Chapter 10
Sevier County History and Communities
Land of the Sleeping Rainbow

Link in a Golden Chain

> "We are but a link in a Golden Chain. We reap a rich harvest from the toil and forethought of our worthy pioneers, and plant that another generation may harvest. We become pioneers for the second Century…. The past is, in a measure, garnered and preserved within these findings, but the future is still within our power to mold,"[1]

Recognition, it may be said, is a fundamental antecedent to responsibility; and responsibility is fundamental to progress. This seems to describe the focus of Sevier County Commissioners 50 years ago when they observed:

> "Sevier County is great today because our ancestry was great, and Sevier County will continue to be great only if we are willing to recognize in history, apply to our own lives, and pass on to posterity, those qualities which enabled our predecessors to build an empire against incredible odds.
>
> "We who are here today owe a great debt to the men and women of yesterday who fought and bled and sacrificed to found this State and County, and who with sweat and toil, from sun-up to sun-down, pioneered it. Without their wise planning and tireless work would we, their descendants, have the economic, social, and cultural progress, and prosperity which we now enjoy... We should not only preserve that which they created, but build and develop it still further in order to pass on to future generations the rich heritage which we received, made richer still through our own labor and good stewardship….."[2]

Figure 1 Rainbow Mountains west of Richfield, Utah

Sevier County was first inhabited by Native Americans who described the area as the "land of the sleeping rainbow." This analogy is made more vivid by Afton Greenwood Peterson who described the beautiful Sevier Valley as being "surrounded by towering mountain peaks, and splashed with a riot of colors - vermillion soil, distant purple haze, somber pine green, and varied brown and yellow land shades…bisected by Utah's longest and most crooked river - this is the valley of the Sevier." (Figure 1)

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[1]**Thru, the Years - Sevier County Centennial History**: Sevier County Centennial Committee, Irvin L. Warnock, Editor; (Springville: Art City Publishing Company, 1947); page 9.

[2]***Ibid,*** Page 11

As with other Central Utah valleys, Sevier was first viewed by white men when Father Escalante and his band of Spanish explorers made their way through the west in 1776. The group traveled through Colorado and through present-day Spanish Fork Canyon and into what they called Yuta Valley. They then traveled southerly toward their destination, Monterey.

When they arrived at the river now known as Sevier, Escalante recorded that the group encountered itinerant bands of Native Americans for the first time, Other explorers through the years confirmed Escalante's records. While the accounts of early explorers described enticing natural beauty, they also described the sometimes harsh and often variant conditions of the semi-arid western valleys. None of the early accounts encouraged future settlement.

Brigadier General John Sevier and his exploration party came into the same area in central Utah in 1820. They made crude maps describing the valley areas. In 1830 the valley previously called Santa Isabella by Escalante was named Sevier in honor of this early military leader and explorer.

Seventeen years later in the summer of 1847, the Mormon Pioneers entered what they called the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. Over the next decade, many exploration parties were organized under direction of the Mormon Colonizer and Prophet, Brigham Young. He carved out an area that included the entire great basin area, parts of present-day California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, and all of Utah into what he called the State of Deseret. Later the area was to be known as the Utah Territory. (Figure 2 - Utah Territory)

Early settlers in Utah expended considerable energy with meager resources in colonizing a vast and unchartered area against seemingly insurmountable odds. Their accomplishments stand among the most noble in modem history.

Many of the pioneers had left established agricultural areas and comfortable homes either in Europe or in the eastern U.S. to join westward movements into the frontier states of Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, and Illinois. Often they faced deprivation and persecution and were repeatedly disassociated from their cultivated lands and earthly possessions.

Driven from their homes in western Illinois in January and February of 1846, the pioneers established a series of settlements across southern Iowa. Winter Quarters near present-day Council Bluffs provided the last established settlement and point of preparation for the arduous trek further westward. In early 1847 many pioneer companies moved along the North Platte River in Nebraska, over foreboding plains and rugged mountainous areas to Fort Bridger, Wyoming, and onward to the principal northern valley in the area Escalante had called Yuta. (Figure 3 - Handcart)

While some were well-equipped with covered wagons and animals, many pulled handcarts and carried small children and backpacks containing the bare necessities to sustain life. Uncultivated frontier areas sometimes yielded life-sustaining meat from buffalo, native plants, and wildlife. Sometimes the dry, or muddy, wagon trails were barren. Many of the hardships were unimaginable.

Difficulties with food, shelter, safety, and adverse weather conditions were commonplace. Many died. The living dug numerous graves to bury fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, and infants. Sometimes graves were placed near fertile river banks, sometimes on rocky hillsides.

Sometimes those still living buried their dead in the snow or slightly under the frozen tundra.

Figure 2 Handcart Pioneers

Establishing a home in the Salt Lake Valley was considered by all immigrants to be their Zion, their place of peace, contentment, and. final settlement. For many, that dream was short-lived or, in some instances, never realized. The trek had proven survivors to be a hardy and committed people. They were able, also skillful and talented. These attributes accompanied and sustained them wherever they were called to go, to do whatever they were required to do.

That so many would volunteer and willingly answer yet another "call" from their prophet-leader Brigham Young to colonize, pioneer, and settle new areas throughout the great basin area adds more to the volumes attesting their noble intent and tenacity.

Colonization of the area led numerous exploration parties into valleys of the Central Utah area. Systematic and thorough explorations were conducted. One of the largest and most extensive expeditions was led by Parley P. Pratt in late 1849 and early 1850. Governor Young assigned the company to explore Sanpete, Sevier, Panguitch and valleys further south.

Composed of some fifty men, the organization was called the "Southern Exploring Company". Supplies were loaded in twelve large wagons drawn by 24 yoke of oxen.

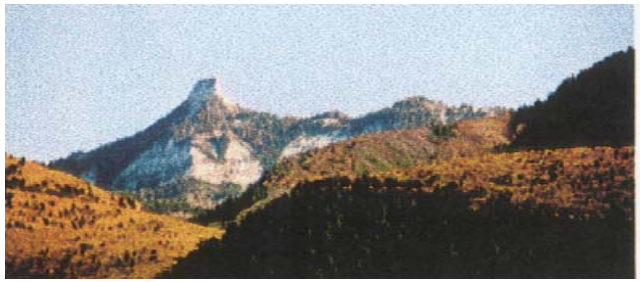

Figure 3 Mt Musinia ("Molly's Nipple") in back

Thirty-eight horses and mules were ridden by members of the party. Distance measuring devices, a brass field piece and small arms were taken along.

"On November 25, the exploring party left Salt Lake Valley and traveled south to Nephi. There they left the main road and journeyed eastward up Salt Creek Canyon and southeast into Sanpete Valley. They reached the Sevier River near Gunnison on December 6 and followed its course southward.

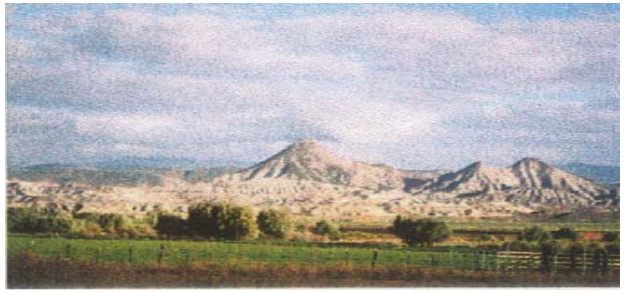

Figure 4 Carter's Peak

By December 10 the weather had become extremely cold, the river was frozen hard and the thermometer ranged around twenty degrees below zero.

"Some 230 miles south of Salt Lake City the Company discovered that the Sevier Valley ended in a confluence of seemingly impassable canyons with mountains on each side, and the river rushing like a torrent between perpendicular rocks. Unable to find a passageway, they were forced to turn back and make camp while scouts were sent to find an alternative route.

"The explorers found other routes and traveled on south from the valley of the Sevier. Their story is one of the noble feats in Utah Pioneer history. They traveled as far south as Santa Clara (west of St. George) and later returned by way of the valleys to the west of Sevier. Within ten years Governor Young sent out colonists to practically every site recommended by the expedition.[3]

When a new area was to be settled, membership was selected or volunteers were requested by the Governor-Prophet, Brigham Young. Families and groups of families sometimes chose to live near each other. Some individuals and families were called as missionaries to leave their homes for the purpose of establishing new towns.

Experienced frontiersmen often provided the leadership necessary for new settlements. Sometimes families were chosen from established communities and augmented by newly arriving immigrants. "This resulted in a mixture of the experienced and pioneering novices. In this way they cared for each other and the stream of immigrants flowing continuously into Salt Lake. Wherever possible craftsmen and tradesmen, doctors, and others of selected abilities and professions were included so multiple needs in each new community could be cared for in an independent way.

[3]0p. Cit., Thru The Years, Page 15.

"In the summer of 1863, G.W. Bean, then living in Provo, was called upon to take a small company of men and proceed to explore Sevier Valley for the purpose of establishing a settlement. The understanding was that if conditions were favorable, about fifty families would be called to aid in the occupation.

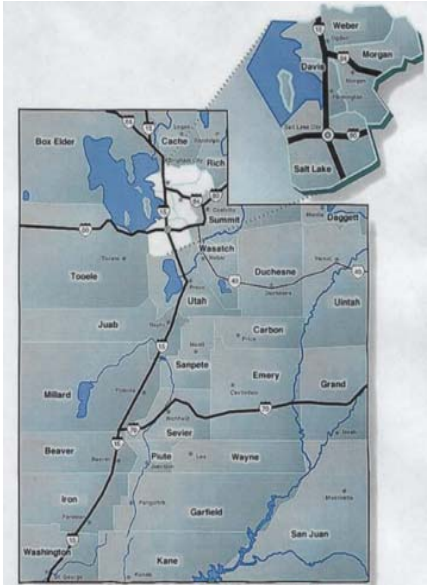

Figure 5 Utah Territory 1870 showing Utah Counties

"The little company began their journey on July 15, 1863 and proceeded by way of Gunnison. Here they met the very colorful character, Barney, or Elijah Ward, a mountaineer who had embraced the Mormon religion and married a Shoshone squaw. He had lived among the Indians for some twenty years and raised a large family of children. He informed the party they were going into the finest country for wintering stock in Utah and there was also an abundance of game and grazing land."[4]

[4]lbid., Page 17.

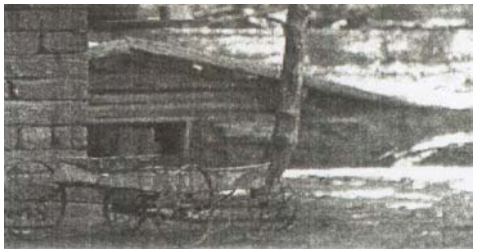

Figure 6 Dugout, Salina, 1896

The company crossed the Sevier River near Redmond and kept to the west side of the river until they came to the present site of Richfield. Here they decided to establish the main settlement of the Valley because of the fertile soil and proximity of water. "The eight men who arrived in Richfield on January 6, 1864 made a shelter and began building a town. (Figure 7 - Dugout)

Land, Water and 'Old Scraggen'

"Robert W. Glenn surveyed six blocks of five acres each, laid off streets wide enough for travel with ox teams. The blocks were divided into quarters, each lot being 214.5 feet square. The men drew lots for homsites. One of the blocks was reserved for the public square. This small town became Plat A Richfield City Survey."[5]

More people came to settle in Sevier in the summer of 1864. Soon after establishing crude camps and shelters they began grubbing off the brush on land near natural springs to plant crops of grain and vegetables. Shoveling, grubbing, planting, watering and weeding were principle activities. Digging ditches to fields and gardens required long hours of hard work. Water from a warm spring west of Richfield, called Spring Ditch, ran east and southeast through the platted community. It supplied water both for culinary purposes in homes and irrigation for gardens.

Accounts from pioneer diaries provide details of early life in Sevier Valley. William Morrison wrote, "The first hut or dwelling place, composed of cedar posts and mud, was that of Albert Lewis. It was our store and the first of any importance, although Mr. Lewis took a few goods, so trifling that they could not be in any sense considered a store.

The first of the families to arrive found a crude settlement. James M. Peterson, Sr. wrote in his diary, "sold our farm in Salt Lake. On the second day of March left for the south, our destination not known. Went through Sanpete

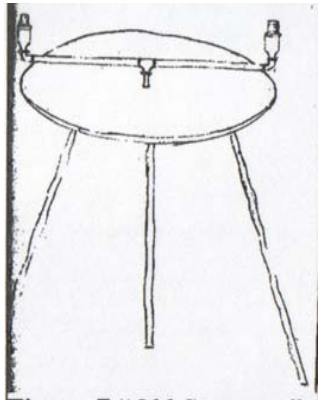

Figure 7 "Old Scraggen" with harlem Oil Glass: Drawn by Joseph M. Peterson, 1964

Figure 9 Craddle

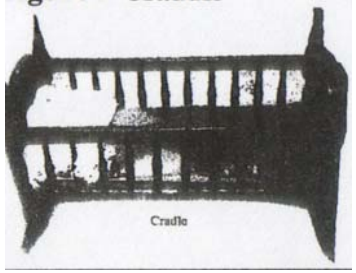

Figure 8 Raw Hide Botton Chair and Butter Churn

[5]Revo Morrey Young. ***Ten Penny Nails*** (Richfield: Undated), Page 22, This Publication was funded by matching grants from the Utah Historical Society and Richfield City. The year of publication was approximately 1986. Andrew Jensen, Church Historian, wrote a letter to Hannah Beutler, dated April 25, 1939 in which he described the first Sevier County Pioneers. In the fall of 1863. Albert Lewis of Manti and seven other men ventured out to make a new settlement in Sevier Valley. Unlike settlers who followed the next year. these men were not called by Church Authorities but came voluntarily. The spent the first winter in a dugout in the ground with rocks piled up for a make-shift chimney. They had no families with them. Others with Albert Lewis were Robert Wilson Glenn, Christian Olsen. C.O. Hansen and his brother, Hans Olsen Hansen, Nelson Higgins, August Nelson, George Ogilvie, Jorgen Smith, and Eskild C. Peterson. In early 1864, the men returned to their homes in Sanpete County to bring their families to Sevier County.

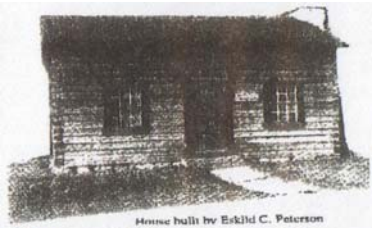

Figure 10 Early Log House

Valley, stopped in Ephraim two days. On the fourteenth arrived to a few settlers at Warm Springs fifty miles south of Manti. On the west side of the Sevier River were five or six men here and two families. Hay and farming land being plenty here we concluded to make this place our home, and went to work making a cellar to live in; town called Omni"[6]

Hans Peter Miller arrived with his family in 1864. Later his daughter barren wrote, "Arriving in Richfield, Mother surveyed a barren valley surrounded by mountains and a ditch flowing crookedly along, almost lost in willows and greasewood; and mounds rising or two feet among the greasewood [brush]. Driving the oxen beside one of mounds, Father announced gravely, 'Here we are. This was home. A cellar, a dirt floor, a roof of willows covered with soil, steps that had been cut with a shovel deep into the soil leading to the entrance. The entrance was not a door; lumber could not be used carelessly in a cellar. A canvas of some sort was hung to keep out the cold, no windows.

"Father was working hard to make enough adobes (molded from the clay and placed in the sun to dry) to build a little one-room house with a window and a door. Before the roof was put on, rail fell. Father hurriedly made a roof of willows, covered it with damp soil, gathered dry grass and scattered it over the damp dirt and moved Mother into the house where their second son Peter Hans Miller Jr. as born April 3, 1965"[7]

[6]James Morten Peterson, Unpublished Personal History

[7]Adeare Miller, Unpublished History of Caroline Larsen Miller. In **Ten Penny Nails,** Op Cit., p. 21.

Sarah Johnson Peterson wrote, " Our mothers got up early in the morning before the ditch water was polluted by roaming cattle. They carried water from the ditch to supply the family during the day. The steps back and forth from the ditch to the house were many, and the buckets full of water were heavy."[8] Many plots were farmed and some were known to have exceptional yield. It was said that Albert Lewis raised 60 bushels of wheat to the acre and some adjoining farms were equally productive.[9]

During the first winter in 1864-65, plans were formulated to build a major water way – The Richfield Irrigation Canal. The main surveyor was Niels Morten Peterson and he was assisted by C.P. Anderson. The surveying instrument used by Mr. Peterson was known as "Old Scraggen" and was used in surveying almost all the canals build in Sevier Valley, as well as much of the land, and in planning the towns.

Figure 11 Early Adobe House

[8]Ibid.P. 22.

[9]Ibid.P. 81.

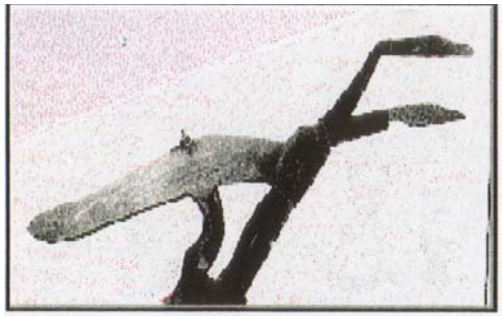

Figure 12 Plow used in digging Elsinore Canal

Some years later Ole P. Borg of Richfield described the 'strange sort of surveying instrument.' "It consisted of a tin pipe three feet long with an elbow and a little glass bottle at each end with the bottom out and a cork at the top. The pipe was provided with a socket on the middle, which made it possible to swing the instrument on a tripod. The pipe was filled with coffee or colored water, which enabled them to sight. The coffee or colored water had to be emptied out at night to keep it from freezing."

Canals and Ditches

The first canal in Sevier County was taken out of the Sevier River approximately two miles upstream from where Elsinore Town is located. At the point of origin, "the canal was specified to be twelve feet wide and three feet deep; the second allotment was ten feet wide and two feet deep; the third about six feet wide and two feet deep... This brought it within half a mile of Richfield. The companies were allotted a hundred rods each or ten rods to each man. All the dirt was to be on the lower side. Father Peterson, as we called him, told us that if every man would do his best we could dig the canal in six weeks. It was accomplished in five."[10]

Gottleib Ence wrote, "Each man had to work according to the amount of land he wanted to get. It was quite an undertaking for so few men, as there was bout 40 or 50 all told. We were very united, a good brotherly spirit prevailed[11]

"On April 26, 1865, water was diverted from the river and turned into the only canal in the valley. Men followed the stream from intake to the end. They threw up their hats, hurrahing, shouting, and singing. Now there was assurance that bounteous crops could be raised. No lack of water from now on."[12] "Oh! How joyous as the water in 48 hours after completion of the canal reached our farming lands."[13]

Determining stewardship of the land was the next challenge. Each family was to have twenty acres; one city lot, one hay lot, two and one-half acres and a share in the public calf pasture. Pieces of papers corresponding to the number on parcels survey by Mr. Glen were placed in a hat and drawn out one at a time. This was the principal method for determining possession of land until 1869 when a law was passed by the Territorial Legislature requiring each owner to file on land and pay a pre-determined amount for it.

Records indicate there was less disputation over land than over water. When irrigation waters first reached the fertile, virgin soil in Sevier Valley, excellent crops were raised, even with shallow plantings. However, farming in the semi-desert conditions in Sevier Valley has never been easy. The soil was loose and easily flooded. Frequent changes of irrigation waters were required day and night. Because of the short growing season, farming routines must be followed diligently as the seasons progress. "Preparing

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[10]**Ibid.**

[11]Gottleib Ence, ***A Short sketch of My Life, Unpublished Personal History.*** **Ten Penny Nails**, Op. Cit., Page 22.

[12]**Ibid.** Sarah Peterson, Personal Journal.

[13]**History of Richfield,** William Morrison, 1880. Bancroft Library.

the soil, planting, watering, cultivating, and harvesting. In off-seasons, farmers must tend to livestock and corrals and keep ditches and fences in good repair. Yet, it is a rewarding way of life."[14] Frequently, personal journals contained the simple entry, "Worked on the farm today."

Early crops were barley, meadow hay, oats, and wheat. Unthreshed grain was stored in unused buildings and threshed after it had cured. Threshed grain was stored in granaries and loose hay stored in barns for feeding livestock during winter months. In later years sugar beets were farmed extensively.

Black smithing and harness making were trades closely related to early farming. Building wagons, mending machinery, repairing implements, making nails, and shoeing horses were also vital services. In those early years, labor was compensated at the rate of 15 cents per hour, or about one dollar per day. When the railroad and mining activities came to Sevier in the late 1880's, wages increased up to twice that amount.

On December 12, 1864, the Fourteenth Utah Territorial Legislature officially created Sevier County. Richfield was declared to be the County Seat. The County Court was created, a Probate Judge, a Superintendent of Schools, and a County Clerk were also appointed.

Keeping sufficient food and raiment required a constant labor. Grinders and grain were in short supply. Women worried constantly for the welfare of their children and husbands. No one had extra to spare. Mush and home-made bread were common staples for modest mealtimes. Cooking was done at little fireplaces over hot coals or stones, with crude campfire cooking utensils. Hunger and fatigue were a part of every day. Frosts, severe storms, and infestation of crickets were added challenges that were endured by early settlers in Sevier.

[14]0p. Cit. **Ten Penny Nails**, Revo Young, Page 23.

Conflicts

The Walker War in 1853-55 had created serious problems for Sevier Valley settlers. But the Blackhawk War which started in the summer of 1865 proved to be much more difficult. Settlements in Sevier County were now into their second decade. The mountains and foothills of Sevier County were well known by the Native American. The surrounding hills and valleys provided natural enclaves for a number of Tribal leaders who, by this time, began to develop greater agitation, hostility and superstitions toward the whites. Settlers had been counseled to "feed rather than fight" the Natives. This conciliatory approach had worked for a number of years. Now open conflict again seemed the only way to redress grievances.

The horrors resulting from the Blackhawk War lasted more than six years and are well documented by volumes of first-hand-accounts in personal journal entries and scores of historical writings. Savage stratagems and violence were practiced by the Indians to drive the pale faces from their lands. They stole cattle, horses, sheep and set fires to homes, barns, wagons and grain fields. They killed, mutilated and scalped scores of settlers - men, women and children.

The summers of 1866 and 1867 brought increased challenges and tragedy to the settlers in Sevier Valley. Sixteen-year-old James M. Peterson wrote in his diary:

> "My sixteenth birthday, I am now subject to military duty, and on May 3, 1866, seven men including myself left for Salt Lake City this morning with 50 head of cattle to buy arms and ammunition for the people of Sevier County. We had a company of twenty-five men with us as guards against the attacks of Indians on our stock. Went to Round Valley Lake and camped for the night. May 4. As we thought

> we were safe from the Indians we let our guard return home. Camped by Scipio sawmill for night at mouth of canyon. Other camping places were Chicken Creek, Nephi, Mona, Santaquin, and Payson. ("Here some of our company fell in with some friends who have plenty of whiskey and our whole company got drunk excepting George Pictol and myself.") Springville, Provo, American Fork, and Big Cottonwood were other camps before reaching Salt Lake City. It was May 21 before the party arrived back home with their purchases. We brought into Richfield 18 rifles and 10 revolvers and 140 pounds of ammunition which we had procured at an enormous price but the goods was indispensable to us."[15]

In March 1867 after a massacre at Glenwood and further killings throughout the area, the order came for the settlers to vacate their homes and move to stronger areas. (Figure 4) Richfield, Monroe and Glenwood were vacated April 20, 1867. Some 100 wagons were sent from the settlements at Gunnison, Manti, Ephraim and Spring City to rescue people in Sevier Valley. The settlers found homes, some permanently in Gunnison, Manti and Mount Pleasant. Further attempts to resettle Sevier Valley did not occur until late 1870 and early 1871 after peace had been made with Blackhawk and his sub-Chieftains. There are accounts of continued problems with Indians through the early 1870's. The last person killed in the Blackhawk war was Dan Miller of Nephi. He was working near Spring City, Sanpete County, when he was attacked and killed on September 26, 1872.[16]

Under the direction of Joseph A. Young, son of President Brigham Young, a select group of 13 men traveled to Fish Lake on June 22, 1873. With the assistance of Tabiona, an Indian guide and interpreter, they met with approximately 100 Indians, Chief Poh-gen-neap, sub-Chiefs and braves. Ten days hence the same groupings met at Red Cedar Grove in Grass Valley (near Koosharem). There, as 'brothers' they pledged peace and help to each other. With their ritualistic handshake, permanent peace came to Sevier Valley.

"They never broke their pledge, and years later these Grass Valley Indians and the Pavants of Millard County made frequent visits to our home in Richfield, They usually called me Judge or George. They always referred to my children as 'Pooret's papooses,' and that means children of the one-armed man, or Chieftain to them."[17] In 1875, Brigham Young called a group to explore Grass Valley for settlement and to make a permanent peace with the Indians. Chief Tabiona again accompanied the party and acted as guide and peacemaker.

At first the Indians were frightened and it "took considerable coaxing to bring them to the camp of the white people. A small Indian boy was the first to come. After a good feed and a few trinkets were given him, he returned to the Indian camp and soon came back, bringing with him the whole tribe. From that time on, the Indians were friendly and peaceful with the white settlers. The Indians had agreed with a handshake and their pledge was never broken."[18] A number of citizens of Native Americans descent remain and live in Grass Valley on the Koosharem Indian Reservation.

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[15]Peter Gottfredson. ***Indian Depredations in Utah,*** Salt Lake City: Skelton Publishing Company, Page 133. Personal Diary of James Morten Peterson.

[16]**Ibid.,** Page 89.

[17]George W. Bean, ***Autobiography.*** Salt Lake City: Utah Printing Company, 1945, Pages 160-162.

[18]Op. Cit., **Ten Penny Nails**, Page 39.

Figure 13 Homestead

Resettlement

The resettlement of Sevier Valley began in earnest in the early 1870's. By the end of the decade the settlers were anticipating a railroad line which first reached Salina, then Richfield and eventually pushed on through Sevier Canyon to Marysvale. Through 'wagon train freighting' commerce both flowed from and reached the Valley. Hardware, general merchandise, and produce stores, together with clothiers and hotels came to Sevier Valley.

In those early settlement years, the medium of exchange was grain, butter, eggs, and cheese. There was little money in circulation, so the stores issued script for produce. They had granaries for storing wheat and oats, and baskets or boxes for eggs. Freighters contracted to take the produce to the markets at mining towns and to larger cities. They sacked the grain and packed the butter, eggs and cheese in oats. Dry goods, groceries, furniture, liquor, machinery and nails were freighted in for the use of County residents.

Gradually, with continual and considerable effort, more lands were developed, more commerce came and the population of Sevier Valley grew. More and better schools were established. Canals were extended, creameries, sawmills, a tannery, culinary water and electric power systems came, streets were paved and sidewalks were installed. These advancements also came through the efforts of a succeeding generation of pioneers, descendants of the founding fathers and mothers of Sevier County.

Omni became Richfield; Old Fort Alma became Monroe; Willow Bend became Aurora; Inverury became Central; the 'Little Denmark Settlement' was named Elsinore; Glenn's Cove or Glencoe became Glenwood; Jericho became Joseph; Grass Valley settlements became known as Burrville, Greenwich, Box Creek and Koosharem; Red Butte Springs became Redmond; Salina became Salina Creek, then Salina; the Cove at Clear Creek became Sevier; Cedar Ridge, Rocky Ford and Vermillion, still distinct settlement areas, are near the incorporated town known as Sigurd; the Cowley Orchard and Wallsville Villages are adjacent to the Town of Venice (In about 1894 when a post office was established, the area was named after Venice, Italy because the Sevier River runs through the middle of the community).[19]

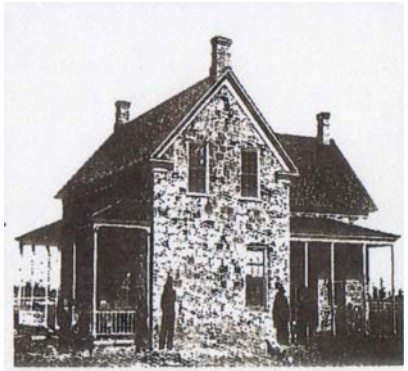


Figure 14 Early Rock House

[19]**Thru, The Years**, Op. Cit., Pages 87 through 469

The rugged mountains, barren valleys, hot summers and cold winters, coupled with strenuous conditions of frontier life in the Great West, produced marvelous qualities of leadership in the pioneers who settled Sevier Valley. It was common for these noble people to give their full energy, or more, and to muster every skill in dealing with the difficult tasks before them. Hardships including lack of food and inadequate clothing, insect infestations, illnesses, threats and thievery from marauding Indians, and death were commonplace. Reflecting on the arduous experiences of her pioneering living, Johannah Christensen observed, "Sometimes I contrast the conditions of our young people with that of their parents and wonder if they can ever in a small degree realize what it has cost their parents to be established in this blessed land."[20]

Contemporary Sevier County

The years following the turn of the century were filled with development and progress in Sevier County. New inventions such as the telegraph, telephone, electricity and indoor plumbing brought unthinkable conveniences. The days of the horse and buggy gave way to the automobile. Gradually, tractors replaced teams of horses, combines and threshing machines replaced the scythe, electric motors powered wool shearing and commerce grew at an equal pace with agriculture.

Figure 16 First car driven into Monroe

The economy received a boost the first half of the century from industries like the Kimberly mines, sugar beets, and coal mining. The railroad, built primarily with Chinese employees was completed to Sevier Valley Coal Mine in 1923. The railroad grade was finished to the summit but was never completed. The railroad to Sevier Valley Mine was abandoned in 1936.

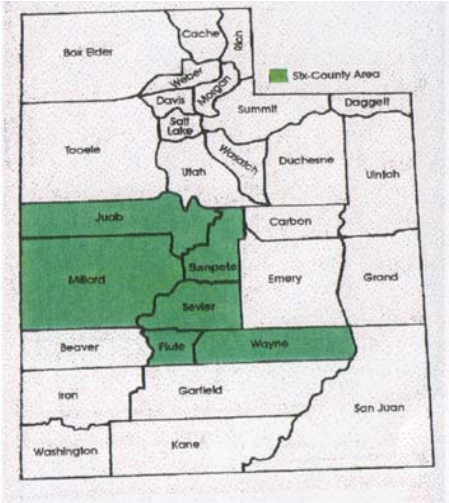


Figure 15 Current Utah Counties showing Six County Area

In 1935 a survey found that 90% or more of the roads in Sevier County resembled primitive trails. The County worked with the State Road Commission to make needed improvements. Beginning in 1937, with finding from the Work Project Administration (WPA), approximately $360,000 was obtained to improve and maintain Sevier County roads. Today, the County Road System embraces some 450 miles of 'Class B' roadways. Modern bridges and culverts were constructed. By 1946 the County had power-spraying machinery for a noxious weed control program. Animal and crop diseases were controlled through vaccination and improved crop management.

[20]Unpublished Personal History *of* ***Johanna Marie Poulson Christensen,*** as recorded in **Ten Penny Nails**, Op. Cit, Page 22.

The six county area, Sevier, Juab, Sanpete, Millard, Piute and Wayne counties was formed to provide cost effective services to the citizens of the county.

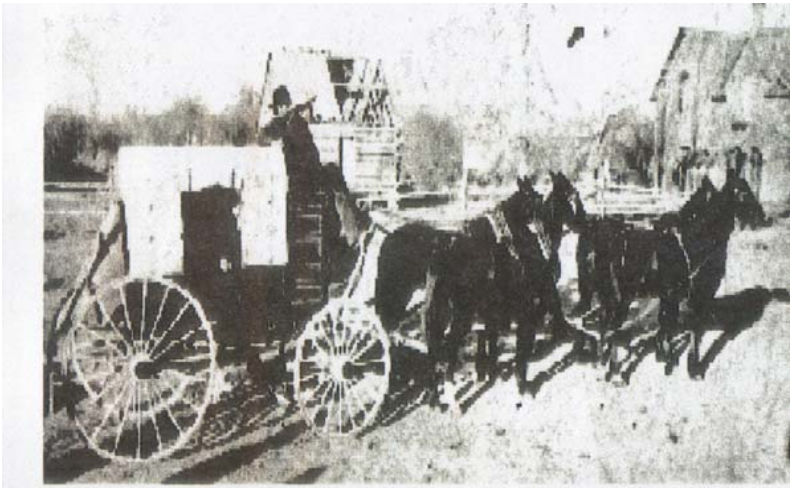


Figure 17 Stage coach leaving Monroe for Kimberly Mines

Alfalfa, potatoes, sugar beets, registered beef and lambs, and poultry raising (principally turkeys) became productive and profitable agricultural industries. Sevier County joined Sanpete County as the world's largest turkey producing area. Mexican nationals joined with thousands of Piute and Navajo Indians to help with planting, cultivating and harvesting crops. Sevier County is one of the principal beef cattle areas in Utah and the Western U. S..

Sevier County's Economy

The economy of Sevier County has remained diverse and healthy. The valuation of property grew from $198,000 in 1873 to near $8.5 million in 1946. In 1997, the valuation of real estate and buildings in Sevier County is $701,216,021.

Advancements in commerce, industry, manufacturing, mining and transportation are evident throughout Sevier County. Mining of clay, coal, gypsum and salt are commercially important to the County. Interstate 70 and U.S. Highway 89 are vital transcontinental transportation routes that intersect in Sevier County. Air transportation is growing in importance and trucking is a vital industry. Manufacturing related to natural resources is expanding. Travel and tourism continue to grow and are predominant factors in the Sevier County economy.

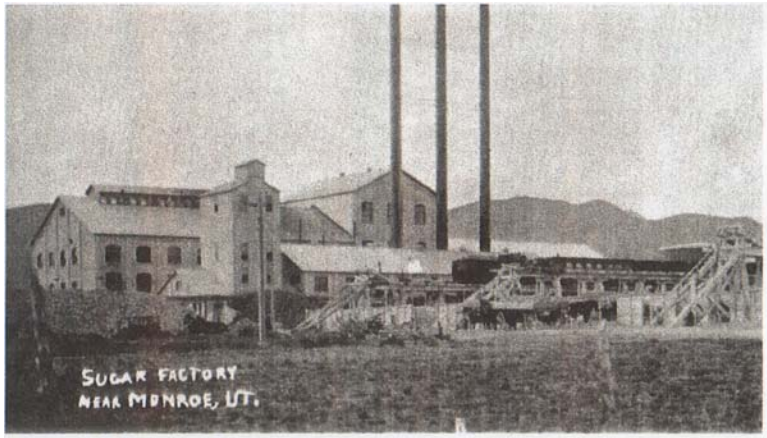


Figure 18 Sevier Sugar Beet Factory

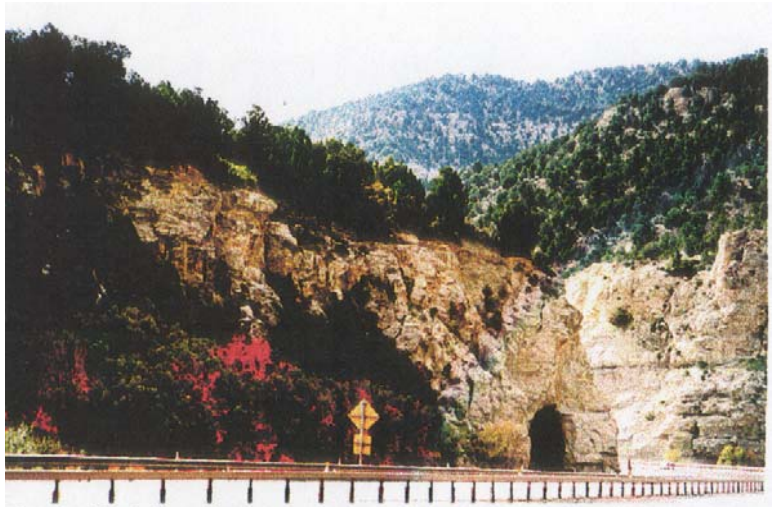


Figure 20 Salina Canyon

Figure 21 Petrograph Salina Canyon

Wildlife Resources

Wildlife resources including fishing, big game hunting (especially deer and elk), upland game bird hunting, waterfowl hunting and habitat management, combine as important elements in the Sevier County economy. Thousands of hunters, fishermen and those who love wildlife travel to Sevier County every year to participate in wildlife-related activities. Although the degree of reliance upon and reasons for managing fish and game resources have changed over the past 140 years, wildlife has always been, and will continue to be, a dominant factor in Sevier county's culture, economy, ecology and social systems.

Water

Historically crucial to Sevier County is the development and maintenance of water resources. The Sevier River is widely recognized as one of the highest utilized rivers in North America. Through many years of development scores of projects have increased the river's value to Sevier County Land Owners

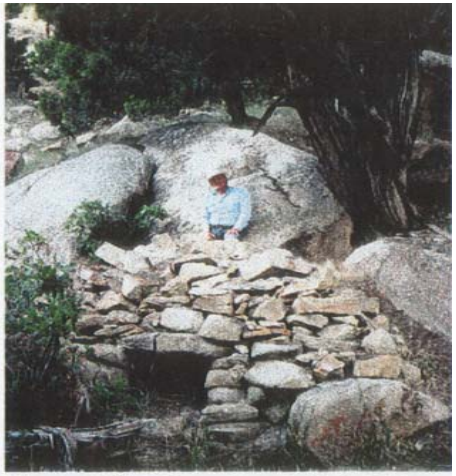


Figure 19 Chinese Oven built in Salina at the time the railroad was built

Figure 22 Fish Lake in October

Figure 26 Baling hay at sunset

and down-stream users. In addition to the Otter Creek and Piute Reservoirs, many smaller reservoirs, as well as canals, springs, wells and drainage systems combine to provide life-sustaining water to Sevier County and recharge to the Sevier River.

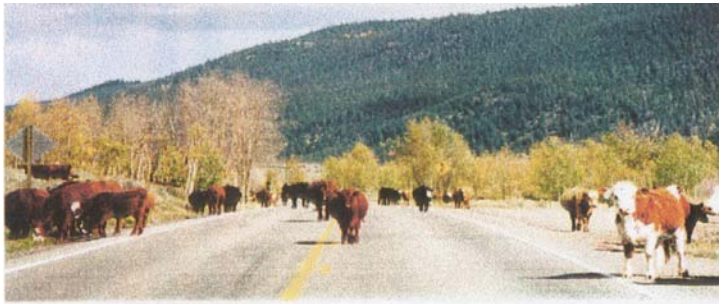


Figure 23 Modern cattle drive

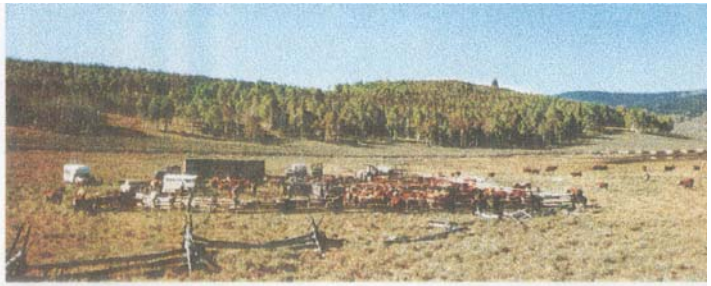


Figure 24 Cattle roundup

On the upper Sevier River important water storage reservoirs are Panguitch Lake, Tropic Reservoir, Pine Lake in John's Valley, Widstore Reservoir, Upper and Lower Box Creek Reservoirs (both near Koosharem) and Manning Reservoir on Monroe Mountain. On the lower course of Sevier River are Nine Mile and Gunnison Reservoirs. Sevier Valley, the largest storage reservoir is Rocky Ford at Sigurd. Three Creek, drains into Clear Creek, then into the Sevier River near the settlement known as Sevier. The Koosharem and Rex reservoirs on the west slope of Fish Lake Mountain drain into Otter Creek Reservoir.

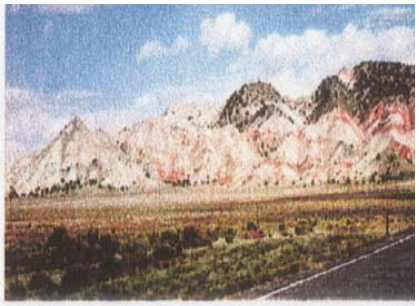


Figure 25 View from Highway 89

Recreation Sevier County is a tourist and recreation mecca. Richfield and Salina provide superlative accommodations, Including motels, restaurants, service stations and shopping centers, for travelers and visitors to the County. Sevier County hosts a variety of recreational activities annually. Among the most prominent of these are the Sevier County

Figure 27 Nioche Divide

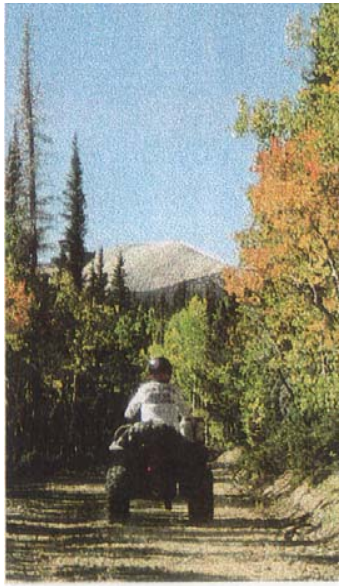


Figure 28 ATV Trail

naturalists, and ATV trail and horseback riders converge on this scenic high county area in summer months. Three major resorts, more than a hundred summer homes and numerous family and group campsites commonly fill with several thousand people, particularly during holiday weekends.

Fair and trail rides hosted by the Piute ATV Trail organization, which attracts thousands of participants and visitors to the County each year.

In addition to Monroe Mountain, which provides scores of mountain recreational facilities, a centerpiece attraction is Fish Lake. A large, natural water body located in the Fish Lake National Forest in east central Sevier County, Fish Lake is the core of a larger water drainage basin. Fish Lake has developed into one of the largest recreational centers in south central Utah. Fishermen, mountain bike riders, boating enthusiasts, campers,

Figure 30 Successful Hunt

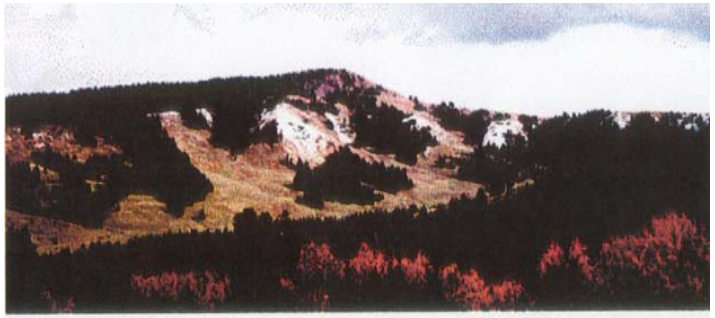
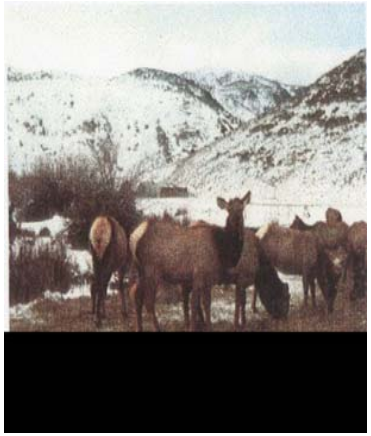


Figure 29 Fish Lake National Forrest— A Wild life haven

Wildlife Resources

Wildlife resources including fishing, big game hunting (especially deer and elk), upland game bird hunting, waterfowl hunting and habitat management, combine as important elements in the Sevier County economy. Thousands of hunters, fishermen and those who love wildlife travel to Sevier County every year to participate in wildlife-related activities. Although the degree of reliance upon and reasons for managing fish and game resources have changed over the past 140 years, wildlife has always been, and will continue to be, a dominant factor in Sevier County's culture, economy, ecology and social systems.



Sevier County Communities

The first pioneers to Sevier Valley included those who could trace their ancestry back to the earliest European settlers of America, including many who recently arrived from England, Denmark, Sweden, Scotland, and Wales. Most came because of economic, family, or religious reasons. Many of the first settlers were already experienced in starting new communities in Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, Utah and other areas. Others were new to the United States and the experience.

Today Sevier County population is made up of about 97% Caucasian ancestry and 3% Native Americans, Hispanic, and Native African ancestry. Most of the early pioneers who settled in Sevier County have descendants living there today.

The leadership of early communities was either a president appointed by the settlers themselves or a Presiding Elder or Bishop appointed by the Mormon Colonizer Brigham Young. Frequently the same person held both the community and Church leadership. The leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was actually involved in assisting these struggling communities and provided assistance and instruction to leaders.

During the fight for statehood, which lasted from the early 1870s to 1896, the leadership in the towns changed from ecclesiastical to public elected officials. After the towns became incorporated the town president and boards were elected by the residents of the town. Since statehood religious and public leadership have remained separate. Civic leaders are voted or appointed according to Utah State Law. There is great support in Sevier

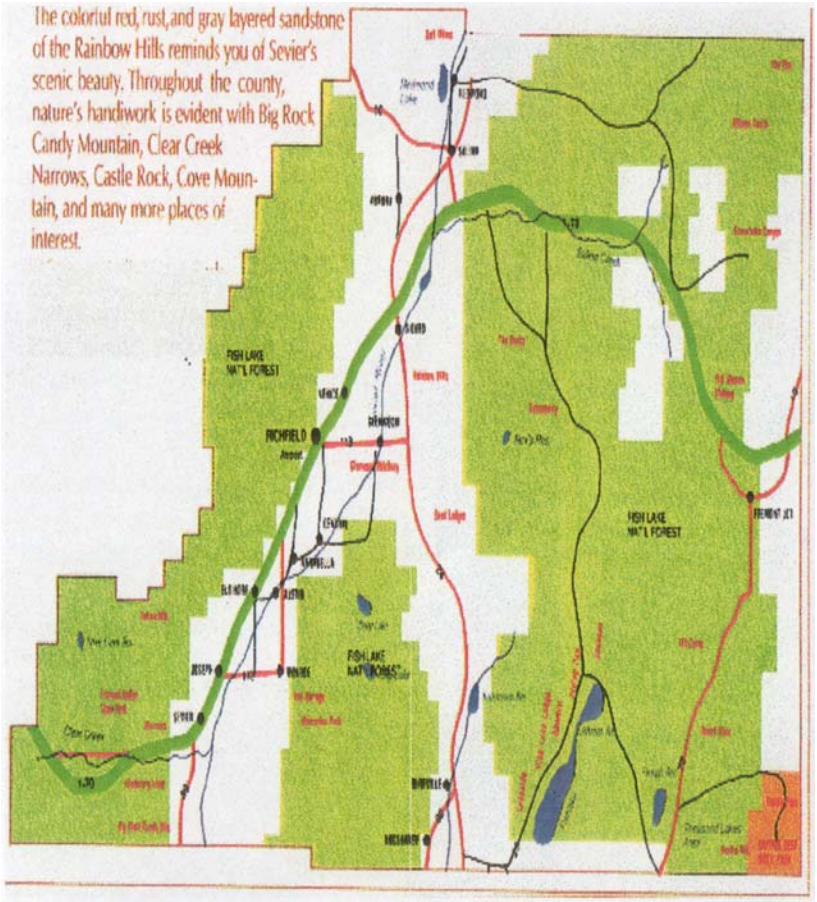


Figure 1 Map of Sevier County

County for State and Federal Government. But the independent spirit of the pioneer ancestors is also strongly apparent.

Many residents of Sevier County have served in the United States military. Their service included the Walker and Black Hawk Indian Wars, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the war in Viet Nam.

Figure 3 Mountains showing one location of ATV trails

On Independence Day residents of Sevier Country celebrate their loyalty and commitment to the United States with parades in Salina and Richfield, and a carnival in Richfield City Park, Richfield also hosts the *Field of Stars*, a pageant in drama, song, and action that portrays the events leading up the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Black Hawk Arena in Salina is the site for indoor rodeos, dances, and concerts.

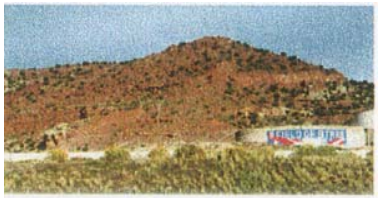


Figure 2 Field of Stars site

Table 1 provides a graphic view of the settlements in Sevier County. Settlements began in the Richfield area in 1863 and intensified in the 1870's following the end of The Black Hawk War. Sevier County hosts a fair in August at the County Fairgrounds in Richfield where residents of the county display their agriculture, crafts, home canning, artwork, and commercial activities. The

Fast Facts: Sevier County

Town	Year Settled	Year Incorporated	Original Name (s)
Annabella	1871	1910	Omni Point, Thompson Springs
Aurora	1875	1914	Willow Bend
Austin	1872	not incorporated	Austin
Burrville	1875	not incorporated	Burrville
Central	1871	not incorporated	Inverory
Elsinore	1874	February 25, 1892	Little Denmark
Glenwood	1863	April 15, 1897	Glenn's Cove
Joseph	1864	November 1900	Jericho
Koosharem	1875	1911	Koosharem
Monroe	1864	January 1, 1889	South Bend, Alma
Redmond	1875	October 4, 1897	Redmond
Richfield	1863	February 22, 1878	Warm Springs, Omni
Salina	1864	April 3, 1882	Salina Creek
Sevier City	1872	not incorporated	Cove
Sigurd	1871	August 24, 1935	Vermillion
Venice	1875	not incorporated	Wallsville

Table 1 Sevier County Summary

annual Sevier Valley Arts and Heritage Festival in September celebrates the variety of customs and culture reflected in the lives of the Sevier Valley residents. The Black Hawk Arena in Salina hosts national rodeos and concerts.

County recreation areas include the Fairgrounds and race track, ATV trails; Fremont Indian State Park with its tours, museum, theater. Fish Lake and numerous smaller reservoirs provide fishing and a host of summer sports. Snowmobiling in the Fish Lake area is among the finest in the western U.S..

Advancements and changes through the past 136 years are apparent in modern Sevier County communities. Most have the conveniences and quality services found in modern urban centers. Much of the heritage and culture imported by their ancestors is manifest in the lives of contemporary residents. They value personal freedoms, including private property rights. They value their lands and clean wholesome environment. They value their lifestyle and they remain committed to preserving and protecting the quality of their communities.

The estimated population of Sevier County in 1997 is 17,682.

Annabella

Annabella lies at the base of Cove Mountain about five miles south east of Richfield. The first white settlers arrived in 1871. It was originally called Omni Point and later Thompson Springs. The town was later renamed using the given names of two of the first settlers, Ann Roberts and Isabella Dalton.

Annabella was incorporated in 1910. J.W. Fairbanks was the first president. Mail service began in 1874. John Gleave, from England, was the first postmaster. The first bridge across the Sevier River was built in 1887 by Russell Kelly, about 100 yards east of the present bridge. Three bridges now serve the community.

The Annabella Canal was finished in 1872 and delivered water from the Sevier River. Water from springs in Red Butte Canyon, Cottonwood Canyon and Cove Mountain was piped directly into all sections of town in 1912. This was the beginning of the community's public culinary water system.

Currently, there is no waste water system. Natural gas is available for residents. Electricity is provided by Utah Power and Light.

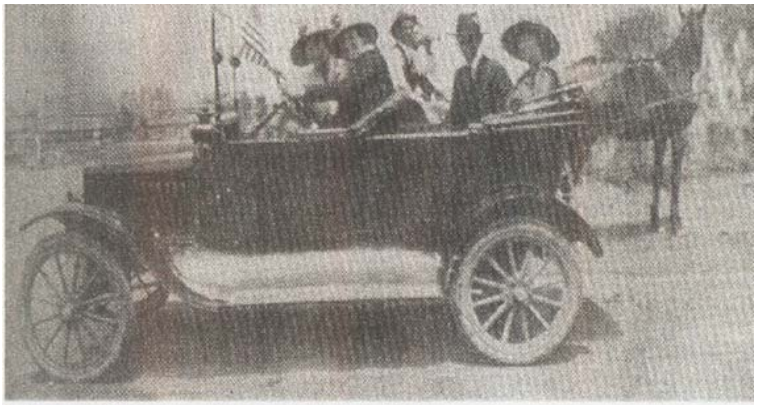


Figure 4 First car driven into Annabella

Figure 5 Annabella Basket Ball Team

Industries that supported Annabella in its early days included a variety of sawmills, dairies, cattle and sheep raising. Andrew Nordfors, from Sweden, was the village blacksmith. The sawmills and blacksmith shop ceased to exist in the late 1940's.

Today Annabella has a well-kept city park with swings and other play equipment. The park has horseshoes, barbeques and tables. There is a Pheasant Hunter's Dinner during the annual hunt. Agriculture and home business provide the major economic activity. Retail and health care services are accessed from Richfield, Monroe and Salina. Jobs in Richfield and other parts of the county now support many of the residents.

The population of Annabella Town in 1997 is approximately 571.

Aurora

Aurora lies between Salina and Sigurd west of Highway 89.

The first settlers arrived on March 9, 1875. The first schoolhouse was built in 1879 of split logs, a one-room structure with desks fastened to the walls. Children sat on benches. Maggie Keeler was the first teacher. A rock schoolhouse was built in 1898. Both buildings served as points for school, church and community activities including programs and dances. This building was torn down in 1930 and was replaced by a more modem brick school.

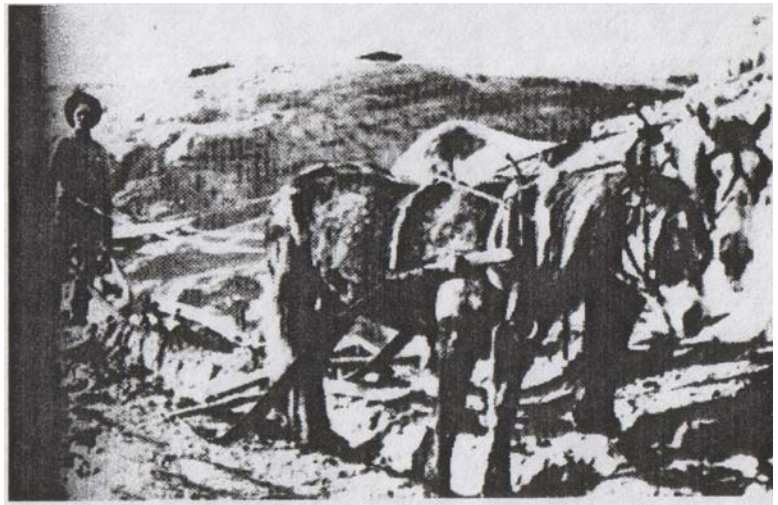


Figure 6 Plowing the field near Aurora

In 1906, the first amusement hall was built. It was a neat frame building seated with opera chairs. It burned to the ground in 1910 but the organ was saved. It was replaced by a brick building that also served as a theater and dance hall. It was said that men often furnished the wood for the stoves in exchange for dance or theater tickets.

Figure 7 Early Aurora settler. His hands swung the ax and played the violin

The first phone was installed in 1903. Electric lights came in 1912. Between 1910 and 1912 several new brick homes were built with brick made in Glenwood. It took from early morning to late night to fetch a wagonload of bricks from Glenwood. The roads were paved in 1959. In the summer of 1964, seven large street lamps were installed. The need for a better culinary water system brought about incorporation in 1914. Abraham Shaw was elected as the first mayor. Water was piped to Aurora from Friday Springs, west of town. In 1932, Wash Spring was added and in 1945 another spring. Water meters were added to each residence in 1948. A well for culinary water was drilled in 1950. This enabled a sprinkling system to be installed at the cemetery.

The constant struggle to get water for the land resulted in the building of three canals, the State Canal, The Willow Bend Canal and the Vermillion Canal.

The Aurora Lion's Club was organized April 17, 1951. A Cemetery Committee, organized in 1952, made improvements that included lining up the graves, planting grass and installing a well and sprinkling system.

Aurora provides all modern services including a wastewater collection and treatment system. Current industries like early industries, are based largely on agriculture. Local clay mines still ship products to national markets. Most retail and health care services are accessed from Richfield, Salina and Gunnison. Recreational facilities include a park in the foothills west of town that has picnic facilities, horse area, restrooms and playground. There is a City Park with tables, pavilion, barbeques, baseball diamonds and playground. A Scout Cabin is available to groups by reservation and for a fee, It has a large kitchen and recreation hall plus restrooms.

The 1997 population of Aurora Town is approximately 992.

Central Valley

Central Valley is an unincorporated community that lies in a valley midway between Cove Mountain on the east and the Pahvant Mountains on the west. It is located just off Highway 89 about 7 miles from Richfield. It was first named "Inverness" (taken from a town in Scotland) and means "between two waters." This name was accepted for the post office established in 1877. Joseph R. Hooten was the first postmaster. The post office was discontinued and mail was dispatched from Elsinore or Richfield. About 1909, Cyrus Winget of Austin got up a petition and Central people signed it to have their mail go through Monroe. The name Central came back into use for church organizations.

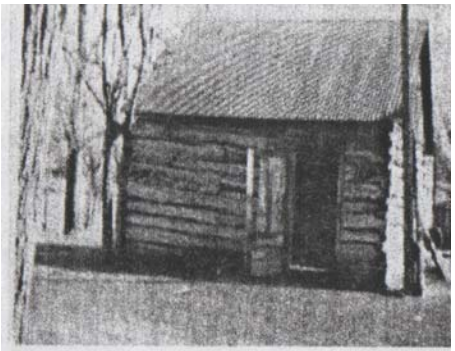


Figure 8 Central Log Meeting House

Two families spent the first winter, 1871-1872, living in a dug-out. In the spring of 1872, they were joined by additional families. Early in 1872 the town site was surveyed and a precinct was created.

Central formed a water works company on February 5, 1909, and appointed a Board of Directors. They borrowed money and established a culinary water system. Prior to this initiative water had to be carried from nearby springs to homes. A private water company now supplies water.

In 1904, Central Built a two story, four room school-house. The children of Austin were transported to the school in a covered wagon. Consolidation later dictated the children attend school in Monroe.

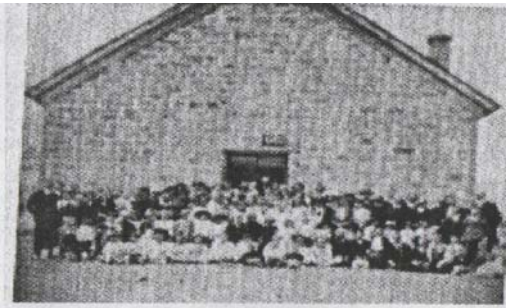


Figure 9 Central Rock Meeting House

A cooperative threshing machine and other farm equipment provided an economic base to the farmers of the community. The operation was incorporated August 29, 1927, as a stock company but later changed to an agricultural cooperative in December, 1942. Cost of the machinery was prorated on a use basis.

Central had a number of midwives and nurses who provided health care. Early midwives were Sarah Gray and Sarah Marinda Hanchett Marble. A historic site that no longer exists was the corral in the center of town. Currently Central's main industry is agriculture with some home business. Early livestock and sheep feeding continues as an important agricultural industry in Central. Retail and health care services are accessed from Richfield and Monroe. Electricity and natural gas are available to residents. Currently there is no public waste water system.

Elsinore

Elsinore is just off Interstate 70 about 6 miles south of Richfield. Imposing arid and rocky hills form the west boundary of the town. Elsinore was settled in 1874 by two groups of men. The first was a group of young men who had given up their lands to the United Order and were seeking farmland and adventure. They intended to spend weekends with their families in Richfield and the week farming in Elsinore. Working together, they harvested 1,900 bushels of grain the first year. Their cooperative ability to produce grain earned the area the name "Town of the Stacks." They later moved their families to Elsinore after obtaining permission from Church leaders. All the first settlers were from Richfield. There were difficulties among the early settlers and some moved away. Others came to take their place.

A rock school house was completed in 1877. That same year a mercantile institution commenced business. The rock school house was the center of community activity. The diphtheria epidemic took the lives of 15 children in the fall of 1877. A second diphtheria outbreak struck the town in 1890. The drought of Sevier Valley in 1879, followed by a severe winter that killed the sheep and the grasshoppers that came in 1880, provided challenges for these early settlers.

Figure 10 Elsinore Early Stores

Many emigrants came to America from Denmark in 1881. Nine families settled in the southwest corner of town. It became known as Danish Town or "Little Denmark." Many of these people had trades needed in the community. The community received its name from these Danish settlers.

Figure 11 Early Days in Elsinore

Women from the Methodist Church started a school in Elsinore in 1886. The building built by the Methodist women of Columbus, Ohio was used for 31 years as a school, church and activity center.

The Edmunds Law, outlawing polygamy was passed on January 3, 1887 by the U.S. Congress. Under provisions of that law, Federal Marshals were sent to Elsinore to arrest men practicing plural marriage. Many were sent to prison.

The town was incorporated February 25, 1892, with J .C. Jensen as president. The Denver and Rio Grande opened a train station on July 21, 1896. Elsinore became an important shipping point for cattle, sheep and flour produced in the valley. Train service ended in May of 1949.

A sugar beet factory began operation in Elsinore in the early twenty's. Farmers from surrounding areas brought beets to sell for processing in Elsinore. The factory produced Utah-Idaho (U & I) Sugar.

Elsinore has electricity, natural gas and a city water system. Currently there is no public waste water system Agriculture is still the primary industry. A service station and convenience store, auto repair shop, rock shop, and private club and restaurant are the primary businesses on Elsinore's Main Street. Additional services are accessed from Monroe and Richfield.

Children in Elsinore attend school in Monroe for their public education. Many residents work in Salina or Richfield. Recreational facilities include the White Rock School and

Community Center with pavilion, tables, ball field, barbeques, horse shoes and playground. There is a recreation hall with gymnastic facilities and gymnastic classes are available. A riding club arena is also available. Retail and health care services are principally accessed from larger cities. The 1997 population of Elsinore Town is approximately 689.

Glenwood

Glenwood is nestled in a small cove southeast of Richfield; It was settled in the spring 1863 by six families called by Brigham Young. The first name given to the settlement was Glenn Cove after Robert W. Glenn. In November of 1864, Orson Hyde visited the settlement and gave it the name Glenwood. There were numerous conflicts among the earlier settlers and the Indians.

Early in 1867, Glenwood, along with other communities in Sevier Valley, was vacated due to the Black Hawk War. Many of the Glenwood people found homes in Sanpete County and a few went to Millard County. Late in 1870, families started to return to Glenwood, and by February 1871, there were enough to reorganize a branch of the church.

The United Order was organized in October of 1874 in Glenwood. During the lifetime of the Order, a period of about five years, the people were unified. By their unified efforts, they were able to build up a number of industries, including two grist mills, a saw mill, a carding mill, a shingle mill, a tannery, a large shoe shop, a clothing shop, an orchard, a carpenter shop and a dairy, as well as agriculture of all types, A large rock store, known as the Glenwood.

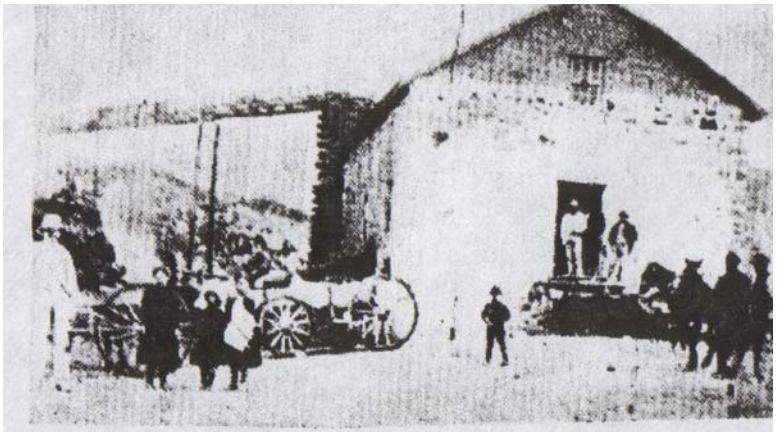


Figure 12 First Grist Mill in Glenwood

Co-op, was built in 1878 under the United Order. Dances were held on the upper floor of this largest store in Sevier County. The old grist mill, which served most of Sevier and Wayne counties, is still standing, as well as the old co-op store. A brick mill once provided a golden yellow brick for many of the buildings in the county, including the Glenwood School which

Figure 13 School House built with Glenwood Brick

operated from 1912 to 1958. The last bricks from the Glenwood Brick Mill were produced in 1947.

Glenwood was incorporated April 15, 1897, with Herbert H. Bell as president. Facilities available in Glenwood include a city park with play equipment, pavilion, tables, barbecue, rest-rooms and horseshoe pit. The Daughters of Utah Pioneers have a museum located in Glenwood, which is open for tours upon request. Wood culinary water, as well as water for the pressurized irrigation system, is provided by Glenwood Spring, which is located at the Glenwood State Fish Hatchery. Tours of the modem hatchery are available during working hours. Most residents are employed in the Richfield area. Retail and health care services are accessed from larger communities.

The 1997 population of Glenwood Town is approximately 530.

Joseph

Joseph is on old Highway 89, just east of Interstate 70 and about 18 miles south of Richfield. It was settled in 1864 as "Jericho" by four families from Sanpete County who were called by Brigham Young. The community was abandoned in 1865 due to the Indian War and resettled in 1871. On September 10, 1872, several families returned accompanied by Stake President Joseph A. Young, son of Brigham Young. He laid out the present town site and named it Joseph in honor of himself. George T. Wilson was appointed as the Presiding Elder.

The town incorporated in November 1900. James H. Wells was the first town president. The community was organized with a board of four members and a president

The Joseph Canal was built by settlers. Early community early activities featured the Joseph Silver Band and baseball. Stores, blacksmith shop, hotels and livery stables supplemented agricultural income. Early Joseph businesses benefited from the boom days of Kimberly gold mines and decreased when the gold mines ran dry.

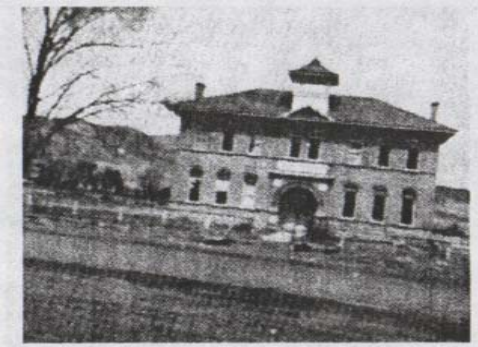


Figure 14 Joseph School House built 1904

The telephone came to Joseph in 1900, followed by electricity in 1913. Joseph waterworks supplies culinary water that originates in Gooseberry Creek in the west mountains.

The 1997 population of Joseph Town is approximately 241.

Koosharem

Koosharem is an eastern, southern Sevier town, located in Grass Valley on the east side of Cove Mountain. Grass Valley also includes the unincorporated communities of Box Creek, Burrville and Greenwich. Koosharem is the only incorporated town in this area. Grass Valley communities were the only towns in Sevier County that were not laid out so everyone could live in the community and farm the surrounding area. Most of the early settlers in this area felt it worked better for them to live on their farms.

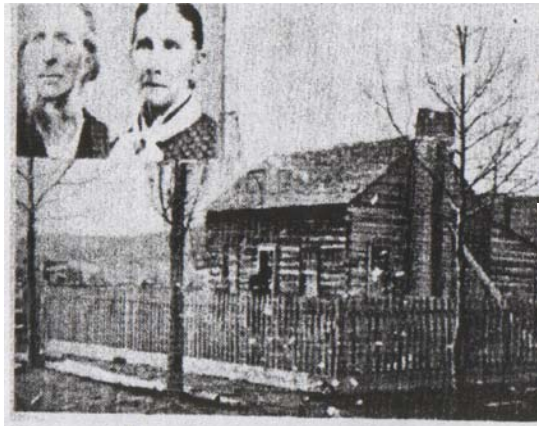


Figure 15 Early Log House in Koosharem

First settlers into the area were members of the 1873 exploring party into the Fish Lake area who were later called to settle Grass Valley by Church leaders. George Bean's family took the northern part and Albert K. Thurber settled the southern part. Others soon followed. Porter Rockwell and G.T. "Tank" Bean drove the first four-horse outfit through Kings's Meadow Canyon.

Resettlement occurred about 1875 after the Black Hawk War ended. There were four log schools in Grass valley one each at Box Creek, Burrville, Greenwich and Koosharem. The buildings were used for school, church and community socials and did not always provide enough room for all who came to dance. Boys and men drew lots for turns on the dance floor.

The building in Koosharem burned down in 1881 and was replaced with a larger two room structure. A new, four-room brick structure with a library was dedicated September 29,1906. The school grew as the community grew.

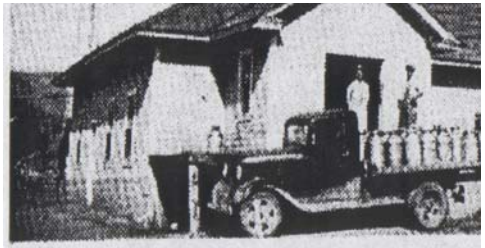


Figure 16 The Old Koosharem Creamery

The Methodist Church built a school in 1906 just northeast of Box Creek. This operated until 1928 when children were transported to Koosharem. In the late twenties, all students in Grass Valley were bused to Koosharem to elementary, junior high and high school. In 1961, the junior high and high school students were transferred to Piute County school.

Early water systems were individual wells that people drew water from in buckets. In 1919, the people of Koosharem realized, for convenience and public safety, a piped water system needed to be installed. The original system, piped in a wooden conduit, was replaced with a metal pipe in 1934. Burrville also installed a piped water system. Other residents of the valley continue to use wells. There is currently no public waste water system in the valley.

The town of Koosharem was incorporated in 1911. There were about 500 people living in the valley at that time. The population in 1997 was approximately 282.

Koosharem Reservoir lies at the foot of the southwest slope of Fishlake Mountain, It has long been a favorite fishing place for people in Sevier County and others. The reservoir is important both for irrigation and fishing.

Although agriculture industries continue to be important means of livelihood, the Sorenson Ranch and other local service organizations provide a growing economic base for the secluded valley. There are a few small businesses in Koosharem but most services have to be accessed from Richfield, about a forty-minute drive. Some residents access limited services from Marysvale.

The 1997 population of Koosharem Town was approximately 321.

Monroe

Monroe was settled in 1864, as "Alma", by 32 families. It is located 10 miles southeast of Richfield. Monroe was incorporated January 1, 1889, as a town and Andrew Larson took office as the first president.

June 3, 1921, Monroe incorporated as a city and Joseph A. Smith was elected mayor. A few years later, ordinances were passed that prohibited the slaughtering of animals in the city limits and no campers with horses in residential areas.

About 1923, Dr. Hanks, city physician, asked for ordinances to improve the lack of sanitation in back alleys, out houses, feed lots inside the city limits and hitching posts for horses.

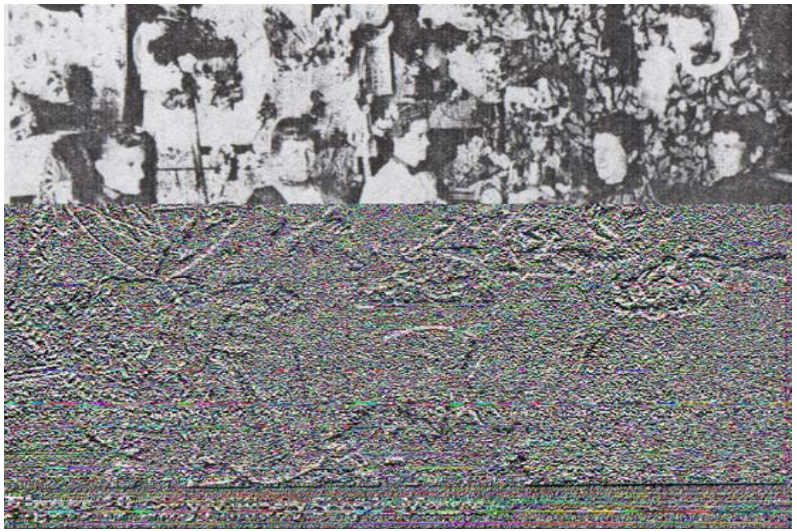
Figure 17 Creamery Wagon, Monroe

The natural hot springs were developed as a health resort but met with limited success and were sold to the city in 1935. They are now in private ownership. The little dance hall atop Art Washburn's apple cellar was licensed for dancing February 3, 1926. Telephone poles and lines were installed early in 1902. A public water system was installed in 1907. There were many growing pains and problems to be solved as the sugar factory, farms and homes wanted access to piped water. Meters were tried as an experiment in 1927. The current modern system was installed in 1965.

Figure 18 Creamery Truck Monroe

Figure 20 Early Monroe Furniture Store

Electricity was delayed for five years as members of the town were divided as to the best way to obtain it. Current business includes agriculture and retail outlets. Attempts to furnish electricity to the flour mill resulted in a disastrous fire that burned the mill in 1917. Today Monroe has its own electrical distribution system, natural gas, a town culinary water system. a library and volunteer fire department. There is currently no public waste water system. The business district of the town offers a drug store, fast food options, service stations and a convenience store. Two city parks provide picnic areas with electricity and running water for citizens and travelers. They also have ball fields and horseshoes. The newest park by the school has basketball standards, tennis courts, volleyball facilities and restrooms.



South and East of Monroe is the only entrance into Monroe Canyon. The narrow canyon with steep cliffs is home to Monrovian Park that offers hiking, barbeques, picnic tables and snowmobiling in the winter. The Mystic Hot Mineral Springs and campground is available for a fee. There is a Pioneer Day Celebration on July 24 with a parade and activities in the park.

The 1997 population of Monroe City is approximately 1,945.

Redmond

Redmond was settled late in l875-l876. The town received its name from the three red mounds that form a part of the grey hills to the west of town. It is located in the northern part of Sevier County.

Figure 21 Redmond hill

Early settlers had some fertile farm land and some not so fertile but not enough water.

They solved this challenge by building two reservoirs and digging irrigation ditches. In the fall, a survey of the canal to the lake was made and plans were drawn up to build the dam and form the lake. Settlers ranged their cattle and sheep on the west hills. The Sevier River ran on the east of town. A bridge had to be built in order to safely cross the river.

The earliest settlers had to purchase the town site from Salina people. A committee was appointed to make the purchase in October, 1875. The committee had the land surveyed into ten-acre lots. Families drew for their lots and then paid $40.00 for each 10 acre plot, plus twenty shares of Rocky Ford Canal water and twenty acres of land outside the town site.

Families started moving to Redmond by the early spring of 1876. Some of the early settlers lived in cellars until they could get a house built of logs or adobe. The church was the first building completed and housed the Christmas Party of 1876. This building also housed the first school and many community socials.

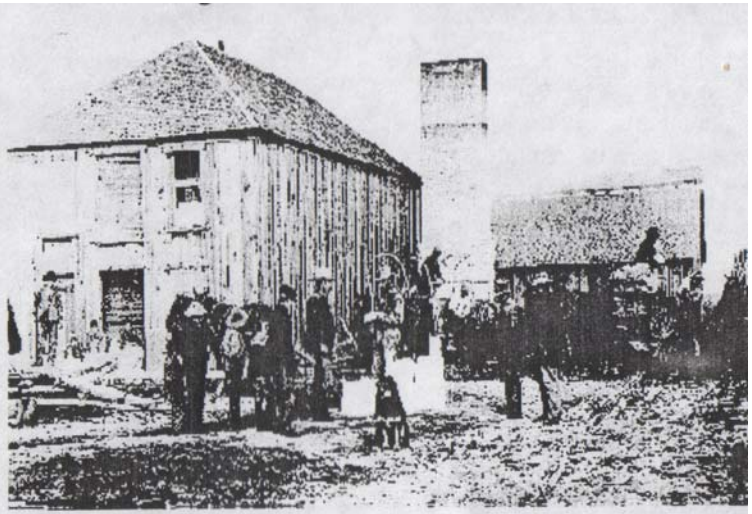


Figure 22 Salina Salt Company, Redmond, 1896

The Rocky Ford canal was the main canal for many years. The Vermillion Extension Canal was put through Salina fields and on to Redmond in 1890. This brought more land under cultivation. The Spring Ditch was first called the Red Butte Canal. Later, it was incorporated and became the Redmond Irrigation Company.

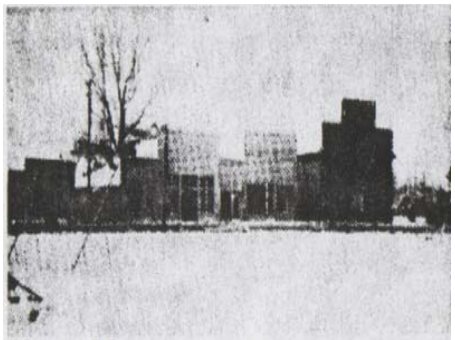


Figure 23 Redmond Opera House

It was surveyed and built to wind through the town to bring culinary and irrigation water to the greatest number of homes possible. The canal provided drinking water until the diphtheria epidemic when wells were dug for culinary water. Corrals were built on the banks of the ditch so the livestock could have access to the warm water. It hardly ever froze over. This ditch was lined with concrete beginning in 1958. Much of the work was done by men of the town who drew lots to see which section of the canal they worked on.

Culinary water was installed with wooden pipes in 1908-1909. Water was taken from surface springs to the head house and then pumped with a water wheel to a tank on a west hill. The water then came back to town in underground 4-inch wooden pipes. A shortage of water resulted in the town developing

flowing wells in 1934. These wells were later condemned by the State Board of Health in December 1935. Two new wells were drilled in 1936 that remain in use today. Cast iron pipe replaced the wooded pipes.

Redmond has natural gas and a modern sewer system in addition to a culinary water system. It accesses additional services and health care from Richfield, Salina and Gunnison. Recreational facilities include Redmond Lake with fishing and water skiing; two parks with ball playing facilities, bowery, picnic tables and play equipment. The salt mine has a video tour available by reservation. A breakfast is held to celebrate Pioneer Day on July 24.

The population of Redmond Town in 1997 is approximately 767.

Richfield

Richfield was settled January 6, 1864, by a group of 10 men from Sanpete County. They lived in a single dugout the first winter while they worked together on nine more dugouts. These men came on their own accord seeking more fertile farmland. That spring they returned to Sanpete County and moved their families to Richfield.

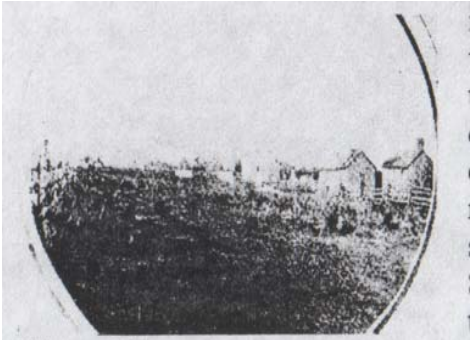


Figure 24 Richfield Main Street in 1800's

About 20 additional families came with them. Orson Hyde visited the group in May, 1864, and appointed Nelson Higgins presiding Elder.

The town site was surveyed in the spring of 1864 and a number of small adobe cabins were built. Richfield was laid out according to a modified version of the "plan of the City of *Zion.*" The same plan that Joseph Smith had used in Nauvoo and Brigham Young encouraged in the settlements he directed. The early settlers

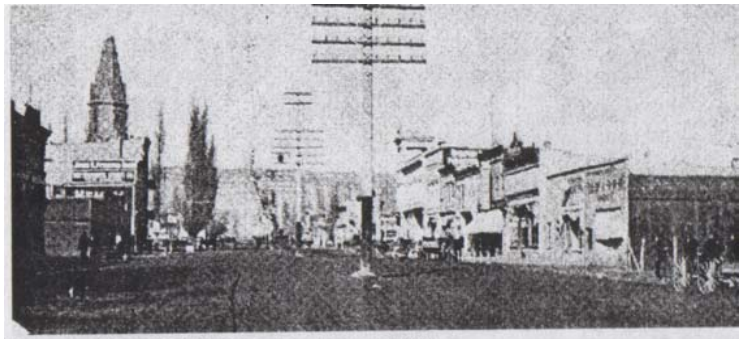


Figure 25 Richfield Main Street about 1900

followed the custom of the early Utah settlements. They lived in the town and farmed the surrounding area.

The first pioneers of Richfield built a community fort around an area that became known as the "town square." This land was the site for the first public building, constructed of native stone and used for school, church and all public gatherings.

Richfield was designated as the county seat on January 16, 1865, by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah. During the Black Hawk War families move to Sanpete, Millard and Juab Counties.

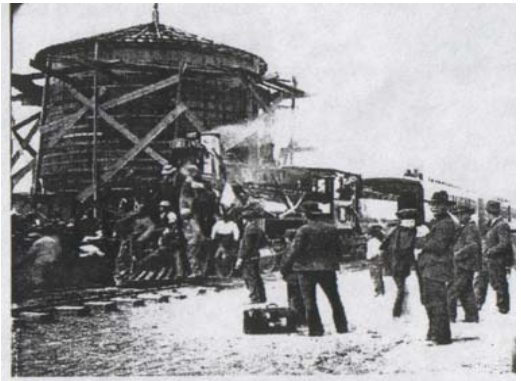


Figure 26 Richfield Train Station, 1896

Resettlement began during the summer of 1870 and many former settlers returned. The people voted to reinstate Nelson Higgins as Bishop.

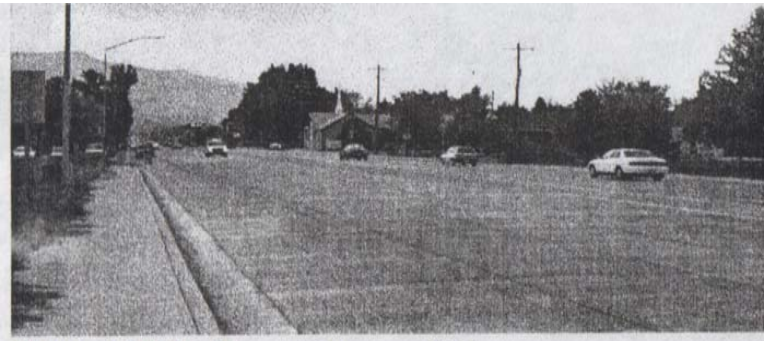


Figure 27 Richfield North Main Street 1997

The United Order of Enoch was established in the Sevier area on April 19, 1874. A little less than four years later, Orsen Hyde recommended that the Order be dissolved.

Richfield was incorporated February 22, 1878. Franklin Spencer was elected the first mayor. Thus began the gradual change from a theocracy to a democratic government.

A stately Tabernacle was erected by the members of Sevier Stake and served as an elegant landmark for many years. It was a disappointment to many when it was torn down.

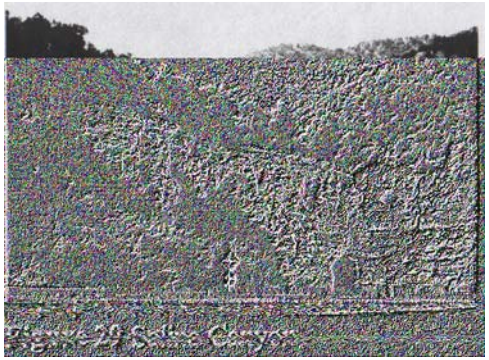
Figure 28 Richfield Tabernacle 1890-1919

Business and industry were established early in Richfield. Early enterprises included retail stores, lime kiln, brick kiln, hotels, restaurants, harness shops and personal services. Although businesses have changed owners and products over the years today's business still include retail, personal, food and tourist services. Automobile business have replaced the harness shops and livery stables. Richfield still remains the center for health care services in Sevier county. There is a nine hole golf course, easy access to ATV trails and a variety of community and cultural activities. There is an airport for small private planes and limited commercial air traffic. There are three city parks, a large indoor swimming pool and a fitness center with racquetball courts. An 18-hole wheelchair accessible miniature golf has been approved for development

Richfield is home to Sevier County Courthouse and the Sevier County Justice Complex.

The approximate population of Richfield City in 1997 is 7040.

Salina



Salina is located on Utah Highway 89 in northern Sevier County in a slow curve of multiple colored hills. Elder Orson Hyde sent a scouting party that reached the mouth of Salina Canyon and the junction of Salina Creek and the Sevier River in October, 1863. Salina Canyon is the lowest pass through the Wasatch Mountain Range. The company determined it was a proper place for a new settlement. Salina is on the same meridian as Salt Lake City and directly South of the Beehive House. A straight line starting at North Temple and Main Street would continue through State Street in Salina. The name Salina came from a Spanish word meaning salty. It was given due to the salty water and salt deposits in the area. Salina Town incorporated April 3, 1882, under the laws of the territory of Utah with F. G. Willis as president. Salina incorporated as a town, May 13, 1912, under the laws of Utah State.

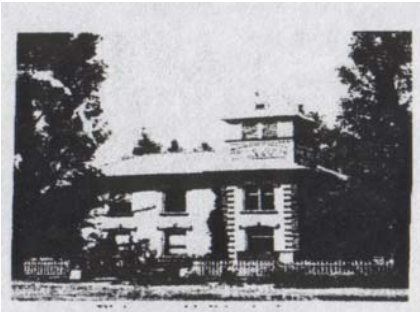


Figure 30 Salina Town Hall

Three of the men who had determined Salina as a suitable place for a community arrived there in January of 1864 with the barest necessities. These men were Peter Rasmussen, Niels C. Rasmussen and Peter Sorenson. Some 30 families from Moroni and Gunnison joined them later. They included, William Haywood, Jens Fredrick Mortensen and William McFayden. Dugouts with willow roofs were the first homes. The first real house was built by Niels C. Rasmussen of stone. It was also used for church and town socials for several years. Well water was salty and had to be settled in barrels for several days.

Following the Black Hawk Indian War in 1879, Salina entered a period of construction, planting of gardens and growing of pear and apple trees. There was a grist mill turned by water from Salina Creek, a molasses mill built and operated by

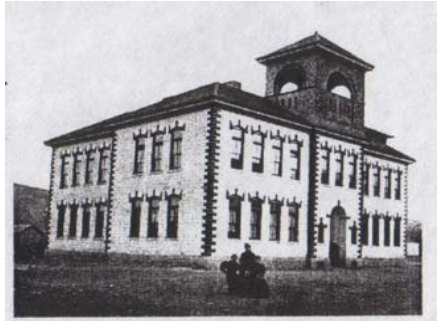


Figure 31 Salina School 1896

W.C. Murphy and a creamery. Men came from Sanpete County shared their skills in building this new community. The first store was opened by Mrs. Jensine Thorsen in her home with a capital of $26. A salt refinery and other stores supplied goods for the early settlers. Cloth and clothes were made by settlers. There were tailors, dress makers and shoe makers in the area. The Presbyterian Church was built in 1882 by Elizabeth Crosby as a memorial to her daughter, Fanny.

Among the first physicians in Salina were Dr. Gunn and Dr. William Madsen, who came from Manti with his family in 1890 and stayed until 1899. Dr. Madsen's throat medicine had a reputation for reliving diphtheria and his canker medicine was popular. Dr. C.E. West also came in 1890 and served for more than three decades. Dr. Margaret A. Freece Arneson, one of Utah's early female physicians, came to Salina in 1899 and continued her work until 1923. Together with Dr. West she examined every school child in Salina, Redmond, and Aurora. This work was gratis, a free will offering to the communities and schools (Our Own Sevier, page 422).

The arrival of the Rio Grande and Denver Railroad in 1890 brought new business and industry to Salina. The tourist industry was born in Sevier County with hotels, rooming houses and saloons. The building, currently occupied by Mom's Cafe, was built of stone with the street floor for the co-op business and a top floor for recreational purposes, dances, movies and parties. Percy C. Candland was the first druggist. Millinery stores were popular businesses. Salina celebrated the "Gay Nineties" in style. A opera house was opened for plays, weddings and socials. It was a popular site until it went up in flames in 1927. Music was a popular activity.

A first public schoolhouse was erected in 1893. The first high school was erected in 1905. This building later became the Salina Junior High School when North Sevier High School was completed in 1929.

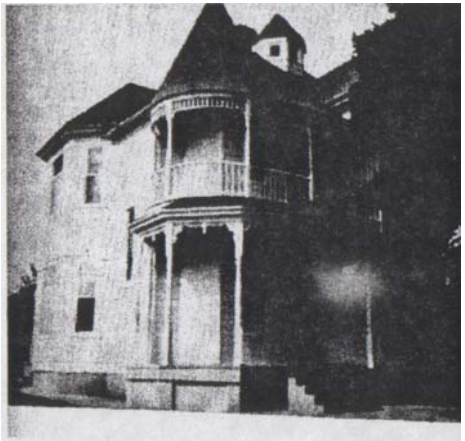


Figure 32 Historic House in Salina

Stena Scorup was well known for her numerous contributions to the town both as a teacher and mayor. She was the first female mayor in the State of Utah. Electrical power was generated at the Grist Mill starting in 1904. Blackouts were frequent. Telephones came to town in 1902. The First State Bank of Salina was incorporated in 1907. A railroad was started up Salina Canyon. Those building it, constructed houses on the hillside of the canyon causing the drinking water from the creek to become contaminated. An epidemic of typhoid fever swept the town causing eighty deaths. The water supply remained poor until a municipal water system was established in 1907. The current water supply comes from Lost Creek and is carried directly to the city without touching air. Salina has a wastewater collection and treatment system.

In addition to agricultural industries, coal mining and trucking are vital to the Salina economy. Retail services, including apparel stores, motels, fueling stations, restaurants and convenience stores, also contribute to the city's tax base. Salina is the last stop

on Interstate 70 going east to Green River, which is approximately 110 miles away. Outdoor recreation opportunities are varied, and include hunting and fishing in Salina Canyon and surrounding mountains. Salina has a city park with picnic facilities, horseshoe pitching pits, baseball diamond and play ground. The Blackhawk Arena is a modern, in-door, multi-use facility which accommodates concerts, dances, equestrian, rodeo and a variety of other events. The city also has an outdoor swimming pool and rodeo grounds which hosts an Independence Day rodeo the first week of July. A special commemorative marker in Salina reminds residents and visitors of the CC Camp where German prisoners of war were held during World War II.

Salina has multiple retail and tourist businesses. Health care and human services are available in the community, and hospital services are accessed at Gunnison and Richfield.

The 1997 population of Sauna City is approximately 2,258.

Sevier

Sevier is an unincorporated community whose history is closely linked with its neighboring community, Joseph. It is made up of four areas the Cove, the Y, Vacca and Clear Creek Canyon. In 1872, there were nine heads of families living in Cove and Clear Creek Canyon. Joseph Hunt built the first house there and James Evans Powell was the first to move his family there and make a permanent home. An irrigation ditch was dug in 1872 with pick and shovel. The first settlers were members of the Joseph LDS Ward. The first town president was James H. Wells. Lumber, livestock and the mineral wealth of the mountains prompted the D&RG Western Railroad Company to extend the railroad to the mouth of Sevier Canyon in 1896. The train station was called Sevier as was the Post Office. Four power plants were built to supply power to Kimberly and Sevier mines. There were two water-powered electrical plants at Fish Creek.

The first schoolhouse was a long log house located in about the center of the village. A stone, two-story, four-room schoolhouse was built in 1906. The Kimberly boom mushroomed the Sevier station. A small town grew there. Cove Fort and Sulphurdale received mail and some freight via Sevier. Samuel Henrie attempted to build a warm spring resort in the sand knolls between the railroad and river bridge. Many people once bathed in the springs for enjoyment and health. An insulation manufacturing business enjoyed a brief success. Agriculture is the only industry that has endured. Many services are accessed from Richfield.

Sigurd

Sigurd is located near the center of Sevier County. The Black Knolls and variegated red hills form a backdrop for the town. It was first given the name of Vermillion by Brigham Young because of the Vermillion colored cliffs close to the town. The soil on the west side is red and on the east it is gray. The U.S. Post Office changed the name to Sigurd as Utah already had another town called Vermillion. Sigurd was a favorite place for Indians to ambush “white” settlers. Sigurd was settled by residents of nearby towns who took up farming there in 1871.

The first school house was completed in 1879. It was used for school, church and community activities. Peter Gottfredson was the first presiding elder and was elected as Justice of the Peace, January 11, 1877. A tithing granary was built two stories high. The bottom floor was for grain storage and the top floor for community dancing. Peter Meyer led both the orchestra and band that provided music for many occasions. In 1896, a diphtheria epidemic caused several deaths. A creamery was built at the Black Knolls and operated for several years. In 1902, the Nebeker store burned down. In 1903, there was an epidermic of scarlatina and diphtheria. The year 1906 brought the telephone, the first graduation from the eighth grade and many deaths from typhoid fever. The first high-wheeled buckboard automobile came to town about 1906. Plaster and cement mills brought work to town starting in 1908. There was a hotel and mercantile store. The town was incorporated August 24, 1935, in order to receive grants to aid in the installation of a culinary water system. Floyd Anderson was appointed president, then elected president at the first election held in November 1939.

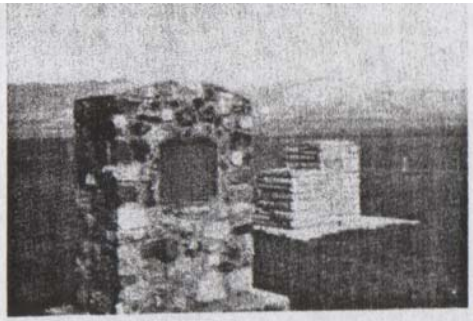


Figure 33 Siguard DUP Monument and fountain to early settlers

Today the town has electricity, public culinary water system, private septic tanks, two gypsum plants, agricultural industries and home businesses. Culinary water comes from springs in Kings's Meadow Canyon and Ross's Creek. There is a city park.

The old town site of Vermilion has kept its local identity in spite of being incorporated with the town of Sigurd.

Recreation facilities include a park with playground equipment, carp fishing at Rocky Ford Reservoir and tours of the gypsum plants by reservation. Additional retail services are accessed from Richfield and Salina.

The population of Sigurd Town in 1997 is approximately 497.

Venice

Venice was settled in 1875 by several families. The town was first known as Wallsville. Joseph C. Wall was the first presiding elder. Venice is an unincorporated community.

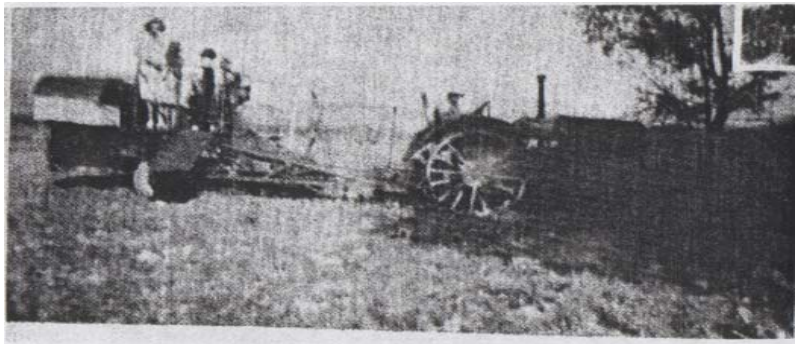


Figure 34 Early Grain Combine, Venice

Henry Jakeman was appointed the first postmaster of Venice about1894. Early roads were built by the men and boys of the town under the supervision of Sevier County. The first school house was built in the early 1900's and used for school, church and community gatherings.

Agriculture was the main industry in early days as well as today. The brickyard at Glenwood provided work for many men of Venice while it was in operation. Early health care was provided by mid-wives, Mrs. Caroline Buchanan and Lydia Reeves.

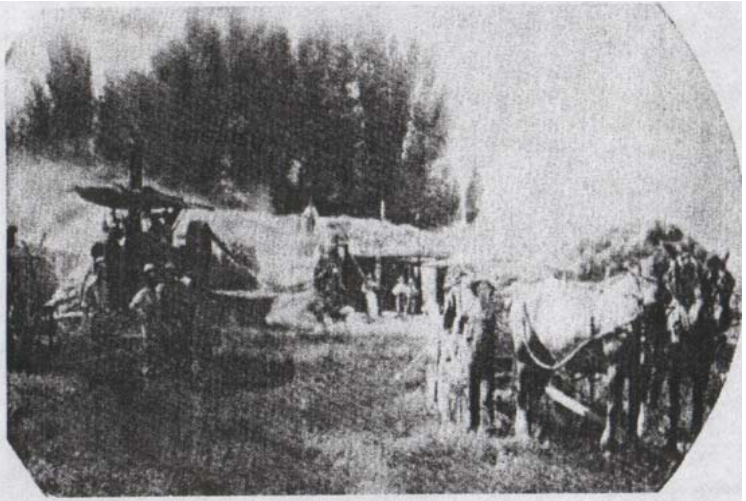


Figure 35 Venice Early Threshing Machine

Venice has electricity and natural gas. Culinary water is supplied by individual flowing wells with pressure pumps. Private septic tanks provide for waste water disposal, A tile drainage system built in 1916 assisted to help with the flooding caused by the high water table and flooding of the Sevier River, The tile was made in Prattsville, a town between Glenwood and Richfield that no longer exists. There are picnic tables on the LDS Church grounds. Modern health care is accessed from Richfield or Gunnison. Children are bused to Richfield for school.

The population of Venice in 1997 is approximately 215.