt Lake City: Utah State Department of Public Instruction, 1938).
or at least it is the one presented by other historians—
namely, Whitney and Jenson—the precedent probably being set
by Tullidge or Bancroft. In 1893 it was reported that Andrew
Jenson, who was at the time assistant historian for the Church
of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, made inquiries as to the
origin of the name Tooele; and the early settlers seemed to
agree that the name was derived from a corruption of the word
Tule.\(^{20}\)

The following are additional theories as to the origin
of the name Tooele:

\[\ldots\] others have said that another Englishman called
it To illy because of so many hills which, of course, was
not the case as the lay of the land was comparatively
level. Another saying was that still another Englishman
said it's To Willy--that is to say there was too many
willows growing here, which was also not the case.\(^{21}\)

The Orson Pratt story has also been related. Upon see-
ing this valley in 1847, Orson Pratt remarked that it reminded
him of a similar valley in Austria called Mat-Tuglie and hence
named this area after it. This story does not seem possible
inasmuch as Pratt did not visit that region in Austria until
twenty years after the settlement of Tooele was named.\(^{22}\)

In the absence of a definite explanation of the origin
of the name Tooele, the reader may elect that account which
seems to him most plausible. The preponderance of evidence
seems to favor the Tule version.

\(^{20}\)Federal Writers Project, W.P.A., Inventory of the
County Archives of Utah, No. 23, Tooele (Ogden, Utah: The

\(^{21}\)Bevan, op. cit., p. 1.  \(^{22}\)Ibid., p. 2.
CHAPTER II

ERA OF THE TRAPPERS, EXPLORERS, AND PATHFINDERS

Jedediah S. Smith (1827).—Following approximately a year's exploration in search of additional beaver trapping areas through southern Utah and parts of Nevada and California, Jedediah Strong Smith and two companions left California in the spring of 1827 on an eastward trek which was to include the first entry by white men into the Tooele area. The trio commenced their journey with a total of seven horses and two mules, but because of difficulties in crossing the high Sierra Nevadas, most of the animals either died or were killed. Portions of this first west-east crossing of the Great American Desert by white men are recounted in one of Smith's all too few preserved letters:

After traveling 20 days from the East side of Mt. Joseph I struck the S. W. corner of the Great Salt Lake, traveling over a country completely barren and destitute of Game. We frequently traveled without water, sometimes for two days over sandy deserts, where there was no sign of vegetation. . . . When we arrived at the Salt Lake, we had but one horse and one mule remaining, which were so poor that they could scarce carry the little camp equipage which I had along. The balance of my horses I was compelled to eat as they gave out.

In order to reach the Great Salt Lake from the lower

1Woodbury, op. cit., p. 45. 2Ibid.
declivities of the eastern Sierra Nevadas, Jedediah and his two half-starved and scantily dressed companions must have surely passed through the northern Tooele domain and thus became the first white men to drink from the springs in Skull Valley, an important segment of the Tooele territory.

For years after Smith's journey the Piute Indians of Skull Valley repeated the tradition that the first white men they ever saw were three who staggered almost naked in from the western desert and were half crazy from breathing alkali dust.3

Jedediah continued to follow the shore of the lake east then north, and made a rendezvous with an assemblage of his men near what is now Brigham City late in June, 1827.

Jim Clyman (1825).—Although Jedediah and his two companions were the first known white men to have traversed land areas in the Tooele locale, they were preceded, as far as contact with the region is concerned, by Jim Clyman, a trapper, and several associates who circumnavigated the Great Salt Lake in the spring of 1825. Inasmuch as the southwest corner of the lake is contained within the present boundaries of Tooele County, this group became the first white men to enter Tooele area by way of water. Confirmation of this hazardous exploration has been preserved in a solitary, contemporary reference printed in the Missouri Herald, dated November 8, 1826. This story characterized the great lake thusly:

... a most remarkable body of water previously unknown unless from vague accounts ... estimated to be 100

miles long and 60 to 80 wide . . . it had been "coasted last spring by a party of gen. Ashley's men in canoes, who were occupied four and twenty days, in making its circuit."4

Further affirmation concerning the 1825 exploration of the lake came about two decades later. Jim Clyman, while traveling east from California in 1846, was so impressed by the amount the lake had shrunk that he commented in his journal: "... this lake like all the rest of this wide spread Sterility has nearly wasted away one half of its surface since 1825 [sic] when I floated around it in my Bull Boate."5

Captain B. L. E. Bonneville (1832 - 1833).--Following the 1825 and 1827 explorations no excursions into the Tooele region were made until Fremont visited the area in 1843. Before discussing Fremont's undertakings, however, mention should be made of the 1832 expedition of Captain B. L. E. Bonneville inasmuch as the huge Pleistocene lake that once covered most of the Great Basin area carries his name. Although Bonneville never entered the Tooele region, or even Utah, for that matter, his name is geologically known there.

Captain John C. Fremont (1843 - 1845).--Eleven years passed between Bonneville's western journey and Fremont's meticulous expedition of 1843, the first of several trips through the West made by him. As previously mentioned, excurs-


5Ibid., p. 81. Note that this reference gives us the date 1825, whereas the date given in the newspaper was 1826.
sions had been made into the Tooele area, but this was the first time scientific aspects were the motivating force of an exploring company.

Fremont came west as a topographical engineer in the service of the United States. An interesting notation and description of the lake is found in Fremont's journal dated September 6, 1843. This entry was made prior to his India-rubber boat trip to an island in the southern part of the lake, probably within Tooele.

The waters of the inland sea stretched in still and solitary grandeur far beyond the limit of our vision. It was one of the great points of the exploration; and as we looked eagerly over the lake in the first emotions of excited pleasure, I am doubtful if the followers of Balboa felt more enthusiasm when, from the heights of the Andes, they saw for the first time the great Western Ocean. It was certainly a magnificent object, and a noble terminus to this part of our expedition; and to travellers so long shut up among mountain ranges a sudden view over the expanse of silent waters had in it something sublime. Several large islands raised their high rocky heads out of the waves; but whether or not they were timbered was still left to our imagination, as the distance was too great to determine if the dark hues upon them were woodland or naked rock.

As yet no scientist or anyone really interested in geography had visited the lake; its islands had not been trodden; and geographical surveys or instrumental observations in the vicinity had never been made. From this first methodical examination of the lake and surrounding area much pertinent information was obtained for the benefit of later settlers and scientists.

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West of the Great Salt Lake lay a broad, flat, arid, alkali plain, much of which is located within the boundaries of the Tooele region. This desert presented another interesting challenge to Fremont, and he desired to explore it. At the far western edge of the desert, estimated to be sixty miles away, loomed in the purple mist a high peaked mountain; and using this as a guide, the party crossed the expanse and found at its base water, grass, and wood in abundance. This friendly mountain was called Pilot Peak by Fremont, and it became a guide marker for several emigrant parties which were soon to follow.\(^7\)

First emigrant parties through Tooele area (1845 - 1846).--The shorter route to California south of the Great Salt Lake was referred to as the Hastings Cut-off, after Lansford W. Hastings, its discoverer. This adventurous, young, Ohio lawyer had made an overland journey to Oregon in the year 1842; but being dissatisfied there, he had moved on to California where he remained two years. Upon returning to the east in 1844, he published *The Emigrants Guide to Oregon and California* with the hope of luring many to these areas via the shortcut which he had not yet traversed himself.\(^8\)

In August, 1845, he set out from the East for the Pacific coast with nine men, reaching Sutter's Fort on Christmas day. They had moved along rapidly, and the passes had

\(^{7}\text{Ibid.}, pp. 209-210.\)

\(^{8}\text{Morgan, op. cit.}, p. 154.\)
luckily been free from snow. Four months later, on April 23, 1846, Hastings, in company with Jim Clyman and J. M. Hudspeth, started eastward with another company comprised of nineteen men, three women, and two children.9 Some difficulty was encountered in crossing the Sierras; but good time was made while traversing the valley of the Humbolt; and by May 28, the caravan struck out southeasterly across the glittering, salt desert. Camp was made without water, and most of the following day passed before water was finally located at the base of the eastern slope of the Cedar Mountains. Even though it had taken them twenty hours to cross the desert, and they had been without water for thirty hours, Hastings was still gratified because of the outstanding good time they had made. The next stop was at the foot of the Oquirrhrs; then, circling the southern shore of Great Salt Lake, they continued on to Fort Bridger, Wyoming.10 It was here that Hastings started recommending the route to everyone he met.11

The next group that came through the area was the Edwin Bryant - William H. Russell Company of nine men and pack mules guided by Hudspeth, who had travelled eastward with Hastings seven weeks before. Bryant's journal is rich in

9Jim Clyman states that this party then split up in the Humbolt Valley in Nevada, leaving only seven men, one boy, and one woman in the first group. J. Roderic Korns, West from Fort Bridger (Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society, 1951), XIX, 27. (A copy of Jim Clyman's diary is contained in Korns' book, pp. 27-42.)

10Morgan, op. cit., p. 155.

11Federal Writers Project, Utah, a Guide to the State, p. 386.
impressionistic description of their trek through this terrain:

... the unutterable splendor of the sunset, the sur-
face of the lake varying in tint from crimson to a pale
scarlet—an ocean of flame that extended north and south
... its white beaches setting off the color with bril-
liance like freshly falling snow.\textsuperscript{12}

Two camps were made by this company while in the Tooele
area, one at Willow Creek on July 30, the site of Grantsville,
and the other in Skull Valley at Iosepa Springs. They crossed
the Stansbury Mountains in order to reach the springs rather
than circling them.\textsuperscript{13} Continuing on across the dry lake bed,
they record how the mules sank to their knees and sometimes to
their bellies, creating a dense fog around them as they plod-
dingly made their way over the dusty, ashy earth. During the
afternoon a choking, bitter salt storm arose which made breath-
ing difficult and nearly blinded them with the blowing alkali.
This group was seventeen hours in crossing the seventy-five
miles of flat, destitute plain.\textsuperscript{14}

Excerpts from these journeys tend to exemplify the
conditions and travails encountered by these various pathfind-
ing troup in traversing this barren Tooele district.

Approximately nine days after the Bryant-Russell group
had camped in Tooele Valley, another party under the charge of
Hastings entered the valley. This large company, comprised of
fifty-six or fifty-seven wagons, camped the night of August 8

\textsuperscript{12}Morgan, op. cit., p. 163. Bryant's journal in its
entirety can be read in Korns, op. cit., pp. 50-107.

\textsuperscript{13}Ibid., p. 81.

\textsuperscript{14}Morgan, op. cit., pp. 163-166.
near the formation known as Adobe Rock.\textsuperscript{15} During the following two days the company moved around the end of the Stansbury Range and on to the springs at Skull Valley where preparations for the crossing of the salt desert were made.\textsuperscript{16} With the coming of night, they commenced the next segment of their journey.

They traveled throughout the night, stopping only now and then to give the stock a little grass. Dawn revealed around them an illimitable salt plain, white as snow. The stock was showing signs of fatigue, but a little grass and water revived the animals as a cup of coffee and a cold snack revived the immigrants. Hastings encouraged them to think they would reach water by noon. But at noon they seemed to have made no progress at all toward the far peak, and the fierce August sun had lighted the fires of hell upon this plain. As the sun sank in the sky, the oxen began to give out or, crazed by thirst, to run heavily about, unmanageable, until exhaustion dropped them dead upon the salt. All through the afternoon wagons were abandoned. The oxen that could travel were taken out of the yoke and driven along; those that would not stir under any persuasion, not even the whip, had to be left to die.

Sundown relieved them, at least of the unbearable glare. Hourly hoping for water and grass, they kept on going throughout that night, but dawn of the second day came up and still they had not reached the promised spring. Between dawn and noon more oxen were lost than in all the other hours since the crossing began, but at noon water and grass were reached at last—barely in time for their salvation. Forty miles! The desert had been double that. Complete disaster had been very close, and for perhaps five days the immigrants recuperated in camp at Pilot Peak.\textsuperscript{17}

The balance of their journey to California was relatively uneventful; and another safe crossing of this precarious section of the West had been chalked up. The immigrant company

\textsuperscript{15}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 167. \textsuperscript{16}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 171.

\textsuperscript{17}\textit{Ibid.}, pp. 171-172. Heinrich Lienhard, a member of the George Hazlitt party, which was in turn a segment of the larger Hastings company, kept an excellent daily journal, reprinted in Korns, \textit{op. cit.}, pp. 117-175. It contains lucid description and is very readable and interesting.
to follow was not to be as successful; their tragic story was to become one of the most oft-told tales in western history.

The George Donner - James Frazier Reed party had left Fort Bridger in Wyoming only eleven days after Hastings; but because of trouble getting through the mountains, they did not arrive in the Salt Lake Valley until August 29, putting them twenty-three days behind Hastings. Four days later they were in Skull Valley preparing for the two days' and two nights' journey across the barren country before them. Grass was gathered and placed in the wagons for the livestock as the preceding parties had done, and all available vessels were filled with precious, life-giving water. Then at dawn on September 5 the waning company started across the sun-blistered plain. The hardships on the scorching desert were light in comparison to what confronted them in the wintry Sierra Nevadas.18

This immortal congregation reached the intervening Sierra Nevadas too late to push on to California, and thus became snowbound approximately one hundred miles from Sutter's Fort. Many of the group perished because of exposure and starvation; but the others survived by cooking and eating their boots, harnesses, and in some cases the flesh of the dead members of the party.19 Eighty-seven members of the company had moved westward through the Tooele area, but only forty-seven

18Morgan, op. cit., p. 173.

19Federal Writers Project, Utah, a Guide to the State, p. 387.
reached California alive.  

This pathetic record of sacrifice, starvation, and cannibalism discouraged many future attempts to cross this forbidding desert until 1849, when Captain Howard Stansbury arrived in the area, having been sent by the government to survey the Great Salt Lake and surrounding country. Some anxious California gold seekers did cross, however.

An important factor which Hastings probably did not take into consideration when he recommended his cut-off to the immigrant parties was that he made this desert crossing of approximately seventy miles on horseback in about twenty hours; whereas, the slow-moving, oxen-drawn wagons could only make fifteen or twenty miles a day.

**Captain Howard Stansbury (1849 - 1850).--During August, 1849, Stansbury entered the Salt Lake Valley for the purpose of surveying the Great Salt Lake and the adjacent areas, a project which engaged the summer and early fall. Through the winter of 1849-1850 Stansbury stayed in Salt Lake City, but his livestock was pastured in Tooele Valley. In Tooele Valley near a large, singular rock formation, a shelter was constructed. More information about this location is inscribed on a small, bronze plaque placed on the rock by the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.**

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20Morgan, op. cit., p. 174. Utah, a Guide to the State differs with Morgan inasmuch as it states that only forty-four members of the Donner party completed the trip to California.
In 1849 Captain Howard Stansbury of the United States Topographical Engineers built a small adobe house by this rock for his herders, hence the name, Adobe Rock.21 The nearby highway follows the same route as the old pioneer trail used by explorers, trappers, emigrants, and gold seekers. A spring nearby made this a favorite campsite. Tooele County Company.22

One of the first undertakings by Stansbury was an examination of the Great Salt Lake by land. From Salt Lake City he journeyed northward, then counter-clockwise around the lake. About November 2 he reached Skull Valley, which he called "Spring Valley." Moving around the point of the mountains he came into another valley, of which he wrote:

... this valley is called "Tuilla Valley" by the Mormons, and forms an excellent pasturage for numerous herds of cattle, wintered here by them under the charge of keepers. The grass is very abundant and numerous springs are found on both sides of it.23

Continuing on to Salt Lake City, Stansbury's party became the first white men to succeed in making the entire circuit of the lake by land, finishing this portion of their survey Wednesday, November 7.24 The following is a summation of observations made in the region he had just visited:

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21 This small adobe house was supposedly erected immediately east of the large rock, according to Joseph J. Castagno who at present lives near the rock at Twin Springs. Observation of the mounds of adobe seems to substantiate this claim. Personal interview and observations during July, 1952, at Adobe Rock.


23 Stansbury, op. cit., p. 116. Note the early spelling of Tooele during 1849. The range of mountains separating Skull Valley from Tooele Valley still retain Stansbury's name.

24 Ibid.
The examination just completed proves that the whole western shore of the lake is bounded by an immense level plain, consisting of soft mud, frequently traversed by small, meandering rills of salt and sulphurous water, with occasional springs of fresh, all of which sink before reaching the lake. These streams seem to imbue and saturate the whole soil, so as to render it throughout miry and treacherous. For a few months, in midsummer, the sun has sufficient influence to render some portions of the plain, for a short time, dry and hard: in these intervals the travelling over it is excellent; but one heavy shower is sufficient to reconvert the hardened clay into soft, tenacious mud, rendering the passage of teams over it toilsome, and frequently quite hazardous.25

To the newly arrived inhabitants of this region, the information gained by Stansbury was very useful. It is interesting to note, however, that Stansbury did not think much of the area he had just surveyed, as evident from his following comment:

... With the exception of the two valleys lying at the south end of the lake, the country is, as a place of human habitation, entirely worthless. There is, however, one valuable use to which it may and perhaps will be applied: its extent, and perfectly level surface, would furnish a desirable space on which to measure a degree of the meridian.26

Lieutenant E. G. Beckwith (1854).—Following the death of Captain J. W. Gunnison at the hands of the Indians near Utah Lake in October, 1853, his second in command, Lieutenant E. G. Beckwith, took over the project of locating a new route from Salt Lake City to the sink of the Humbolt. This party had been sent by the government to search out possible railroad routes to the Pacific. The path followed by Beckwith was through Skull Valley, then southwest over the Cedar Mountains

25Ibid., pp. 118-119.
26Ibid., p. 119.
through a pass, still called by his name, then across the southern section of the Great Salt Lake Desert. This route was never used by the railroad, but was followed for several years by wagon freighters.

Colonel E. J. Steptoe (1854).—During the fall of the same year, Colonel Steptoe, who had been stationed in Salt Lake City, was transferred to California. He desired to take his force by a route south of the lake, so he hired Oliver and Clark Huntington, brothers from Tooele Valley, to try to find such a route to Carson Valley. A desert route was successfully discovered by this troupe, but it being an extremely dry trek, only a very few pack trains ever attempted it during the following years.

Oliver B. Huntington (1857).—Three years later the same Huntington who acted as a guide for Steptoe was called by Brigham Young in view of his previous experience to go to Carson Valley, Nevada, to bring back a company of men to Salt Lake City. Oliver accepted the calling; and on August 20, 1857, his party left Rush Valley, journeyed southwest through the southern section of Skull Valley, over the remote Cedar Mountains, and on across the silent, lifeless desert.

Some of the experiences during the journey of this persevering pathfinder are certainly worth relating. By August 13 the small group was in a precarious situation. Huntington

27Morgan, op. cit., pp. 258-259.

28An account of this trip to Carson Valley, taken by Steptoe, is found in the Deseret News, December 7, 1854. Written by O. B. Huntington.
records that the men were weak for want of food and water. Two of the group were sent to look for water, and if any was found a smoke signal was to be made. During the interim, Oliver tells how the men became deaf and blind and scarcely able to stand. "All my faculties seemed dried up. All watched for the smoke but could see none. No one could see properly, some could not hear well and some not talk well."

Falling to the ground from his mule because of lack of strength, he lay struggling for breath. Several of the other men had collapsed, also. As soon as Huntington could regain enough strength, he ordered a horse killed so they could drink the blood. The horse was killed, and when a faint cry of "a smoke" came from someone, the operation on the horse was forgotten for the time being.

After refreshing themselves with life-saving water, they regained much strength; then preparations for the seventy mile jaunt facing them were made. The horse meat was all jerked; and while this was being done, Huntington spent his time "cleaning all the small guts, cut them in links about 2 feet long and filled them with water, tied both ends together and in this way took 8 or 10 gallons with us besides all the canteens full."

The portions of O. B. Huntington's diary cited here are among the most impressive, descriptive accounts of the

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290. B. Huntington, Diary, typewritten copy in Brigham Young University, p. 114.

30Ibid.

31Ibid., p. 115.
desert crossing.

**Captain J. H. Simpson (1859).**--A more direct route was needed by the army from Camp Floyd, Utah, to San Francisco. The northern route via the Humbolt River in Nevada was approximately 1,060 miles, whereas the southern route through Las Vegas and Los Angeles was about 1,200 miles. It was believed by Captain J. H. Simpson, who was in Utah, that a new course could be found that would reduce the distance from Camp Floyd to San Francisco to only 800 miles if a passage could be found through to Carson Valley in Nevada.32

This project of exploration was presented to the United States War Department through General Albert S. Johnston, the commanding officer in Utah, and permission was received to send this exploration party forward. On May 2, 1859, Captain Simpson left Camp Floyd with sixty-three men. He moved northward to Meadow Creek which he followed through the Oquirrh Mountains into Rush Valley. Moving west through this valley, he crossed General Johnston's Pass into Skull Valley. By following along the extreme southern portion of this arid region, he found the plain dry enough for a satisfactory wagon road to be established. His route from Skull Valley was southwest, skirting the sombre desert near the Deep Creek Range in the southwest corner of Tooele.33 This proposed road was farther

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33Ibid.
south than previous routes, and proved useful inasmuch as the Pony Express and the Overland Stage later followed it.\textsuperscript{34}

A spring and a small range of mountains almost immediately south of Skull Valley still carry the name of Simpson in memory of these explorations.

\textsuperscript{34}Federal Writers Project, \textit{Utah, a Guide to the State}, p. 388.
CHAPTER III

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF TOOELE VALLEY

Mormon pioneering and exploration.--On July 26, 1847, only two days following the arrival of the Mormon pioneers in the valley of the Great Salt Lake, Joseph Matthews and John Brown crossed the valley to explore the mountains westward, the distance being approximately fifteen miles. Upon returning later that evening they reported that the land along the west side of the valley (the foothills of the Oquirrh Mountains) was of poorer quality than that found on the east side.¹

About nine o'clock in the morning of July 27, a party of sixteen members, including Brigham Young, who had recovered from a case of mountain fever, left camp and moved slowly westward. They passed what they called the Utah Outlet (Jordan River), then moved on to the flat salt beds near the lake. Traveling six miles past the western boundaries of Salt Lake County, they stopped at the shore of the lake and bathed in its saline waters. Continuing westward another four miles, the company reached Tooele Valley, where they turned southward from the lake. This valley was judged to be almost twelve miles across and opening near the south end into a plain or a

¹Journal History of the L.D.S. Church, July 26, 1847, p. 1. MSS history in the L.D.S. Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.
continuation of the same valley (Rush Valley). The group
camped overnight at the place of their noon halt, and returned
the next day to the main assemblage in Salt Lake City.\textsuperscript{2}

From their first observations of Tooele Valley, the
leaders of the church were impressed that the area was too dry
for a suitable location of the Saints; thus, for the time be-
ing, their energies were expended in settling in the immediate
area in which they were located.

The next Mormon exploration party to enter the Tooele
area, of which there is record, was led by Parley P. Pratt
during December, 1847. After exploring Utah Valley, he moved
westward into Cedar Valley, then over the Oquirrh Mountain
Range into Rush Valley. Moving northward, he next entered
Tooele Valley and continued to the southern end of the Great
Salt Lake. The men then turned east, and arrived home on New
Year's Day.\textsuperscript{3}

A year and a half passed with little reference to
Tooele Valley. No doubt the pioneers were well occupied with
tilling the soil and eking out a meager existence.

On July 27, 1849, just two years to the day since the
time that Brigham Young first entered Tooele Valley, he set
out again for the area, traveling in company with Daniel H.
Wells, Charles C. Rich, and approximately a dozen other men.
They visited a cave at the point of the Oquirrh Mountains;

\textsuperscript{2}Ibid., July 27, 1847, p. 1.

\textsuperscript{3}Creer, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 309.
then they bathed in the lake. After supper, they moved around
the mountains into Tooele Valley where they spent the night.
The following day they returned to Salt Lake City.

While in the valley, they had seen an encampment of
Indians a few miles to the west, who moved on when they real-
ized they had been seen. This exploring company described the
valley as being about twenty-five miles long and fifteen miles
wide, with dry grass nearly everywhere. Antelope, cranes,
snipes, gulls, and many mosquitoes abounded in this region.
One of the earliest descriptions of Adobe Rock in Tooele Valley
was also given in this exploration account.\(^4\)

In 1847 and again in 1849 attention had been drawn to
the Tooele region as an excellent area for grazing livestock.
Probably the first person to use the valley for such a purpose
was Captain Howard Stansbury, who soon after his arrival in
Salt Lake Valley in August, 1849, built a small adobe house in
Tooele Valley for the use of his herdsmen.

Sometime during the summer of 1849, John Barnard came
into the valley with a herd of cattle and camped in the adobe
house which had been built by Captain Stansbury's men.\(^5\)

**Establishment of early agricultural settlements.** --Dur-
ing the early Mormon pioneering period the expansion policy of
their enterprising leader, Brigham Young, was vigorously pur-
sued. Every fertile valley was to be colonized. Eventually,


\(^5\)Ibid., p. 2.
nearly every inhabitable valley throughout Utah, many valleys in southern Idaho, and many areas in Arizona, Nevada, California, and other western regions were settled under the direction of this colonizing leader. In many cases Brigham Young selected the strongest and best families to found these infant settlements. It took strong, brave, industrious, persevering men and women to conquer the withered deserts, the extremes of climate, the unpredictable Indians, and the wild animals. 6

With the realization of the worth of Tooele Valley, plans were initiated for its settlement. The most authentic information as to the original settlers of Tooele Valley seems to be that published in 1902-1903 by The Tooele Transcript. Some of this early history was supplied to the newspaper by Frank X. Lougy who had accompanied Phineas R. Wright, his stepfather, to Tooele in the fall of 1849. 7

Based on the Lougy report, the first three families in


7The Tooele Transcript, February 20, 1903. A series of articles about early Tooele history were published during the latter part of 1902 continuing into 1903 in the local weekly Tooele newspaper.

In addition to the series of newspaper articles, mention should be made of some of the other sources used in obtaining information as to the settlement of Tooele Valley. The Bevan, Jenson, and Lindholm manuscripts have been used as a primary source of information. The DeLaMare, Lougy, Shields, England, and Lee histories, just to mention a few, are rather short, sketchy, and fragmentary; however, they did contain much pertinent material. Copies of most of these short family histories are available at The Tooele Transcript office inasmuch as the editor, A. F. Dunn, instigated the compiling of said material. Where factual differences arise, both sources will be cited.
Tooele Valley were Judson Tolman, his wife, and one child; Josiah Call, his wife, and one child; and Samuel Mecham with his wife. These families came together; and after exploring the valley decided to settle on a small stream at the mouth of a canyon, since then known as Settlement Canyon, located a short distance to the south from the present site of the city of Tooele. They are said to have arrived in mid-September. The Daughters of the Utah Pioneers' monument which is near this spot gives the date of arrival as September 2 and also lists several other families (among whom was John Rowberry) who were supposed to have been among the first group to arrive in the valley. This information is thought to be partially inaccurate, according to the Lougy record of these early events.

After doing some preparatory work for a settlement, these three families returned to Salt Lake City for the October General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Following this conference and their return to Tooele Valley, their number was augmented by the arrival of Cyrus Tolman, his wife and two children, and a younger brother of Cyrus and Judson, Benjamin Tolman.

Cyrus had volunteered to bring a load of saw and shingle timber to Brigham Young from Tooele. Upon the fulfillment of this promise, President Young probably realized the potential of the Tooele canyons as sources of building material. Thus,

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8Ibid.

9The Tooele Transcript, January 16, 1903.
a meeting was called on November 24, 1849, and the following
men were granted the right to the saw and building timber in
the canyons adjacent to the settlement: Anson Call, Josiah
Call, and Judson Tolman, under the direction of Ezra T. Benson.
A mill was to be built on Settlement Canyon Creek, and the
lumber was to be sold for twenty dollars per thousand feet.10

A mill was commenced at Settlement Canyon, but shortly
abandoned inasmuch as the flow of water proved insufficient.
At this time Phineas R. Wright, by reputation a good millwright,
arrived in Tooele with his wife and stepson along with Orson
Bravett, his wife and five children. Wright was employed to
build a new mill at Twin Springs near Adobe Rock.11

At first this location was known as Richville, then
later by various names: the Mill, Milltown, Milton, Millvale,
Mills, and finally Mills Junction.12 This settlement was con-
temporary in its development with Tooele City, but it never
became a major town. During 1856 Richville was the county seat,
but it proved an inadequate location, and the county seat was
moved back to Tooele City.

It was not until December 21, 1849, that John Rowberry,
his wife, and five children, and Robert Skelton arrived in
Tooele Valley. These new arrivals had been employed by Ezra T.

10Journal History of the L.D.S. Church, November 24,
1849.

11The Tooele Transcript, January 23, 1903.

12Federal Writers Project, Inventory of the County
Archives of Utah, No. 23, Tooele, p. 82.
Benson to winter some of his stock in the valley.\textsuperscript{13}

Most of the families who located along Settlement Creek had their homes or shelters constructed by Christmas time. They consisted of six or seven log rooms joined together in a row located on the northeast bank of the creek. The houses were floored with puncheon (split logs), and the large, common roof was made of puncheon also. Altogether, about twelve families were living in Tooele Valley during the winter of 1849 - 1850.\textsuperscript{14}

It was probably during the next spring that John Rowberry built his home. His house was constructed of cottonwood logs and was located a short distance west of the original village.\textsuperscript{15} Not only did the Rowberrys have one of the first individual homes, but they also had the first child born in the settlement. They named the little girl Permelia.\textsuperscript{16}

John Rowberry had another distinctive honor coming to him. According to E. W. Lougy:

Bishop John Rowberry was the first presiding officer in Tooele, he was certainly the right kind of a bishop for those early pioneer years. We attended our first meeting in Tooele in Bishop Rowberry's log cabin. He was respected and beloved by all his flock. He wielded an influence for good spiritually and temporally.\textsuperscript{17}

\textsuperscript{13}Kate B. Carter (comp.), Heart Throbs of the West (Salt Lake City: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1941), III, 283.
\textsuperscript{14}Ibid.
\textsuperscript{15}Ibid.
\textsuperscript{16}"History of Moroni England," compiled by Alex F. Dunn. Copy found in The Tooele Transcript Office.
\textsuperscript{17}"History of Edward Warburton Lougy and Mary Ann Maughan," compiled by Alex F. Dunn. Copy found in The Tooele Transcript Office.
This is certainly a fine tribute to this early community leader. He was appointed to the office of bishop on April 24, 1850, when Ezra T. Benson, an early apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, visited the settlement and established a branch of the church. Rowberry's two counselors were Phineas R. Wright and Judson Tolman. This first formal organization was of a religious nature, but according to the social thinking of this Mormon settlement, these men became the community's temporal leaders, also.

For the next year this was the only organization that existed in the area for the governing of the people. During this period, the people were too preoccupied with breaking virgin soil, erecting homes, and establishing their settlement to think of a political organization.

New immigrants coming into this region continued to swell the ranks of the settlement. During late spring and summer of 1850, the following people came into Tooele Valley:

- . . Benjamin Clegg and family; Ezaias Edwards and family; Thomas Atkin and family; Francis Gunnell without family; W. T. Silcox and family; Thomas Heath, unmarried; George W. Bryon and family; Henry Jackson and family; Thomas Lee and family; Mrs. Gribble, mother of Eli B. Kelsey; Peter Maughan and family; Wilson Lund and family; Joseph Robinson and family; and Joseph Boyington and family.

Alfred Lee and James Broffit are also included in the listing of the 1850 pioneers as given by Tullidge.

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18 Bevan, op. cit., p. 3.

19 The Tooele Transcript, February 13, 1903.

20 Tullidge, op. cit., pp. 94-95.
With the arrival of all these new families, there was some concern for a period among the settlers that Tooele might become overcrowded inasmuch as the existing water supply from the canyons was believed to be able to irrigate only three hundred acres effectively. The government census of 1850 proved that this fear was unsound.

From this source some good, basic information is gained with regard to the population, the acreage under cultivation, and the quantity of crops produced by these early settlements in the Tooele area as a whole. The information in the census was listed under "Tooele County" inasmuch as this region had been set apart as such during the meeting of the territorial legislature in January, 1850. At the time of this first census in the area, there were 152 people living in the valley—86 males and 66 females. Of these, 98 had been born in the United States. There were 33 families in the valley with the same number of dwellings. No school, as such, existed even though there were 55 children between the ages of five to twenty years.

21The Tooele Transcript, February 20, 1903.
22"Tuilla Valley shall be a county, called Tuilla county, having one precinct, unless otherwise ordered by the County Court. The inhabitants may organize said county and locate the county seat wherever they see proper." Ordinances of the State of Deseret, 1850, p. 30, Sec. 14.
23O. F. Whitney, History of Utah (Salt Lake City: George Q. Cannon & Sons Co., 1892), I, 457. Whitney states that only 142 were in the valley in 1850.
Twenty-seven farms occupied the 352 acres of improved land. Improved land was that which was cultivated in some way. The settlers were also using another 197 acres of unimproved land, probably for their livestock. Eleven horses or mules, 180 cattle, and four swine were in the valley. There were no sheep at that time.25

The crops and produce acquired during the first year were not bounteous, but they did show a potential of a greater future production. Wheat was the prominent crop with 730 bushels harvested, also 3 bushels of rye and oats, 36 of Indian corn, 19 of buckwheat, and 335 bushels of potatoes were produced. There were no beans, peas, or barley grown during this first year in bushel quantities. Mention should be made that 25 tons of hay were raised, and 740 pounds of butter and cheese were marketed.26

As previously mentioned, these statistics were for the whole Tooele Valley, and not just the city of Tooele, although the majority of these items did pertain to the center colony.

To the east of Tooele City three miles, near Pine Creek, a few families settled for a short period during 1850; but little growth in the size of the community took place until 1860, which is the date referred to by several early settlers as the true beginning of Pine Canyon.

Contemporary in growth with these locations was the establishment of another town twelve miles northwest of the

25 Ibid. 26 Ibid.
first city in the valley. This colonizing venture was the most successful outside of Tooele City. The location of Grantsville is referred to by most of the earliest travelers through the Tooele area as Twenty Wells. To the Mormons this desert oasis was known for several years as Willow Creek.  

James McBride and Harrison Savere were the first permanent settlers to build a cabin at Willow Creek, just west of the present location of the town. This occurred in October, 1850, but because of the hostile Indians, the men decided to move to Pine Canyon, where they lived until the latter part of 1851. McBride and Savere were accompanied by six other families when they returned to Willow Creek. The heads of these new families included James Wrathall, Thomas Watson, James Davenport, Perry Durfee, and a Mr. Davis. These settlers constructed their first homes close together in the shape of a fort for protection. During the same year they set out a town-site which was surveyed by the visiting territorial surveyor, Jesse W. Fox. The first community leader was a new arrival, Benjamin Baker, who was appointed president of their local branch of the church. He was succeeded in 1852 by Thomas H. Clark, who was set apart as the first bishop by Ezra T. Benson.  

It was not until 1853 that the settlement adopted the name Grantsville, in honor of George D. Grant. This important Utah militia officer had been sent by Brigham Young to protect

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27 Federal Writers Project, Inventory of the County Archives of Utah, No. 23, Tooele, p. 32.

28 Ibid., p. 17.
this colony until it grew sufficiently strong to defend itself.\textsuperscript{29} The local residents were, no doubt, so impressed that they named their community after him.

While Grantsville was rooting itself, Tooele was ever growing with new arrivals. New problems were developing, also, the foremost being the Indians, who began running off livestock.\textsuperscript{30} Partly because of this, as well as the desire for increased personal protection, they commenced building a fort. It was enclosed on three sides by joining the log houses of the settlers together, and on the fourth side a corral was constructed in which the animals were placed at night.\textsuperscript{31}

In order to guard the fort and its inhabitants, every able bodied man in the settlement was required to enroll in the local military organization. The Lougy History gives this information: "The Tooele Militia was under Mayor John Rowberry and Captain Phineas R. Wright, and we had our regular days for drilling and inspection of arms."\textsuperscript{32}

The log school house which had been built the previous year, 1851, was moved to the center of the fort. It must have presented quite a task to those early pioneers inasmuch as it was twenty-four feet square. During those early years this

\begin{footnotesize}
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\item \textsuperscript{29}\textit{Ibid.}
\item \textsuperscript{30}Bevan, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 4.
\item \textsuperscript{31}"History of Edward Warburton Lougy and Mary Ann Maughan." The fort was, no doubt, built by adding cabins to the existing string of shelters which had been built during the fall of the previous year.
\item \textsuperscript{32}\textit{Ibid.} Note that Rowberry was referred to as their mayor. Wright had previously been a member of the Mormon Battalion.
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
building was also used as a place for all other public meetings and gatherings including many socials and dances.33

Garden lots were assigned just west of the fort, and larger segments of farming land were located northwest and southwest, most of it along the banks of the creek. The culinary water was obtained from the creek below the settlement.34 These outside garden areas were necessary inasmuch as the fort enclosed only about three acres, including the corrals to the north.35

As more people came, the settlement gradually began extending down the southeast side of the creek; thus, it received the sobriquet of String Town. Some of the early crops grown along this stream were wheat, corn, squash, beans, watermelon, and rather poor potatoes.36

In this first settlement along the creek, there had existed no definite city pattern. A brief descriptive picture of this settlement was given by Phillip F. DeLaMare, one of the several pioneers who arrived in Tooele during the spring of 1853:

Roads were running in various directions and trails from one house to the other. There was sagebrush everywhere and no trees to be seen. The hot sun of the long summer days beat down on the humble little log cabins making them very uncomfortable to live in.37

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33 Ibid. 34 Bevan, op. cit., pp. 6-7.
35 Ibid. 36 Ibid., p. 4.
37 "History of Phillip Francis DeLaMare," compiled and written by Isabel DeLaMare and Persie DeLaMare. Copy found in The Tooele Transcript Office.
There was to be, however, systematic planning in a new location which had also been surveyed by Jesse Fox in 1851. This new city plat was located a half a mile north of Settlement Creek, but it was not until after the planting season that a general move was made to this townsite, the present location of the city of Tooele.38

The move of 1853 was made because of two main reasons. First, the fort and other cabins along the creek were too close to what they called One O'Clock Mountain, off from which the Indians could easily descend upon the colony very rapidly. The second reason was the rapid growth of the community which caused the overcrowding and stringing out of the original location; thus, a more compact settlement was desirable.

The original town plat was almost one hundred rods east and west by two hundred rods north and south. This plot was divided into four equal blocks, each of which was divided into building lots twenty rods long east and west by five rods north and south.39 The street that divided the blocks north and south was Main Street, and the one bisecting the blocks east and west was Vine Street.40 A three rod lane existed between the lots facing Main Street, and those lots that faced on East

38"History of Edward Warburton Lougy and Mary Ann Maughan."

39Bevan, op. cit., p. 4.

40Carl E. Lindholm, a collection of manuscript histories and documents. Copy in Brigham Young University Library. See map of early Tooele. Information for this map of Tooele gathered by Carl E. Lindholm from Eliza R. Nelson, an old resident of Tooele, February 8, 1940. At the time Mrs. Nelson was approaching the age of 88.
and West Streets. This lane ran from North Street to South Street through these four blocks. They existed for the purpose of letting the families have access to the back end of their lot where their corrals and stockyards were located.  

In order to determine the ownership of these home plots in this new town, lots were cast; and in cases where a family was entitled to two or more measures of ground, the father and sons drew for lots adjoining each other.

These streets and lanes of the town were laid out by Samuel Frances Lee with a plow. He had the reputation of being the straightest plowman in Tooele, so using the North Star as a compass, and a flag in the hand of John C. Shields as a guide, he made the furrows. The present streets of Tooele City which abide by those original plow marks are a testimony to his ability.

In addition to these straight streets the town fathers desired that every family should help to improve the community by erecting improved homes on its lot, planting trees, and constructing good fences.

During this year, 1853, Tooele City was incorporated, with William C. Collaher as the first mayor. All other offices were filled by the election or by appointment.

By 1853 the

41 Bevan, op. cit., p. 4.  42 Ibid.

43 "History of Samuel White Lee," compiled by Alex F. Dunn, February 15, 1936. Copy at The Tooele Transcript Office.

44 For the text of the Act incorporating Tooele City, see Appendix I.

45 Bevan, op. cit., p. 5.
permanent site of Tooele City had been established; and its growth and government were moving along in a positive, progressive direction.

With a continued influx of immigrants, several other adjacent areas in the valley were permanently settled.

During 1852 the settlement of Batesville was established four miles north of Tooele by Ormus E. Bates. Later the settlement became known as Erda, so named in honor of a town in France that was familiar to Peter A. Droubay, another of the early settlers. Bevan presents evidence that this location may have been known at an earlier date by the name of Camp Stansbury.

In 1854 travel between Tooele and Salt Lake City was becoming more prevalent; and because of this and other reasons, a settlement was desirable at the point of the Oquirrh Mountains as an overnight stopping point inasmuch as this location was approximately half-way between these two cities.

This location was known as E. T. in honor of Ezra Taft Benson, an early Apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who was an influential leader in Tooele. The name E.T. lasted for many years, but then was changed to Lake Point because of its position overlooking the lake.

46 Federal Writers Project, Inventory of the County Archives of Utah, No. 23, Tooele, p. 35.
47 Bevan, op. cit., p. 15.
48 Federal Writers Project, Inventory of the County Archives of Utah, No. 23, Tooele, p. 35.
Among the early pioneers of this small town were Peter Maughan, G. W. Bryan, George Baker, and a Mr. Leavitt.49

The reestablishment of Pine Canyon, which was destined to become the third largest settlement in Tooele Valley, did not take place until 1860 when cuts were drawn by the people of Tooele City to see who would move to this area. Orson Pratt and George Marshall were two of the pioneers that were chosen, according to one source,50 but the Shield's History does not mention these two in its listing of the pioneers. "... the loss fell on Archie C. and Robert G. Shields, Adam B. and John B. Smith and Moses M. Martin."51

This move to Pine Canyon was brought about by the lack of cultivable lands in Tooele City at the time. For the first few years the "exiles" spent the summers in the new location and wintered in Tooele City; but soon permanent homes were constructed; and they remained in Pine Canyon.52 One-third of the water from Middle Canyon was awarded the colony; thus, it continued to grow this time into a fine agricultural community. This community was also known by two other names, Lincoln and Lake View. All three names continue to the present time.


50Ibid.


52Ibid.
The settlers within this valley were confronted by many trials and hardships during their early, persistent endeavors to reclaim this long arid region. Some of these early facets of pioneer life will be discussed in the following chapter.
CHAPTER IV

LIFE IN EARLY TOOELE VALLEY

Indian trouble.--The Gosiute Indians of the Tooele area resented the seizure of their native lands by these pioneers who moved in, monopolized the water, and proceeded to kill off the wild game. The grazing livestock also reduced the natural food supply by consuming seeds, roots, and herbs; thus, the Gosiutes were faced with near starvation.

With this prevailing condition among the Indians, one can better understand the persistent, aggravating raids on the settlers, and when opportunity presented itself, the pilfering of stock. As these thefts continued, the settlers built the previously mentioned fort on Settlement Creek; but the raids persisted, so the move to the more advantageous location in the valley was undertaken. ¹

Indian raids during the first three years cost the settlers of Tooele an estimated five thousand dollars in cattle and horses destroyed or stolen. ²

¹For general conditions during the spring of 1852 see John Rowberry's report, Appendix III. For later information about the harvest of 1852, the Indians, stock raising possibilities, etc., see John Rowberry's report in Appendix IV.

²"Sixth General Epistle by the First Presidency of the Mormon Church," Millennial Star, XIV, 19.
The first record of a white man being killed by an Indian was that of a Mr. Custer, a member of an emigrant party which passed through Tooele Valley en route to California in 1851. The Indians had stolen some of the party's horses, and in trying to recover them, Custer was shot and killed. He supposedly was the first person buried in the old Tooele cemetery at the mouth of Settlement Canyon.\(^3\) The horses were later recovered, with five Indians being killed in the process.

Shortly after this episode, about one hundred cattle were taken from Charles White, who had them near his home at Black Rock. They were driven by the Indians past the site of Grantsville and into Skull Valley. The Indians being too numerous for the fourteen man posse, which initially pursued them, additional help was summoned from Salt Lake City and Tooele, bringing the total to approximately sixty-five men. After some trouble, they converged upon the thieves in Skull Valley and killed nine of them before they could escape to the mountains. This period of retribution was known as the Tooele War.\(^4\)

Several other skirmishes with the Indians occurred during the ensuing fifteen years or so, but with the absence of such sanguinary tactics.

These depredations were a chief cause for the building of the wall about the new valley settlement. Another cause

\(^3\)Bevan, op. cit., p. 4.

\(^4\)Heart Throbs of the West, III, 468-469.
was the admonition received by the settlers from Brigham Young, who instructed all the settlements to live in forts where they could protect themselves much better than if they were out in the open. Jacob Hamblin, the local Indian agent, and the other settlers in Tooele had at first tried to depend on Young's Indian policy of appealing to the natives with the motives of love, justice, goodness, industry, learning, religion, and a desire for progress, but now they were told to follow Oliver Cromwell's advice and keep their powder dry even though they trusted in the Lord.

Upon receipt of these instructions, work was commenced on a fort wall which was planned to encompass the settlement. Construction started during the summer of 1854 and continued until 1855, with every able bodied man required to do his share of work. As previously mentioned, Tooele City consisted at this time of only four blocks; this mud wall eventually went nearly all the way around it.

The wall was about nine feet high, nearly two and one-half feet thick at the base, and twelve to eighteen inches thick at the top. As soon as a stretch of ground had been soaked with water, a plow marked out the location of that sec-

5 For an example of this Indian policy in practice see the report of Jacob Hamblin in Appendix II.


7 Lindholm Manuscript Collection, map showing location of wall. For a report by Lysander Gee on the progress of the wall and general conditions of the settlement during the winter of 1854-1855, see Appendix V.
tion of the wall. Forms were then set up, and the wet soil was shoveled in between the planks by men from both sides\(^8\) while one man pounded the dirt down within the form. Straw was placed intermittently in the soil so it would be less likely to crack in drying. As each pair of planks was filled and tamped, more planks were placed on top, and the process continued until the top of that portion of wall was completed. When each section was finished, the wooden pins, which had been used to hold the planks in the frame together, were withdrawn from the wall leaving approximately a two-inch porthole through the wall. The planks were then moved to another location, the frame set up again; and in this way the wall was built section by section. Each section was about sixteen feet long.\(^9\)

On the southeast and southwest corners of the wall were sixteen-foot square rooms or bastions. Ten men could be accommodated within each of these two enclosures, from which an excellent view of the whole wall could be obtained; and if need be, guns could be fired through the portholes.\(^10\)

The tools these pioneers worked with were crude. They had no long-handled shovels, but instead an inferior, short-

\(^8\)"Biography of Peter M. Clegg," The Transcript Bulletin, Tooele, Utah, May 22, 1945, pp. 1-2. The Clegg biography mentions that the dirt to make the wall was removed from just the outside foundation, which left a deep ravine, making the wall about two feet higher from the outside than from within.

\(^9\)Bevan, op. cit., pp. 6-7.

\(^10\)Ibid., p. 7.
handled common spade; so when working on the upper part of the wall, a scaffold had to be erected, and the dirt had to be handled the second time. The supervisor of the building of the wall was Thomas Lee.\textsuperscript{11}

There were three large gates leading out of the settlement. The eastern exit was called the Kelsey Gate and led out toward Middle Canyon. Another gate opened toward Settlement Canyon; and the third opened into the big cultivated field to the west, adjacent to the cedars which filled most of the center of the valley.\textsuperscript{12} Occasion never arose to use the wall for defense against the Indians. Probably because of this reason the northwest section of the wall was never completed.

The growing power of the white man gradually triumphed over the Indians, chiefly because of the lack of organization and adequate weapons among the natives. With the pacification of the Gosiutes, a reservation was established in later years in Skull Valley, and the remnant of the Tooele Indians resided there.\textsuperscript{13}

\textbf{Time of famine.--}Because of the absence of the wall in the northwest section of the city, gardening areas were allotted there; and farther out large sections of land were fenced

\textsuperscript{11}\textit{Ibid.} For a report by A. C. Brower on the construction of the fort wall in Grantsville, crops, Indians, etc., see Appendix VI. For Daughters of Utah Pioneers Monument marker near site of old fort in Grantsville, see same Appendix.

\textsuperscript{12}\textit{Ibid.}

\textsuperscript{13}\textit{Federal Writers Project, Inventory of the County Archives of Utah, No. 23, Tooele, p. 82.}
consisting of several hundred acres. These cultivated lands became the pioneers' next battlefield, and the new enemies were scourges of crickets and grasshoppers.

The difficult formative years from 1854 to the early 1860's proved to be the years of struggle with the flying and crawling hordes of insects.¹⁴ With their arrival, it seemed as though the struggling pioneers were doomed to starvation. The crickets covered the ground, singing as they hopped along, eating everything in their path. They reduced the diet of many valley residents for periods of time to sego lily bulbs cooked in milk. What meager rations were left were divided in true pioneer fashion, and although much was lacking, all equally existed.¹⁵

The crickets were the more numerous of the two pests, and inasmuch as they did not fly, they proved to be the most destructive. They seemed to come from the mountains and the foothills, and then gradually move in a southwesterly direction as the grasshoppers also did. When they came upon a field of young grain, it was consumed in a day. These crickets were about as large as a man's thumb and were either black or dark brown. They had four legs and two rather large hoppers with which they could move along quite rapidly.¹⁶ The grasshoppers were not as large as the crickets, but the damage wrought by them was also heavy. At times the grasshoppers would hatch in

¹⁴Bevan, op. cit., pp. 8, 30.
¹⁵"History of John Gillespie Shields."
¹⁶Bevan, op. cit., p. 30.
Tooele Valley, and as the first green shoots would appear, the hordes would move from field to field devouring the crops. As they grew larger and were able to fly, they took to the air, and sometimes darkened the sun. When they settled down on a patch of vegetation, they cleaned it off as if the area had been swept by fire.\textsuperscript{17}

The people tried to destroy these insects by several methods. Trenches were dug, and the settlers drove the crickets or grasshoppers into them, and then set the insects on fire with straw. Others were drowned by driving them into streams of water; and still others were killed by beating them with sticks, brooms, and spades. All these methods proved inadequate, and in the words of Bevan, "... if it had not been for the Sea Gulls coming to our rescue, we would have surely perished."\textsuperscript{18}

In the morning as it became light a few sea gulls could be observed coming from the lake. These gulls seemed to act as scouts in locating the crickets or grasshoppers; then they would disappear until sunrise, at which time thousands of sea gulls would come flying into the valley in "V" formation straight to the place selected by the previous scouts. They would then form a line, usually east and west, about forty rods long and three rods wide, and then start moving, generally in a southerly direction. The gulls in the rear of the line

\textsuperscript{17}Ibid.

\textsuperscript{18}Ibid. The J. G. Shields and H. S. Gowans Histories also testify of these happenings.
would fly into the front, and those in the front would gradually work to the back. When they had covered a strip of ground, it would be swept clean of crickets.

When the gulls were as full as possible, they would take to the air; but instead of returning to the lake they would fly to nearby streams of water, drink, and disgorge the dead insects on the bank of the stream; and then return to the flock and gorge themselves again. This process would continue all day until near sundown when the sea gulls would return to their islands, but the following day, they would return again to renew their battle.\(^{19}\)

Bevan presents the idea that these birds did not eat these crickets just to satisfy their hunger \(\ldots\) but it seemed to be their object to exterminate the pests which they did and saved the lives of the Pioneers from starvation.\(^{20}\) Several times these plagues reappeared during the next few years, but each time the sea gulls came to the rescue.

During these years of hardship and famine brought on not only by these insects, but also by droughts, the pioneers had to subsist on pigweed, wild roots, and early vegetables almost entirely. In the fall their diets were augmented somewhat by the meager harvests.

The Isgreen history\(^{21}\) relates that their family was without flour for as long as six weeks, and at one time their

\(^{19}\)Ibid., p. 31. \(^{20}\)Ibid. \(^{21}\)"History of William Charles Isgreen and Ida Lindsay Isgreen," compiled by Alex F. Dunn, January 8, 1936. Copy in The Tooele Transcript Office, Tooele, Utah.
entire diet for three days consisted only of carrots. Not many families could afford flour inasmuch as it was selling for twenty-five dollars per hundred pounds.\textsuperscript{22}

In the spring of 1855 during a particularly trying period, a strange act of providence occurred which was of great assistance to the pioneers. It was recorded by Bevan that the Lord sent them a type of manna from heaven as He had done to the children of Israel anciently.\textsuperscript{23} The pioneers went at break of day with a cup and spoon to gather this type of food from the leaves of the birch willows and other vegetation along the creek between Settlement Canyon and the fields. This material was almost like honey and had to be gathered before the sun came up or it would evaporate. Many of the pioneers attributed the saving of their lives to this happening. There seems to be no record of such a thing occurring before that period or since.\textsuperscript{24}

In the fall of 1855 several men who had accompanied Colonel Steptoe to California returned to Tooele Valley, bringing large quantities of sorely needed supplies. One man acquired twelve thousand dollars' worth of supplies during the eighteen months he had been gone. Upon his arrival in the valley many of these provisions were distributed among his

\textsuperscript{22}Ibid. The "History of Philip Francis DeLaMare" reports that wheat and flour hauled from Salt Lake City to Wyoming brought as much as five dollars a bushel and forty-five dollars per hundred.

\textsuperscript{23}Both the Bevan manuscript and the "History of Philip Francis DeLaMare" affirm this event.

\textsuperscript{24}"History of Philip Francis DeLaMare."
almost famished neighbors.\textsuperscript{25}

Because of these unexpected arrivals of food stuffs, acts of God, and the aid received from the sea gulls, these pioneers' settlements somehow continued to grow during these years of famine, even though privation was always present.

General economic, political, and social growth.---These early communities in Tooele Valley depended almost entirely on products from the soil. Life flowed into the valley in the form of several fine streams of water. Pine, Middle, and Settlement Creeks, flowing from the Oquirrh Mountains, supplied the towns of Pine Canyon, Erda, and Tooele; while Grantsville, farther to the northwest, received its water from North and South Willow Creeks which had their source in the Stansbury Range.

With the enlargement of the irrigation systems within the valley, the settlements also grew. This growth in turn brought about more specialization in the valley economy, with increased demands for the services of teachers, millers, bakers, tanners, shoemakers, tailors, political, and religious leaders, etc.

References to men who first filled some of these local positions or contributed to the economic, political, or social welfare of the valley can be found in a few of the family histories.

Eli B. Kelsey, a pioneer of 1852, was responsible for

\textsuperscript{25}Ibid.
developing the first local orchard from seeds which he had carefully brought from his native home in England. This nursery and orchard eventually consisted of nearly fifty acres and included a grape vineyard of ten different varieties; apple trees, many of them bearing; bearing peach trees; several hundred apricot trees; many plum trees; hundreds of currant bushes which were native to the Green River Mountains; and a nursery of twenty thousand trees of various kinds. This pioneer also raised beet, carrot, and onion seed, and even developed one of the first flocks of sheep in the region.26

Several other men worked with the development of fruit and other trees, but probably the best known, next to Kelsey, was John Adams who was admired for his work in grafting and budding. He introduced or established in the valley many almond, hazel, walnut, plum, apricot, peach, and cherry trees, also peanuts, berries of many kinds, and grapes. Several of these plants and trees were his own strains.27

These orchards, of course, took many years to develop, but the initial planting took place during those first years in the large fields outside the early walled city of Tooele.

Most of the irrigated fields were split into ten acre farms which were about all one man could handle with primitive methods and homemade tools. Shares on the homemade plows were made by the blacksmith from old wagon tires; but they never

26 Bevan, op. cit., pp. 32, 37.

27 Ibid.
worked too well as they would not scour or turn over the soil, and were extremely hard to pull. The cradles for wheat and oats were handmade, as were the rakes and pitchforks. With these methods, production of crops never exceeded the demand.

Thrashing was first done with a hand flail, and later horses were used. When there was not a breeze, a fanning mill was operated by hand to blow away the chaff. The first horse-power thrasher was built by Thomas Lee. A humorous side-light is found in the Shield's history with regard to thrashing procedures:

... later Andrew Galloway bought a wind mill affair, an invention for the cleaning of grain without natural wind. At the arrival of this wonder machine the pioneers felt that the millennium was close and that mechanical thrashing had reached perfection.

The production or harvesting of hay during those early periods was likewise a slow, tedious task. In addition to the wild grass, which grew along the shore of the Great Salt Lake in the marshes, the livestock existed on wheat straw or corn fodder. During those early summers arrangements were made among the men to cut and share the grass northeast of Grantsville. It took almost a whole day of working in the shallow, salty, mosquito-infested marshes for a man to cut a wagon load of grass. Though this so-called hay was of poor quality, it was all that was available for the feeding of the stock during the winters. During most of the year the large herds of

28 Ibid., p. 10.  
29 Ibid.  
30 "History of John Gillespie Shields."  
cattle and wild horses roamed freely throughout the valley, and were usually gathered together only once a year during the spring round-up. At this time branding and numbering of the stock would take place.\textsuperscript{32}

At the time the pioneers first entered the valley, it presented an inviting sight to stockmen:

\ldots a waving mass of grass three to four feet high, extending from Stockton Pass to the Lake Shore. Antelope and deer had their habitat throughout the valley, which was an ideal feeding ground for this wild life, and no winter feeding was necessary for domestic stock.\textsuperscript{33}

With little or no conservation program, the settlers had soon depleted the natural pasturage; thus, the marsh grasses of the lake became the most abundant source of feed. The practice of allotting sections of this grass to each man for harvesting continued until the people began to raise lucerne near the year 1865. Lucerne was not introduced into the valley until 1863 when a man named James James first brought some seed from California.

Another of the early industries which aided the home economy was the manufacture of molasses. This product was almost unknown in those early days. That which did come into the valley had to be hauled by ox team from the Missouri River. Even then it was a coarse, brown substance that cost twenty-five cents a glass. Because of the almost prohibitive cost

\textsuperscript{32}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 6.

\textsuperscript{33}"History of Philip Francis DeLaMare."
and the persistent drive for progress, the pioneers decided to make their own.34

Within the valley, the settlers raised their own beets and from them made molasses. First the beets were scraped, thoroughly boiled, then sliced with a spade and pounded into a pulp. The pulp, placed in coarse gunny sacks, was then pressed with hand levers, extracting the juice, which was again boiled until reduced to a dark molasses. Eli B. Kelsey, H. S. Gowans, Richard Henwood, and Isaac Lee were some of the local men who made this molasses for their own families and their neighbors. Later sugar cane was grown, and an improved type of sweetening was made about the same way.35

Hugh S. Gowans not only made the first beet molasses in Tooele Valley, but he also claimed credit for constructing the first loom.36 George Spiers and others also raised their own wool, carded and spun it into yarn, and then wove it into cloth on their hand looms.

Among other tradesmen were Robert Meiklejohn and John Shields who raised broomcorn and then manufactured brooms. John England, John Barber, Benjamin Clegg, Jonas Lindberg, and the Lindholms were among the first shoemakers. Alex Herron and Carl E. Lindholm were tailors. Philip DeLaMare, Samuel

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34Ibid. In November, 1852, the first sugar manufacturing plant was brought to Utah from France under the direction of Philip DeLaMare. The project cost $60,000.


36"History of Hugh S. Gowans."
Lee, William C. Gollaher, and Little John Utley were among the first blacksmiths. Alexander Frazier, John McKellar, and George Edwards were millers. Thomas Atkin was a carpenter, and for a period H. S. Gowans operated a bakery.37

Thomas Lee was an excellent tanner along with his other accomplishments. He would gather bark from the Red Pine trees in the mountains, let it dry, then grind it into a fine powder. With this powdered bark he would tan hides and make both sole and upper leather from which he made fine boots and shoes. The shoes were made on homemade shoe lasts, with homemade wooden pegs, and sewed with homemade waxed thread. The thread was made from flax and hemp which were grown in the valley.38

These developments testify to the general progressiveness and industry of the valley. It is interesting also to note that in most cases transactions between these early settlers were not negotiated with coin, but rather with barter, such as hides, meat, firewood, any produce, lumber, hives of bees, the use of teams, livestock, and, of course, personal labor.39

Another influential factor that affected community development was travel through the area. The only means of transportation or communication between Tooele and Salt Lake City during the first years of settlement were freight teams,

37Bevan, op. cit., pp. 28-29. An extensive list of other early Tooele pioneers is available in Bevan's manuscript history, pp. 34-35.

38Ibid.

39John Adams, Diary. Copy in Brigham Young University Library.
wagon travel, or horseback. Later the stagecoach operated between these cities. With these methods of travel it usually took more than one day in order to complete the round trip; so for this reason the Half Way House was established about midway between these two communities.

Few emigrant parties on their way to California passed through Tooele until the period 1862-1870. During the summer months, these emigrants from the east would come through the valley, many of them having herds of fine horses and Angora and Merino sheep. Ormus E. Bates, a resident of Batesville, obtained one of the first sheep in Tooele Valley by trading a good saddle horse for it. On the whole the settlers had little trouble with these emigrants. One sorrel race mare was the only animal stolen from the emigrants, according to Bevan.  

The Overland Stage, which came to Utah in 1860, developed into another important link between the Tooele area and outside communities. The path of the Overland Stage from Salt Lake City proceeded southwest to Cedar Valley, which is west of Utah Lake, through the Oquirrh Mountains into Rush Valley, over Point Lookout into Skull Valley, and by way of Fish Springs to Deep Creek, and on to California.

Along the Overland Trail there were Way Stations, where teams were changed, and Home Stations, where drivers were changed. Over the section of road being discussed one driver would last from Salt Lake City to Faust Station in Rush

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Valley; and the new driver would continue to Deep Creek before he was relieved.41

On January 20, 1865, the Overland Mail Company was authorized to construct an improved graded road through the southwest section of Tooele. A toll was to be collected for a period of ten years, a portion of which was to be used by the territorial treasury for the use and benefit of common schools.42

The old stagecoach became a familiar sight to the early pioneers of Rush Valley as it came swinging down the road behind six trotting horses. It carried the United States mail, and at times as many as ten or twelve passengers. During the 1860's Tooele City was also served by stagecoaches operating out of Salt Lake City.

Contemporary with the stagecoach were the freight wagons which must have operated quite frequently. According to one early pioneer freighter, Hugh S. Gowans, of Tooele, he crossed the Great American Desert thirty-two times to Nevada or California before the coming of the railroad.43

The Pony Express also functioned for a short period through this region. The riders followed almost the same trail that was later used by the Overland Stage. The cross country phase of the Pony Express lasting from April 3, 1860,

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41Bevan, op.cit., p. 25.

42Neff, op. cit., p. 847.

43"History of Hugh S. Gowans."
to October, 1861, proved to be a very costly experiment to its owners. With the establishment of the cross-country telegraph the Pony Express was abandoned. The Overland Stage was discontinued with the advent of the railroad in 1869, but stagecoaches continued to operate locally between Salt Lake City and the Tooele area for several years thereafter.

The early government of these valley settlements was basically ecclesiastical. As soon as a branch of the Mormon Church was organized within a given area, and someone named as the presiding local officer, that man became respected as the authority for the community, and if trouble arose among the members of the church, the matter was brought before the president of the branch. He and his counselors would usually formulate some adjustment. This procedure was followed, especially in the smaller settlements, up to about 1860 when a more complete civil government was organized.44

As early as the spring of 1850 Tooele had been set apart as a county and had authorization to establish county courts with their judges, clerks, sheriffs, justices, and constables,45 but it was probably because of the smallness of the Tooele communities during the early years that these officers did not assume their full responsibility.

Shortly after Eli B. Kelsey’s arrival in Tooele in

44Bevan, op. cit., pp. 32-33.

45Neff, op. cit., p. 124.
1852, he was chosen as Tooele's first official mayor, with William B. Adams as his clerk.\(^{46}\) During 1849 to 1852 John Rowberry was, however, referred to unofficially as the mayor. Kelsey held the office until 1853, when William C. Gollaher became the first mayor of the newly incorporated Tooele City.\(^{47}\)

An influential community organization was the L.D.S. Sunday School. It was first organized by Bishop Rowberry in 1856 in the log community house. Eli Lee became the first superintendent with Phineas R. Wright and Thomas Lee as his assistants.\(^{48}\) The location of the first public meeting house which was built in 1854 later became the site of the Tooele First Ward Chapel, which was built by John Gillespie in 1866.\(^{49}\) This first log building was the hub of community government, both theocratic and civil, until 1867 when the combined County Court House and City Hall was erected.

School was held in this log building for many years. It was twenty-eight feet long and eighteen feet wide, had a dirt roof, a fireplace in each end, and one small door and two windows in the front. The benches were made of split logs with four wooden pegs set in on the round side of the slab. Besides the fire for light, tallow candles were furnished by each family. Each family had to supply its own children with

\(^{46}\)"History of Moroni England."

\(^{47}\)For Act of Incorporation, see Appendix I.

\(^{48}\)"History of Edward Warburton Lougy and Mary Ann Maughan Atkin Lougy."

\(^{49}\)Bevan, op. cit., p. 14.
slates, paper, and when possible, textbooks. The school term lasted about ten weeks, usually during the dead of winter when work on the farms and in the canyon was at a standstill.50

About 1860 the above described school was replaced by a larger adobe building, approximately sixty feet long and twenty-four feet wide. This house was also used as meeting house and amusement hall. Some of the early teachers who taught in this and the previous building were Daniel Williams, James Steel, Ann Ide, William Lee, Charles Herman, William C. Foster, D. E. Harris, Sarah Crook, and William B. Adams.51

An interesting educational undertaking in which the whole community participated was the Americanization of emigrants from many lands who were part of the Mormon colonization of the West.

To illustrate this local melting pot within Tooele, the following families might be mentioned. John Shields, a Tooele pioneer of 1852, had come from Scotland as did Hugh S. Gowans. The mother of John A. Lindberg was from Sweden. Philip F. DeLaMare was born on the Island of Jersey in England, and his father was from France. The majority of the foreign emigrants were from England, however--Eli B. Kelsey, the Lees, and the Englands, to mention a few.

Social gatherings played an important part in the lives of these early pioneers in uniting them into a community family. When John Shields arrived in Tooele in 1852, he brought

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50Ibid., pp. 11-12. 51Ibid.
with him several band instruments; and within a short period a fairly good band was organized. Robert Meiklejohn also had a band. Other early musicians in the valley were Thomas Croft, a trained band leader from England, Andrew V. Millward, a chorister from Grantsville, and James Ratcliff, a musician also from Grantsville.\footnote{Ibid., pp. 12-13.} There were also some good singers and orators, and some could recite well.

At first the folks in the settlement had difficulty in getting to their meetings on time because no one in Tooele had a clock. The people remedied this situation by donating funds, with which they bought an eight-day clock. This was given to John Shields and then it became his duty to combine his clock with his talent on the bugle and keep the townfolk informed as to the time. In this way children were called to their daily classes and to Sunday School. The older folks were called to their sacrament meetings, socials, and all other public meetings in the same way. The old clock ticked away years of early Tooele life.\footnote{Ibid.}

The twenty-fourth of July celebrations were always looked forward to, especially when Brigham Young and his entourage would visit the valley. Early in the morning his party would be met by a troop of cavalry from Tooele City and Grantsville. The bands would greet him as he approached Tooele City. Following the carriages of the president and other church dignitaries were the local church priesthood members, then followed twenty-four young ladies dressed in white who represented
the twenty-fourth of July. The primary children came next carrying banners with mottos such as: "We'd leave our work, our school, our play, to meet with Brigham any day."54

The procession would usually end up at Bishop Rowberry's home, and then proceed to the meeting house where a bowery had been constructed so all could hear the concerts and speakers.55

The care and treatment of the sick and the dead are another social problem which should be discussed briefly. When sickness or accident befell these valley residents, they had to rely on their own initiative, knowledge, and experience inasmuch as a doctor was not in the valley. To cite an example, John Shields, while thrashing, was kicked by a horse. The hoof of the animal penetrated his cheek and knocked two teeth out. To treat this wound tobacco was used, and it soon healed.56

Medications were extremely scarce. Many of those that were available were merely cure-alls. The following is an example of the kind of medicines that were obtainable:

THE FAMILY PHYSICIAN, the Poor Man's Bliss, The Sick Man's Comfort, and Every Man His own Physician
by Dr. James M. Martien

Dr. Martien's Invincible Remedy for the treatment and Cure of all Fevers
" " Anti-Bilious Vegetable Universal Life Pills
" " Anti-Dyspeptic and Anti-Consumptive Pills
" " Never failing Worm Destroying Medicine for Children
" " Vegetable Snuff, for the cure of headache, and all nervous diseases of the Head.
For sale by J. & E. REESE57

54Ibid., pp. 14-15.  55Ibid.
56"History of John Gillespie Shields."
57Deseret News, Great Salt Lake City, Deseret, August 19, 1851, p. 312.
The dead were cared for in the best manner known; usually one neighbor would help the other, as was the case in most pioneer villages.

Tooele's first cemetery was located near the mouth of Settlement Canyon, a short distance to the southwest of the first settlement along the creek. The first person was buried there in the year 1850, and it continued to be used for seventeen years. There were no family plots assigned, so the people were buried side by side as they died. When the new cemetery was put into use in 1867, many families moved their dead from the old cemetery to the new burying ground.58

Following is Bevan's list of some of those who were buried in the old cemetery between 1850 and 1867 whose bodies were not removed to the new cemetery:

... Mr. Custer, killed by an Indian; Grandpa Lee, who made the first furniture in Tooele; William B. Adams, the first school teacher; Adam Smith and his wife; Thomas Chamberlain, James Nix and wife, Sarah Early Nix, Sarah Ann Orem Nix, with twin babies; Mrs. Wales Nix, Thomas Wales, Agnes McIntyre, Peter Maughn, Mary Tuttle, a boy named Dispance, Mary Agnes Utley, who was accidentally shot; James F., Elizabeth and Hugh Bevan; the children of George Speirs; Emma Green, Ann Gowans, a child of Robert McKendrick; Darius Pratt, son of Apostle Pratt; Rachel Kelsey, Lansing Bates, Agnes Clegg, Susannah Kelsey, Clara Ide, Samuel Shamhip Stookey, Christian Smith, Julia and Mildred Edwards, Sophia Pherson, John T. Barker, Peter Stewart, Mary Ann Charles, David Charles, and a man named Nelson who was scalded to death.59

58Heart Throbs of the West, VI, 56-57.

59Bevan, op. cit., pp. 56-57.
The move.--On August 1, 1857, news reached Salt Lake City that Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston and his army were on their way to Utah. This news exploded within the Territory with many interesting results.

There were several factors which contributed to this money and time-consuming undertaking by the United States Government. Reports from the United States government-appointed territorial officials had arrived in Washington, D.C., mentioning existing political difficulties with the Mormons. These reports were supplemented by other elaborate, stirring, and generally untrue stories which drifted into the nation's capital concerning the residents of those western valleys. Upon receiving this garbled information, steps were taken by the United States Government and Johnston's expedition was dispatched to quell this supposed territorial rebellion.

During the early years, being somewhat isolated, Tooele remained more or less outside the orbit of territorial affairs; and this same principle was equally applied between the Territory of Utah and the rest of the country; thus, little was known about this western Mormon island.

When word of the approaching Johnston's army reached the Mormon mecca, orders were issued to all settlement commanders to take to the field. In Tooele Rowberry commanded the first battalion of the Nauvoo Legion, composed of men from Tooele City and, no doubt, Rush Valley; and Ruel Barrus, with

60 Whitney, op. cit., I, 621-622.
the same rank of major, commanded the second battalion, of
Grantsville men.\textsuperscript{61}

As early as 1852 a company of infantry had been organ-
ized in Tooele under the command of Thomas Lee and a company
of cavalry under John Gillespie. Each company was divided
into tens, fifties, and hundreds, with each of these units in
turn being commanded by a captain. The companies had special
times set apart when they would encamp near Batesville and
participate in sham battles and military maneuvers.\textsuperscript{62} These
preparations had been made for protection against the Indians,
but when this call to arms was issued, the various companies
throughout the settlements were organized and prepared for the
emergency.

In April of 1857 Daniel H. Wells had been re-elected
lieutenant-general of the Territorial Militia, being the
Nauvoo Legion. He had organized Utah into thirteen military
districts, of which Tooele, under the command of John Rowberry,
was the tenth.\textsuperscript{63} Using these existing organizations, plans
were set in motion to defend their valley homes.

An interesting account of what happened during the
Fall of 1857 with regard to mountain defenses against the on-
coming army, is given in one of the early family histories.
Edward W. Lougy records how he left Tooele on October

\textsuperscript{61}Tullidge, op. cit., p. 86.

\textsuperscript{62}Bevan, op. cit., pp. 15-17.

\textsuperscript{63}Whitney, op. cit.
10, 1857, in a company of men under Major Rowberry. They joined other companies in Salt Lake City, then joined the main encampment of men in Echo Canyon. Lodges were then constructed as the weather was extremely cold. After becoming fairly well established, military duties were performed such as guarding, drilling, digging trenches, and in general preparing in every way for Johnston's forces. Each night and morning at the sound of a bugle, prayer was offered in all the divisions of the camp.

Elaborate preparations were made to deter Johnston. All travel through the canyon by teams and horseback was cut off by an excavation across the canyon trail. This large trench was sixteen feet wide and ten feet deep. Plans had been formulated to station a large force of men on the mountains above. Men so stationed could have invoked much destruction by a continual shower of rocks on any group below. Trenches had also been dug below the excavation in which riflemen could be placed who could command a full view of the canyon above.64

Johnston's army was prevented from entering the territory during the winter of 1857-1858 by annoying interruptions by Mormon scouts, unexpected happenings, and principally by the weather conditions.

On February 8, 1858, a large mass meeting was called for all the citizens in Tooele with Willard G. Young from Salt Lake City presiding. After explaining the conditions facing

64"History of Edward Warburton Lougy."
the people and after reading President Young's instructions, a committee was organized which drafted the following resolutions expressive of the meeting:

Resolved that we fully approve of every measure taken by his Excellency Gov. Brigham Young to resist the entrance of an armed force into our midst.
Resolved that we approve of the principles set forth in his Excellency's message to the Legislature bearing date of December 15, 1857 and the resolutions relating thereto.
Resolved that we will sustain His Excellency, Brigham Young, in every measure he may devise to preserve this people from the evil devices of those designing demagogues who are spurring up imbeciles and old men to commit violence against innocent people. By our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honors.
Resolved that the above preamble and resolutions be forwarded for publication in the Deseret News.

(Signed) W. G. Young, Chairman
Richard Warburton, Clerk

In the spring Brigham Young and other authorities decided that instead of fighting, they would abandon or threaten to abandon the Utah settlements. As a result of this, the people in all the northern Utah settlements left their homes and migrated to the south. Only a very few men were left in each town to fire the buildings and crops in the event that the troops caused trouble or forced themselves upon the settlers. In so doing there would have been nothing that the army could have or use.

It was in April, 1858, that the people in Tooele moved southward to Lehi, Utah County, in order to protect themselves. Only when the army had passed peacefully through the settlement of Salt Lake City, made an isolated camp, and showed no

65Heart Throbs of the West, X, 262-263.
66Whitney, op. cit., p. 678.
signs of hostility did the people begin to return to their homes. The people in Tooele did not return to their valleys until September, 1858. Upon returning they found their crops in good condition and realized a good harvest. The eight or ten men who had stayed there during the summer had fulfilled their duties well.


68 Bevan, op. cit., p. 25.
CHAPTER V

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF RUSH VALLEY AND
ADJACENT AREAS (TO 1870)

Agricultural settlements.--This area was so named because of the dense growth of rushes which grew around a small, shallow, seasonal lake in the northern end of this valley.\(^1\) This marshy region afforded considerable feed for livestock, as did other areas of the valley which were rich in grass.\(^2\) This valley was used for grazing purposes following the settlement of Tooele Valley; however, it was not settled permanently until 1855. During that year several families moved into the valley, built homes, and established their settlement on Clover Creek just below the foothills. The first settlers were Enos Stookey, John Child and his two sons, George and John G., a Mr. Brice, and Luke Johnson who was in charge of the settlement as presiding elder. Johnson officiated under the supervision of John Rowberry who was presiding bishop of Tooele County. The following year D. H. Caldwell came into the community with others.\(^3\)

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\(^1\)Tullidge, op. cit., p. 75.


\(^3\)Tullidge, op. cit., pp. 79-80.
This little settlement was first called Johnson, after Luke Johnson; later its name was changed to Shambip, the Indian name for rush; still later the community was called Clover, by which it is known today. It was given this name because of the large fields of clover that were grown adjacent to the settlement.4

At first the water from Clover Creek could only fill two plow furrows, but as time went on the amount of water increased until several dozen acres could be irrigated. As was the case in most settlements along streams, the amount of water for irrigating lands during the summer depended upon the quantity of snow that fell in the mountains the previous winter. Clover Creek's source was in the Onaqui Mountains, southwest of the settlement.

From the unpublished manuscript history of the Hugh S. Gowans5 family, insight is obtained as to some of the privations and trying conditions of the early settlers in Rush Valley. This family moved to this location shortly after its official settlement. According to Barbara Gowans Bowen,6 her family did not live at the new settlement of Clover, but rather near what is now Stockton.

4Interview with Alex F. Dunn, editor of The Tooele Transcript Bulletin and a descendant of early pioneers, July, 1952.


When she was six weeks old her family left England, and it was not until six and one-half months later that they finally reached Salt Lake City, Utah, in the fall of 1855.7

Their first home was an abandoned barracks in Rush Valley which had been built and used the previous winter by United States soldiers.

Rush Valley was first used by the United States Army in the fall of 1854. Lieutenant Colonel E. J. Steptoe arrived in Great Salt Lake City on August 31, 1854, with 175 soldiers, 130 teamsters, and 70 wagons. Transportation needs were furnished by 450 mules and 300 horses,8 and this livestock required pasturage which was not available in the immediate area.

Forty-five miles northwest, in an uninhabited region known as Rush Valley, a fine location for a winter grazing camp was found. By request the president of the United States then set this area aside as a reservation for military purposes. On September 2, 1854, Steptoe's expedition marched to this location. The quartermaster's force remained, but Colonel Steptoe and his troops returned to Salt Lake City, September 14, where they rented quarters for the winter.9

During the winter of 1854-1855 the horses and mules were ranged in Rush Valley, managed by the quartermaster's force who built the barracks which were spoken of in the pre-

7Ibid.
9Ibid., p. 181.
viously quoted Gowans' writings.

Barbara Gowans' brother, Alonzo, proffered an interesting bit of family history:

At the arrival of the Gowans family in Salt Lake City, President Brigham Young assigned them to settle at the government reservation in Rush Valley about two miles south of Stockton. Great privation faced the family and Sister Betsy Gowans, who was nursing her infant daughter Barbara, at the time, became near starvation which threatened the life of her baby and desperation seized her. She packed up a bundle of her own dresses and walked to Tooele, carrying her baby, and traded the clothing for a laying hen, which she figured would lay eggs sufficient to save her baby from starving. On her return trip to the reservation she was caught in a glizzard. She was unable to proceed to her home, but lay down on the ground throwing her body over her child to protect it from freezing. The husband, Brother Hugh Gowans, realizing the peril which faced his wife and baby, secured a horse and rode to their rescue finding them facing death in the elements.

Thanksgiving found the family still clinging to their frontier assignment. They had no ammunition, but a hunt went forth to secure meat for the day. It is authentic history that Brother Hugh Gowans and his companions ran down a rabbit by foot, which furnished a joyful repast along with bread made from black mouldy flour. 10

The family remained in Rush Valley during the winter of 1855 - 1856, but in the spring they returned to the Tooele settlement because of the hostility of the Indians.

It was at this time that Wilford Woodruff, one of the general authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, made a visit to the colonists in Tooele and Rush Valleys, and his report of Indian troubles as well as the general agricultural conditions of these areas is very informative:

G.S.L. City, July 21, 1856

We made a halt at the city of E. T., and found their crops very poor, having been mostly destroyed by worms, salt and saleratus. Many are about to leave that settle-

ment. We dined with bishop Rowberry, who from that point accompanied us upon our journey. Spent the night in Tooele City, where the potato crop was being destroyed by the rot and cut worms in the ground; worms were also severely injuring the corn in that neighborhood.

At 5 a.m. of the 19th we were again on our way, and soon saw several Indians to the west of us, and also a smoke to have arisen from the smoking walls and brands of the old barracks, which appeared as though they had been burning for twenty or twenty-four hours.

It was with considerable difficulty that we found the settlement, but after two hours' travel and search we found Dr. Luke Johnson, with some half dozen other families, located about 10 miles south-west of the barracks, near the mountain, and occupying a narrow strip of land upon the banks of the small stream which flows into the valley. Their houses and stock were upon one side of the creek, and their farming land upon the other. They had some 75 acres of wheat and corn sown and planted late; some of the wheat looked very well. Their cabins were built about thirty rods apart upon the banks of the creek, surrounded with the willows on the creek and cedars on the bluffs, and much exposed to the Indians.

Dr. Johnson informed us that they first saw the smoke rising from the barracks in the afternoon of the day before; it was supposed to be some of Tintick's band who had visited the valley and set them on fire, as some friendly Indians informed them that he was camped in a valley west, within half a day's travel, had with him 25 or 30 men and was killing a beef nearly every day, of the cattle he stole from Hunsaker and others last spring.

We called the people together, what few there were at home, and advised them to get their houses together in the form of a fort, put their arms and ammunition in good order and in a state of defense. Dr. Luke Johnson was appointed to preside over the branch,\footnote{11This was probably the official approval by a general authority. and an eminence designated upon which to build a fort, as from it there is a commanding view of their valley and settlement, and it has a spring of fresh water, both being requisites we considered important.

From what little time we had to make observations, we judged Rush valley to be much more suitable for herding than farming, as there appeared to be a scarcity of water for irrigation in a dry season.

After spending some eight hours in counseling and business, we returned to Tooele city and tarried over night, and on the 20th, returned home.

We would advise the inhabitants of Tooele and Rush valleys to be upon the watch tower and in a state of
defence, for without doubt Tintick and his band may pay them a visit with the intention of taking their scalps and cattle, as far as they can.\(^{12}\)

The residence of the Gowans family might have been among the barracks that Tintick's Indian band had burned, this possibly being one of the causes of this family leaving Rush Valley to take up residence in Tooele.

Garland Hurt, who was territorial Indian agent, presented the Indians' grievances in a letter to Brigham Young in 1855:

\[...\] The Indians claim that we have eaten up their grass and thereby deprived them of its rich crop of seed which is their principal subsistence during winter. They say too that the long guns of the white people have scared away the game and now there is nothing left for them to eat but ground squirrels and pis-ants.\(^{13}\)

This was probably the underlying cause for the local unrest among the Indians at this time. By October of 1856 Tintick, the Indian leader, had gone to Uinta Valley. He was poor and alone, but he was still a potential threat to the area. The Deseret News commented: "Kind treatment seemed to be wasted upon his savage disposition, and he is probably too old and hardened to be induced to lay aside his blood-thirsty feelings."\(^{14}\)

Sporadic Indian scares continued throughout the follow-

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\(^{12}\)Wilford Woodruff's report of his Tooele-Rush Valley trip. The Deseret News (Salt Lake City, Utah), July 30, 1856, p. 168.

\(^{13}\)Federal Writers Project, Utah, a Guide to the State, p. 388.

\(^{14}\)The Deseret News, October 29, 1856, p. 269.
ing decade during the early development of the various settle-
ments. The unpublished Bush history reports the early defense
measures that were taken:

... a fort was built around Shambip meeting house
in 1865, due to an Indian scare, but the Red Men never vi-
olated their attitude of friendship. The stockade was
built of upright logs and the pioneers went in there at
night for two weeks during the scare. Some of the settlers,
however, declared that they would much sooner take chances
on being killed at the hands of the Indians than attempt
to sleep with so many congregated in the old fort, and so
they remained in their homes.15

The Indians, however, proved in many ways to be less
troublesome and destructive than did the common cricket and
grasshopper. The devastation and hardship wrought by these
pests was vividly painted by Hannah Bush who remembered the
deluge of crickets that came during the summer of 1867:

... The family was at dinner and the sun became dark-
ened and when they went out to see the cause they dis-
covered the heavens black with crickets. Following the
visit of these pests not a single green thing was left.
It was a sad day for Shambip, but the pioneer spirit met
the emergency and the settlers pulled through the winter
on the principle of industry and economy. Burning char-
coal and getting out cedar posts, which they hauled to
Salt Lake City and traded for food was their means of
escape. ... It was Faith and Work which pulled them
through. A few had sheep and home spinning and weaving
produced the clothing for the community.16

This spirit of pioneer determination was one of the
important factors that caused these people eventually to
prosper. Another reason for continued growth and new coloni-
zation was the almost unquestionable obedience of the Mormon

15"History of R. N. Bush," compiled by Alex F. Dunn.
Microfilmed copy in Brigham Young University Library.

16Ibid.
settlers to the admonitions of their church leaders whom they honored and respected. An example of obedience to this ecclesiastical leadership was the moving of the settlement of Clover in the fall of 1867 following the cricket scourge. The town had existed for the previous twelve years on a level below that of the surrounding area. Furthermore, it did not prove satisfactory as a defense position against the Indians; so upon the advice of George A. Smith, one of the Presidency of the Mormon Church, the majority of the people changed the site of their community to the present location of St. John, approximately two miles north-east of Clover. This new settlement, founded in the fall of 1867, was named in honor of Bishop John Rowberry under whose direction the move had been made.\textsuperscript{17} This immediate area was irrigated with water from Clover Creek.

A few families remained at the Shambip location, which was known as Clover from approximately that time on. During the early development and growth of these communities, several other settlements were being started throughout the valley.

Approximately twenty miles south of St. John a scattered agricultural community developed named Vernon. It derived its name from Vernon Creek, on which it was located; and the creek was named after Joseph Vernon, an early settler who was killed by an Indian while he was cooking by his campfire near this stream.\textsuperscript{18} Vernon Creek has its source in the Tintic

\begin{flushright}
\textsuperscript{17}Tullidge, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 80.
\end{flushright}

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\textsuperscript{18}Ibid., p. 81. (The Bevan manuscript history says Joseph Vernon was killed sometime between 1857 and 1859, during wheat harvest time, p. 42)
\end{flushright}
Mountains to the east.

This settlement was established in April, 1862, when Lars Larsen, Fred Hanson, and Andrew Hokenson first moved into the area. They homesteaded farms along the fertile bottom lands of Vernon Creek, but because of the Indian scare they built their homes four miles away from their farms at the overland mail station operated by H. J. Faust, who had established this post in 1860. The group lived here for three years before establishing their residence on their farms. During this period they were joined by several other families, among whom were E. G. Pehrson, Peter Pehrson, and Eric Anderson. Lars Larson was appointed presiding elder over the colony.\(^{19}\)

At first the frosts were so frequent that corn, fruit, and other vegetables could not be grown profitably, but as time went by the elements so modified themselves that excellent varieties of hay, grain, vegetables, and fruit were grown. The area also became known for the fine horses, cattle, and sheep.\(^{20}\)

Another very small community that was settled during this period was Center, so named because of its location midway between Vernon and St. John. It was settled in 1863, and later became known as Ajax, its name today. William Ajax used to operate a small general store there, and the area took his name.\(^{21}\)

\(^{19}\)Ibid., pp. 80-81.  \(^{20}\)Ibid., p. 81.

\(^{21}\)Federal Writers Project, *Inventory of the County Archives of Utah*, No. 23, Tooele, p. 35.
Mining settlements.--The settlement of the previously mentioned communities was for agricultural reasons, but during the early 1860's interest in mining became an additional impetus for settlement in this valley and adjacent areas. Mining was first fostered by the army men who were stationed in these valleys.

The previously mentioned contingent of the United States Militia under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Steptoe had been sent to the Salt Lake Valley in 1854 - 1855 to help apprehend the murderers of Captain Gunnison, and also see to the building of a military highway through the territory. After carrying out their assignment, this army detachment moved on, but Rush Valley remained a military reservation.

The valley was not extensively used by the army again until the spring of 1864. During the winter of 1863 - 1864 forage for the army's livestock became scarce around Fort Douglas, the permanent army camp in Salt Lake Valley. Because of this condition, A, H, K, and L Companies of the Second California Cavalry were ordered to Rush Valley in the latter part of March. The new home of these companies was called Camp Relief, and was located on the east side of Rush Lake.

The men had heard of some mines from which the Indians had obtained gold and silver for trinkets and lead for their

\[\text{22Neff, op. cit., p. 180.}\]
\[\text{23Tullidge, op. cit., p. 76.}\]
bullets, and they desired to locate them; so during their free time they were encouraged by their officers to do prospecting and within several months many deposits were located. On June 11, 1864, the Rush Lake Valley Mining District was organized with Andrew Campbell as recorder.

About this same time the town of Stockton was laid out under the direction of General P. E. Conner, Major Gallagher, Major Johnson, and Joseph Clark, the latter doing the surveying. This community was located on the emigrant road, and as an inducement to settlers, every other lot, except corner ones, were offered to settlers who would build a house. Many people were tempted with the potential possibility of mineral wealth to locate there instead of continuing on to the Pacific Coast.

Stockton was named after the California city with which General Conner was acquainted.

General Conner built a saw-mill in Soldier Creek Canyon in 1865. This mill helped supply lumber for the growing communities in the area. This creek not only furnished power for the mill, but also furnished the water supply for Stockton.

When the California volunteers were mustered out of

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25 Tullidge, op. cit., p. 76.  
26 Ibid.
27 Federal Writers Project, Inventory of County Archives of Utah, No. 23, Tooele, p. 36.
28 Tullidge, op. cit., p. 77.
the service, some stayed on and made their homes in Stockton as well as the other mining settlements that developed in this area.

The most important of the minerals found in this region were gold, silver, copper, and lead. During the years 1865 - 1866 the first smelter was erected by E. F. Johnson and Henry Monheim. A reverberatory was built by General Conner in 1866, and by these means a considerable amount of the metals was refined.29 Smelters were constructed near several mines and operations continued for a short period; but because of inexperience in smelting ores, a scarcity of charcoal, and the high cost of transportation, these industries finally became bankrupt. Without railroads it was almost impossible to make mining in this area a paying enterprise; thus, the attempts were abandoned.30

By 1867 the mining camp of Stockton had dwindled down to ten or twelve men,31 but two years later conditions had improved. New men arrived in the valley, numbering about 500, and by the fall of 1870 the new Ophir mining district was formed.32 This settlement is reported to have been named for the Biblical region noted as a source of gold.33

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29Ibid., p. 76.


31Tullidge, op. cit., p. 76. 32Ibid.

33Federal Writers Project, Inventory of the County Archives of Utah, No. 23, Tooele, p. 36.
This new mining area also included the newly discovered gold bearing claim of Arie Pinedo, a Bavarian. He made this claim in 1869 and called it Mercur for the streaks of mercury sulphide which was associated with the gold ore.\textsuperscript{34} Mercur later became one of the "famous gold producers of the world, being the first place where cyanide was used on raw ore for the extraction of gold."\textsuperscript{35} Prior to the discovery of gold, the area had been known as Lewiston, after a local rancher.

Outside of minor settlements at various individual mines, Stockton, Ophir, and Mercur became the three prominent mining communities that developed during this early period. All three were located along the western slopes of the Oquirrh Mountains in Rush Valley.

**Skull Valley and other adjacent areas.**—This region was, no doubt, known by various names during the period of the early emigrants, but Captain Howard Stansbury in his survey (1849 - 1850) was one of the earliest men to record his observations and his name for the valley:

Numerous springs broke out from the mountain and at the edge of the prairie; but they were all saline, with a temperature of 74\textdegree, and totally unfit to drink. To this place we gave the name of "Spring Valley." Near the point of the mountain was a very large spring, which discharged its waters northward into the lake. The water was very salt, nauseous, and bitter, with a temperature of 70\textdegree; notwithstanding which, it swarmed with innumerable small

\textsuperscript{34}Federal Writers Project, *Utah, A Guide to the State*, p. 122.

\textsuperscript{35}Public Documents of the State of Utah, Ninth Biennial Report (Ogden, Utah: State Industrial School, 1913-1914), XV, 152.
fish, and seemed to be a favourite resort for pelicans and gulls. 36

The next information about this valley obtained from a local source is from Jacob Hamblin, the Indian agent from Tooele. He visited the area during 1853 for the purpose of exploring some of the streams in "Spring Valley." He mentions seeing several Indians and plenty of cedar timber, but that water for irrigating purposes was scarce. 37

From his report 38 information is gained with regard to the inhabitants of the valley and their general conditions. Note should be made that the region was still referred to as Spring Valley. Later, however, this region became known as Skull Valley.

Captain J. H. Simpson, an army officer, passed through this district en route to California in 1854, and in his journal he records the reason that Skull Valley was so named:

... Said to have derived its name from a number of skulls which have been found in it and which have arisen from the custom of the Goshoot Indians burying their dead in springs, which they sink with stones or keep down with sticks. 39

Skull Valley was used by the settlers in Tooele and Rush Valleys as a range for their livestock for many years before it was sparsely settled by a few ranchers who also engaged

36 Stansbury, op. cit., p. 118.
37 The Deseret News, Great Salt Lake City, U.T., April 2, 1853, p. 38.
38 Most of this report is cited in Appendix II.
in some dry farming. One of these first ranchers was Mr. Parks, whose ranch was located three miles southwest of Johnson's Pass. The few Indians in the valley were its most consistent inhabitants, however.⁴⁰

Notice should also be made of the small settlements in the southeast corner of the Tooele area. They are mentioned here inasmuch as a main route of communication with this area was maintained through Rush Valley and Skull Valley.

Clifton was a small Mormon agricultural settlement founded in 1855 by James Worthington, Joseph McMurry, James Mathews, and Robert Orr. Shortly thereafter it increased to fifteen families.⁴¹

In approximately 1860 two other small settlements were established, Deep Creek and Ibapah. Deep Creek became an important home station on the Overland Mail under the direction of Major Howard Egan, who was pioneer mail-carrier over this route as well as the division agent from Salt Lake City to Robert's Creek.⁴² Deep Creek received its name from the mountain range in which it is located. This ranching area became known for its fine hay and grain crops as well as an excellent location used extensively by the sheep men.⁴³

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⁴⁰Bevan, op. cit., p. 59.
⁴¹Tullidge, op. cit., p. 78.
⁴²Ibid.
⁴³Public Documents of the State of Utah, pp. 151-152.
The colony of Ibpah "derived its name from the Gosiate Indian word 'Avim-pa.' 'Avim' means white clay and 'pa' means water." This settlement's early concern during the 1860's was likewise agriculture. Later, however, these areas did become known for their mineral resources.

During this early period, these valley settlements of Utah were truly an island of civilization in the mid-ocean of the great, arid, intermountain basin. The nearest shores of industry and culture were hundreds of miles away, separated by desert, mountain crag, and canyon.

The stalwart pioneers of these early settlements had to depend entirely on their own resources. At times they were sorely tried with hunger, the lack of proper clothing and sufficient shelter. It was only through their constant efforts in overcoming the hardships of climate and pestilence and their steadfast belief in their leaders that this region was settled and has grown to what it is today.

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\[44^{44}\] Federal Writers Project, Origins of Utah Place Names, p. 19.
APPENDICES
APPENDIX I

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE TOOELE CITY, IN TOOELE COUNTY

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah, That all that district of Tooele County, embraced in the following boundaries, to wit: beginning at a point a half a mile south east of the mouth of Big Creek, known also as Settlement kanyon; thence running due west three miles; thence north three miles, thence east three miles; thence south three miles, to the place of beginning, shall be known and designated by the name of Tooele City, and the inhabitants thereof, are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic, by the name aforesaid, and shall have perpetual succession, and may have and use a common seal, which they may change at pleasure.

Sec. 2. The inhabitants of said city, by the name aforesaid, shall have power to sue and be sued, defend and be defended, in all courts of law and equity, and in all actions whatsoever, to purchase and hold property in said city, to purchase, receive and hold property beyond the city for public purposes for the inhabitants of said city, to sell, lease, or dispose of property, real and personal, for the benefit of said city, and to improve and protect such property.

Sec. 3. There shall be a City Council to consist of a Mayor, two Aldermen, and five Councilors, who shall have the qualifications of electors of said city, and shall be chosen by the qualified voters thereof, and shall hold their office for two years, and till their successors shall be elected and qualified. The City Council shall judge of the qualifications, elections, and returns of their own members, and a majority of them shall form a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members under such penalties as may be prescribed by ordinance.

Sec. 4. The Mayor, Aldermen, and Councilors, before entering upon the duties of their offices, shall take and prescribe an oath or affirmation that they will support the Constitution of the United States, and the laws of this Territory,

1Deseret News, Great Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, February 19, 1953, p. 27.
and that they will perform all the duties of their offices to
the best of their abilities.

Sec. 5. On the first Monday of August next, and every
two years thereafter, on said day, an election shall be held
for the election of a Mayor, two Aldermen, and five Councilors,
and at the first election under this set, two judges shall be
chosen viva voce, by the electors present. The said judges
shall choose one clerk and the judges and clerk, before enter-
ing upon their duties, shall take and subscribe an oath or
affirmation, such as is now required by law to be taken by the
judges and clerks of other elections; and at all subsequent
elections, the necessary number of judges and clerks shall be
appointed by the City Council. At the first election so held,
the polls shall be opened at nine o'clock a.m. and closed at
6 o'clock p.m. At the close of the polls, the votes shall be
counted, and a statement thereof proclaimed at the front door
of the house at which said elections shall be held; and the
clerk shall leave with each person elected, or at his usual
place of residence, within five days after the election, a
written notice of his election, and each person so notified,
if he accepts the office, shall within ten days after the elec-
tion take the oath or affirmation before mentioned, a certifi-
cate of which oath shall be deposited with the recorder, whose
appointment is hereinafter provided for, and by him preserved.
And all subsequent elections shall be held, conducted, and re-
turns thereof made, as may be provided for by ordinances of
the City Council.

Sec. 6. All free white male inhabitants of the age of
eighteen years who are entitled to vote for Territorial offi-
cers, and who shall have been actual residents of said city,
sixty days next preceding said election, shall be entitled to
vote for city officers.

Sec. 7. The City Council shall have authority to levy
and collect taxes for city purposes, upon all taxable property,
real and personal, within the limits of the city, upon the
assessed value thereof, and may enforce the payment of the
same in any manner to be provided by ordinance, not repugnant
to the Constitution of the United States, or the laws of this
Territory.

Sec. 8. The City Council shall have power to appoint
a Recorder, Treasurer, Assessor and Collector, Marshal, and
Supervisor of streets. They shall also have power to appoint
all other officers, by ordinance, as may be necessary, define
the duties of all city officers, and remove them from office
at pleasure.

Sec. 9. The City Council shall have power to require
of all officers appointed in pursuance of this Act, bonds with
penalty and security, for the faithful performance of their
respective duties, such as may be deemed expedient, and also
to require all officers appointed as aforesaid, to take an
oath for the faithful performance of the duties of their re-
spective offices.

Sec. 10. The City Council shall have authority to make,
establish, and enforce all such ordinances, and inflict such
punishments, not repugnant to the Constitution and laws of the
United States, or the laws of this Territory, as they may deem
necessary for the peace, benefit, good order, regulation, con-
venience and cleanliness of said City, for the protection of
property from destruction by fire or otherwise, and for the
health and happiness thereof. They shall have power to fill
all vacancies that may happen by death, resignation, or removal,
in any of the offices herein made elective; to fix and estab-
lish all the fees of the officers of said corporation, not
herein established; to divide the City into wards, and specify
the boundaries thereof, and make additional wards; to add to
the number of Aldermen and Councilors, and apportion them among
the several wards, as may be just and most conducive to the
interest of the City.

Sec. 11. All ordinances passed by the City Council,
shall within one month after they shall have been passed be
published in some newspaper, printed in said City, or certi-
fied copies thereof, be posted up in three of the most public
places in the City.

Sec. 12. All ordinances of the City may be proven by
the seal of the corporation, and when printed or published in
Book or Pamphlet form, purporting to be printed or published
by the authority of the corporation, the same shall be received
in evidence in all Courts, or places, without further proof.

Sec. 13. The Mayor and Aldermen shall be conservators
of the peace within the limits of the City, and shall have all
the powers of Justices of the Peace therein, also in civil and
criminal cases arising under the laws of the Territory. They
shall as Justices of the Peace, within the limits of the said
City, perform the same duties, be governed by the same laws,
give the same bonds, and securities, as other Justices of the
Peace, and be commissioned as Justices of the Peace, in and
for said City by the Governor.

Sec. 14. The Mayor and Aldermen shall have exclusive
jurisdiction in all cases arising under the ordinances of the
corporation, and shall issue such process as may be necessary
to carry such ordinances into execution. Appeals may be had
from any decision or judgement of said Mayor or Aldermen aris-
ing under the ordinances of said City, to the Municipal Court
under such regulations as may be provided by ordinance; which
Court shall be composed of the Mayor, as chief Justice, and
the Aldermen as Associate Justices; and from the final judgment
of the Municipal Court to the Probate Court, of Tooele County, in the same manner as appeals are taken from Justices of the Peace; Provided, the parties litigant shall have a right to a trial by a Jury, in all cases before the Municipal Court. The Municipal Court shall have power to grant writs of Habeas Corpus, and try the same, in all cases arising under the ordinances of the City Council.

Sec. 15. This Act to be in force from its passage.

Approved, Jan. 21, 1853,
Secretary's Office, Territory of Utah,
February 12, 1853.

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an Act, entitled "An Act to Incorporate Tooele City, in Tooele County," passed by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah, Approved Jan. 21, 1853, and of the whole of such Act.

BENJAMIN G. FERRIS,
Secretary
APPENDIX II

JACOB HAMBLIN'S REPORT, 1853

INDIAN AFFAIRS

We learn by letter of Bro. Jacob Hamblin, Tooele, March 5th, that about the 12th of February, he left home with 3 of Goshute's Indians for the purpose of exploring some of the streams in Spring valley. The first night encamped at the Mountain Point, where, just a year previous, we had routed the Indians, who were on a stealing tour, and had a long talk. They told me they would "never steal any more from the Mormons, for they talked good talk, and they wanted to be brothers; that they had store many cattle and horses, but they should never steal any more; that a part of their tribe had left them, and gone many sleeps south-west." "I asked why they did not come in with them?" Their excuse was trivial and a brief answer satisfied them. No doubt those referred to, were some of the bad ones of the clan, and have gone a few moons off to keep out of the way of their deserts. When the subject was explained, the Indians present thought some of them would return before another snow, as they had had a talk with them.

"I traveled 3 days on the east side of the valley, saw plenty of cedar timber, but water scarce, that could be used for irrigating purposes."

On discharge of a gun for a duck, near the elbow of Deseret road, Bro. Hamblin discovered a smoke 2 miles off, to which he repaired, and found an Indian boy 9 or 10 years old sitting near a small fire, and asked him in his own tongue, if he had a father. He made no answer. "I asked him where his wickaup was; he pointed his finger, and I saw his mother sitting in a hut, where, to all appearance, they had been some time. Everything bespoke their wretchedness and want; they had not clothing enough then to make a shirt. They said they had been there 5 moons, living on roots, having no shelter from the storms, but partially from the wind."

"One of the Indians of my company came up, and said he knew them; and that they left Willow creek 5 or 6 moons before.

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1Deseret News, Great Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, April 2, 1853, p. 38.
I asked her to give me her boy; she objected, but the next day she pressed me to take him; and I took him, and gave her a blanket, biscuits, &c., as she had suffered much from hunger, cold, &c., the past winter.

The next morning I started for home.

The Indian boy is much pleased with his situation. As soon as it is light, he wants the whip to bring up the cattle. I find him very faithful in everything I ask of him.

I would say to the brethren, don't be afraid of taking and teaching them to do good. If the Lord is not working in the hearts of this people, I am greatly deceived. The Indians in this valley are manufacturing rope, or cord, from the coat of the Milk-weed and baskets from the Willow. The brethren generally are anxious to encourage industry and honesty among them, in buying their baskets and ropes whether they need them or not. The Indians appear anxious to raise a crop of wheat and potatoes this season; they ask a great many questions about the Mormons; I have had some good talk with them of late."
APPENDIX III

JOHN ROWBERRY'S REPORT, MARCH, 1852

Tooele City, March 25, 1852

Mr. Editor: Dear Sir:—It is with pleasure that I embrace this opportunity of communicating to you a few items pertaining to us as a people in this valley. The saints generally enjoy good health. I have not heard of a single case of "yellow fever" here this season.

We have built a meeting house 24 feet square; our meetings are well attended. We have had no law suits, nor bishop's courts to contend with; peace and goodwill prevail in our midst, which causes the gratitude of our hearts to flow to the giver of all good.

We have a school of about 30 scholars: we have a good saw mill in operation, and a grist mill building. There is a few spinning wheels and looms in this place, but having no sheep, consequently these things as yet, remain almost still.

The saints here have been subject to many inconveniences having to pull up stakes and fort; together with the repeated aggressions of the Indians, of a time when most of them was making a beginning in the valleys of the mountains; yet, they show forth by paying up their tithing as fast as they can, and hearkening unto the teaching of those that are set to counsel, that they are determined to endure as good soldiers. They are very busily engaged at present, in putting in all the grain they can in order that they may reap a bountiful harvest.

There is a very prosperous settlement at Grantsville, 12 miles west of this city, surrounded by a vast quantity of good land, and would accommodate a great many more settlers, which would be a benefit to those already there, on account of schools, &c., &c.

I remain yours in the covenant of peace.

JOHN ROWBERRY

1Deseret News, Great Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, April 17, 1852, p. 45.
APPENDIX IV

JOHN ROWBERRY'S REPORT, August, 1852

Tooele City, August 10, 1852

Mr. Editor:

Dear Sir:--It is with pleasure that I embrace this opportunity of informing you of the welfare of the saints in this valley; they continue to enjoy good health; peace and prosperity generally prevail in our midst, and our meetings are well attended.

The inhabitants of this place assembled together on the 24th of July, for the celebration of that day when the Pioneers entered into the Valleys of the Mountains, and on that occasion we had many appropriate orations, toasts, songs &c., delivered by the brethren, which caused the hearts of every one present to rejoice, in realizing, that we had indeed become a people free from the mobocrat and oppressor.

The season for raising grain here this summer, has been better than any one previous since the settling of this valley; we have had many fine showers of rain, and an abundance of water from the mountains for irrigation, by reason of those blessings being bestowed upon us. The brethren are now busily engaged in gathering in an abundant harvest.

The Indians that have committed so many depredations in this valley, seem at present desirous of becoming friendly with us; about 30 of them have come to Grantsville and camped there, and according to the best information we can get there are some 4 or five more in the mountains yet, who are expected in every day. If a treaty of peace could be effected with them so as to make them quit stealing, it would be a great blessing unto the citizens of this county, for I am well aware if that thing could be accomplished the brethren here would turn their attention to the raising of stock, as this valley is so well adapted for that purpose; I think it is superior to any I have seen in the mountains for raising sheep.

I remain your friend and brother in the Gospel of Christ.

JOHN ROWBERRY

1Deseret News, Great Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, September 4, 1852, p. 85.
APPENDIX V

LYSANDER GEE'S REPORT, DECEMBER, 1854\(^1\)

Tooele City, December 11, 1854

Mr. Editor:

Dear Sir:--We have had a remarkably fine fall and winter thus far, and the weather at present is delightful for the season of the year which enables us to perform all necessary business with the exception of the work upon the city wall, for which it is rather too frosty, hence that work has been stopped, or nearly so for the present. The wall is now half finished around the city, and unlike most places where the people have commenced to wall in their cities throughout the Territory, we have not a patch here and there, but as far as it is built it is finished; and I am proud to say that it is as substantial and handsome as any that I have seen in all the settlements that I have visited. Very little snow as yet has fallen, enough barely to cover the ground and not remain long; very little has fallen in the mountains. The kanyons are all open, and a good business is carried on in the lumbering line. We have one saw and a grist mill about a mile and a half from the city, now in successful operation, owned by bro. Ezias Edwards, and another saw mill now being built by bro. E. B. Kelsey, which will be cutting lumber between this and the first of March next.

The saints here are united, and not only seem to be, but really are peaceful and happy, and I can truly say that, under the wise counsels and instructions of Pres. Kelsey they are continually increasing in faith and good works.

A fine crop of wheat was raised in this place and is now nearly all thrashed; corn and other grain, and vegetables were also raised in abundance, and I trust ere many days you will receive a report, which will show you what has been done with some of the grain, cattle, lumber &c, and that the funds of the P.E.F. Co. will be increased, and the poor saints among the Nations of the earth be made to rejoice.

As ever, yours, &c.,

LYSANDER GEE

\(^1\)Deseret News, Great Salt Lake City, January 4, 1855, p. 160.

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A. C. BROWER'S REPORT, DECEMBER, 1854

Grantsville, Dec. 23, 1854

Mr. Editor:--

A general time of health prevails. Since Elder O. Hyde was here preaching, there seems to be a new impetus to everything. Our fort wall which has lain dormant, is now under rapid progress, especially that portion of it which is to be made of pounded earth; and rock and adobies are being daily placed upon the ground for the remaining portion, and several rods of foundation are already laid with rock. The brethren are all united, and a good spirit prevails; every one manifesting, by their works, a disposition to obey counsel.

Very good crops were raised the past season, all of which has been well taken care of. The Indians are very friendly, and manifest a great desire to work, and become like the whites.--We do feel to appreciate the hand of the Lord and thank him for all His blessings towards us.

More anon.

A. C. BROWER

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1Deseret News, Great Salt Lake City, January 4, 1855, p. 160.
APPENDIX VI-B

PLAQUE INSCRIPTION MARKING SITE OF
OLD FORT IN GRANTSVILLE

No. 42
Erected July 24, 1934
Grantsville Fort

This monument marks the site of the Grantsville Fort
built in 1853 as protection against the Indians. The fort was
30 rods square with walls 12 ft. high, 5 ft. thick at the base,
and 18 in. thick at the top. The north wall was 143 ft. north
of this point.

About 50 people lived inside the fort during the early
settlement of the town of Grantsville, which was named in honor
of George D. Grant, one of its pioneers.

Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Grantsville Chapter, and
Utah Pioneer Trail and Landmarks Association.

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EARLY EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT OF
THE TOOELE AREA, UTAH

An Abstract
of a Thesis Presented to
the Department of History
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science in History

by
Thomas Keith Midgley
July, 1953
ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis is to describe the early exploration and settlement of the Tooele area, from the time it was first entered by the adventurous fur trappers through the first years of Mormon colonization.

Tooele County, Utah, is bordered on the north by Box Elder County, on the east by Davis, Salt Lake, and Utah Counties, on the south by Juab County, and in the west by the state of Nevada. It comprises an area of approximately 6,300 square miles, most of which is extremely barren. The regions most suited for habitation are Rush Valley, Tooele Valley, and Skull Valley, in the east central section of this area, and Deep Creek Valley in the southwest corner. Rush Valley and Tooele Valley contain the best alluvial deposits and thus were more adaptable to pioneer settlement than any other regions within the area.

The native inhabitants of these valleys belonged to the Shoshoni linguistic group, and probably the later Basket Making culture. The conditions of these Indians were among the poorest of their race. Their diet consisted mainly of grasshoppers, ants, ground squirrels, and grass seed; sometimes larger game was obtainable. For them each day was a struggle for life.

It was not until the 1820's that a white man set foot
within this domain. Jedediah Smith's and Jim Clyman's first visits to the Tooele area (1825 - 1827) were followed by the painstaking, extensive surveys of John C. Fremont and Howard Stansbury (1843 - 1850). Less celebrated, though equally interesting were the explorations of E. G. Beckwith, E. P. Steptoe, and J. H. Simpson (1854 - 1859). During this early period, the Tooele region was also traversed by several parties of short-cut seeking emigrants who ventured through the barren deserts west of the Great Salt Lake.

The first settlers who followed these explorers and pathfinders to these isolated western valleys were the Latter-day Saints. From July, 1847, emigrants poured into the Salt Lake Valley, and from this hub they were sent out in all directions. Every available, habitable valley was settled by these pioneers.

During the fall of 1849 Tooele Valley was settled, and during the ensuing years the adjacent areas also were dotted with growing communities.

The early settlers had many hardships to contend with in their poverty, such as houses to build, fencing materials to get out of the mountains, canyon roads to make, irrigation canals to dig, Indians to guard against, and then the big problem of raising food supplies. In the course of these experiences the emigrants, many of them foreign born, went through a metamorphic process and became Americans. Economic, social, and political development was a relatively slow, plodding process during those early years of settlement.
In addition to the more numerous agricultural settlements within these valleys, several mining communities developed during the 1860's. The majority of the mining towns were located in Rush Valley and the adjacent mountains to the southwest.

Fact-grubbing in the backyard of history has uncovered many unpublished family histories, manuscripts, reminiscences and articles which have opened interesting views of the early life within these Tooele valleys.