

CACHE VALLEY VISITORS BUREAU

Cache Valley

HERITAGE DRIVING TOUR



CACHE VALLEY *driving tour*

Cache Valley extends more than 50 miles into the states of Utah and Idaho. Beautifully nestled among the steep slopes of the Bear River and Wellsville mountain ranges, the valley averages 4500 feet in elevation and is four to twelve miles in width. The surrounding high mountains, clear streams and productive soil all combine to make it a valley rich in the blessings of nature.

Cache Valley was the scene of many events important in the settling of the American West. It was here that mountain Indian tribes found ample hunting ground for game, that rugged mountain men splashed through streams in search of beaver, and where Mormon pioneers built new homes in the wilderness of the American frontier.

For centuries before the mountain men and the Mormons came to Cache Valley, Native Americans hunted, fished and gathered seeds from the grass that was plentiful upon the valley floor. These Native Americans, the Northwestern Shoshone, named the valley Seuhubeogoi, "Willow River," and established both winter and summer camps along the major rivers. As nomadic hunters and gatherers they followed centuries-old migratory patterns in search of food. Famous Northwestern Shoshone leaders were Sagwitch, Bear Hunter, Pocatello, Pahvants, and Sanpitch.

Mountain men in search of beaver were the first white visitors to Cache Valley. During the years of the Rocky Mountain fur



General Merchandise Store, built 1879

Cover photo: American West Heritage Center

All photos: USU Special Collections

trade, the valley was a crossroad and campground for almost every mountain man who ever fought, trapped or traded in the region. Among the famous trappers to visit Cache Valley were Jim Bridger, Jedediah Smith, Bill Sublette, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Jim Beckwourth and John Weber. In July of 1826 Cache Valley was the scene of one of the famous summer rendezvous of the mountain men. The trappers called the area Cache Valley because it became a favorite location to “cache” or hide furs and supplies between trapping seasons.

Mormon pioneers were the first permanent white settlers in the valley. The first settlement was established in 1856 in the south end of the valley at Wellsville. For thousands of European emigrants, Cache Valley soon became the Promised Land and Mormon villages dotted the landscape. These industrious pioneers carved from the wilderness substantial communities, prosperous farms, and thriving industries. Their legacy today is part of the rich cultural tapestry of Cache Valley. Physical remains of pioneer days can still be seen in many Cache Valley town sites that reflect the Mormon settlement pattern.

AMALGA

In August of 1841, members of the Bidwell-Bartleson Emigrant Party made camp on the west side of the Bear River near the present site of Amalga. This party of 32 men and one woman were the first emigrants to travel to California by land. Nancy Kelsey, the lone woman of the group was the first white woman to enter Cache Valley. Originally the town of Amalga was named Alto and was permanently settled in 1869. Logs were brought from Smithfield and Logan to build the first homes. When the Amalgamated Sugar Company built a sugar factory in Alto in 1916 the city was renamed Amalga. This factory could slice 500 tons of beets daily and many in the community earned extra money working in the factory during harvest season. In 1941 a swiss cheese plant operated by the Cache Valley Dairy Association came to Amalga. This plant claimed to be the world's largest swiss cheese factory.

BANIDA

First called Dunnville, Banida began as a booming and sometimes violent railroad tent city, consisting of stores, boarding houses, saloons, blacksmith shops and restaurants all made of canvas. However, when the railroad pushed north, Dunnville became a ghost town. Between 1906 and 1910, several families from various parts of Cache Valley came and settled in the abandoned community. They named the new town Banida by combining portions of the words “Bannock” and “Oneida.”

BENSON

When the early white settlers arrived in Cache Valley they learned that Native Americans claimed the valley floor as their hunting and fishing ground, so many of the earliest communities were established near the mountains. Thus Benson, located on the valley floor, was settled relatively late compared to the other communities such as Wellsville and Mendon. Because of the serpentine nature of the Bear River and difficulties in crossing it, Benson was first settled in three distinct areas. One group settled in the southwest portion, one across the river to the north and a third group in the eastern part. Farms were spread out and families lived on their farms so Benson was never a typical Mormon village. The town was named in honor of LDS apostle Ezra T. Benson who owned property in the area.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Benson Town History marker, behind church at 3400 N. and 2800 W.*

CLARKSTON

The first Mormon settlement of Clarkston occurred in the summer of 1864. These pioneers immediately began constructing dugouts, harvesting wild hay and preparing for winter. The first winter was severe. Their grain froze

and bread prepared with it was dark, sticky and heavy. Stock died from eating wild parsnips. The next year a band of Shoshone Indians pitched their tepees near City Creek. They claimed all the land west of the Bear River and demanded that the Mormons give them “large amounts of beef and flour.” Unable to meet the Shoshone’s request, Clarkston was abandoned and the residents relocated to Smithfield. The settlers returned to their land the following spring of 1866. In 1874, Martin Harris, one of the three witnesses to the Book of Mormon, came to Clarkston. The following year he died and was buried in the Clarkston cemetery. His grave attracts hundreds of visitors each year and a summer pageant titled “The Man Who Knew” also draws thousands in his memory.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Martin Harris Gravesite, Clarkston Cemetery, 500 N. 300 E.; Tithing Granary, 235 N. 100 S.*

EVENTS: *Martin Harris Pageant, held during in August; Clarkston Pony Express Days, third weekend in June.*



Threshing Scene at Peterson Farm in Petersboro, ca. 1908

CORNISH

By population, Cornish is the smallest community in Cache Valley. It is 4 miles long, 2½ miles wide and the entire area was once used to pasture cattle. Cornish was not settled as were other Mormon communities in the valley due to the fact that the scattered conditions of its residents made it difficult for the LDS Church to effectively organize the people. The area was first settled in 1870 when several families homesteaded near the hills by fresh water springs. Since it was first settled, Cornish residents talked about bringing irrigation water to the community but it was 1905 before the West Cache Canal Company was formed. Eventually, canals were constructed and water allowed the growth of Lucerne, wheat, corn, barley, peas, sugar beets, tomatoes and other row crops.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Sugar Factory, 13470 N. 4450 W.*

COVE

During the 1820s and 30s, the area between Cove and Franklin, Idaho, was often used as a winter camp by the mountain men. The locale was also possibly used for the 1831 Rendezvous – which wasn't much of a rendezvous since only a few trappers showed up and the supply wagons from St. Louis never arrived. Some historians also believe this area to be the site of the 1826 Rendezvous, although it is generally believed that it was held at the Nibley/Hyrum location. Cove was settled by Mormon pioneers in 1875 as an outgrowth of Richmond and Franklin. It was named because of its semi-circular shape.

VISIT: *High Creek Canyon.*

DAYTON

In 1867, Joseph Chadwick settled near Five Mile Creek, the present site of Dayton. Soon after his arrival,

Chadwick was joined by other families. The new settlers called their new home Five Mile because it was five miles to Weston on the south and five miles to Clifton on the North. Later, to honor its first settler, the name was changed to Chadville. Then the community was known as Card. Finally, Dayton was named by Cache Valley church leader William B. Preston, who said whenever he visited the community he always seemed to arrive in the day time. Most of the early residents of Dayton were farmers who planted various drops or managed dairy herds. At one time the village maintained a small herd of elk which attracted many tourists and much later some residents raised and sold Christmas trees.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Settlers Marker, 1000 N. west side of Hwy 81; Harold B. Lee School.*

FRANKLIN

The Shoshone called the area near Franklin, Idaho, *Mosotokani*, or “House of the Lungs,” because the lava outcropping reminded them of lung tissue. Franklin City is Idaho’s oldest town, settled on April 14, 1860, by Mormon pioneers upon the advice of LDS church president Brigham Young. Friendly Shoshone welcomed them, and their chief, Kitemese, showed them the location of the best land. The new settlers spent the first summer living in wagon boxes placed close together on the ground in fort fashion. The wagons’ running gears were utilized in hauling logs from the nearby canyons from which homes were constructed. In 1864, the pioneers moved onto city lots of 1¼ acres. The town was named in honor of LDS apostle Franklin D. Richards. This town is the beginning of the Pioneer National Historic Byway that starts at U.S. Highway 91 to Idaho 34, ending at the Idaho/Wyoming border. Today, Franklin stands as a fine example of an early Mormon village in its layout.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Pioneer Marker, Relic Hall (open Memorial Day to Labor Day), Village Hall, ZCMI Store and Hatch House, 100-200 E. Main; Doney House, 305*

E. 100 N.; L. L. Hatch Home/Telegraph Office, 100 S. 100 E.; Yellowstone Rock, Old Yellowstone Highway; Old Fort, 25 N. State and Parkam Rd.; Pioneer Women Marker, U.S. 91 north of Preston at Bear River Crossing; Pioneer Mail Route Marker and Shoshone Indian Tribal Marker, Thomas Springs, Willow Flat at Cub River Canyon.

EVENTS: *Idaho Days, last weekend in June (booths, food, parade and entertainment).*

HYDE PARK

Hyde Park was settled in April 1860. The first settlers lived in temporary dugouts and in the wagons they drove into the valley. By July 1860, sixteen families had begun building homes on Center Street. As was done in other early Cache Valley settlements, they built their cabins close together in fort fashion. The town was named after LDS Bishop William Hyde and also in deference to those settlers who came from England. Hyde Park was selected as the site for the valley's first ZCMI (cooperative) store in 1869.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Settlers Marker, 200 W. Center; John E. Lee House, 123 W. Center; William Hyde Marker and War Veterans Memorial, City Cemetery.*

HYRUM

Hyrum, named in honor of Hyrum Smith, brother of Mormon Church founder Joseph Smith, was settled early in 1860. A statue of Hyrum is located on the town square. Several Mormon families camped near Camp Hollow and began building homes and preparing land for planting. This new colony angered Shoshone Chief Pocatello because they had settled on ground his tribe loved to hunt on and near streams where they fished. The new settlers gave him an ox which seemed to assuage his anger. Hyrum has had a rich history including a cooperative dairy and sawmill operation established by Scandinavian settlers. Gray wolves troubled the first

settlers and crickets attacked and consumed farm crops. In the early years, the community's citizens would cut and haul wood for those in need and in tribute would hold the Annual Woodcutters Ball. Hyrum State Park is a favorite spot of water skiers, swimmers and picnickers.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Hyrum City Museum, 83 West Main (open T, Th, and Sat. 3-5); Pioneer Marker, 83 W. Main; Camp Hollow Marker, 675 E. 100 N.; Great Fur Cache Marker, 25 W. Main; First LDS Church Meeting House, Main and Center; Allen's Mercantile Co., 98 E. Main; Soren Hansen Home, 166 W. Main; Train Depot, 100 N. Center; Hyrum House, 104 E. Main; Pioneer Graves Marker, Cemetery (SW Corner); War Veterans Memorial, Cemetery (SE Corner); CCC Camp Marker, mouth of Blacksmith Fork Canyon.*

VISIT: *Hyrum State Park Recreation Area; Blacksmith Fork Canyon Recreation Area; Hardware Ranch Elk Refuge, Blacksmith Fork Canyon.*

EVENTS: *Cache Valley Mountain Man Rendezvous, Blacksmith Fork Canyon, Memorial Day; Hardware Ranch Elk Festival, 2nd week in October, Fourth of July parade and rodeo; Star-Spangled Week, 4th of July celebration; Top of Utah Marathon, Blacksmith Fork Canyon, September.*



Layout Sketch of Fort Hyrum

LEWISTON

The first homestead was established in Lewiston during the fall of 1870 and by the spring of 1871 more pioneers arrived. During those early years the settlers lived in dugouts, gleaned wild hay from the river bottoms for their animals, and made plans to divert water from Worm Creek and the Cub River to water their land. A small church was built in 1873 and Richmond resident William H. Lewis was called as local Mormon leader. The town was named in his honor. The church building was used as a school and dance hall. In 1905 the Amalgamated Sugar Company established a factory in Lewiston to process sugar beets.

HERITAGESIGHTS: *Pioneer Marker, 65 W. Center; Tithing Office and Granary, 87 E. 800 S.; Community Building, 29 S. Main.*

EVENTS: *Fourth of July parade, rodeo and fireworks.*

LOGAN

The city got its name from the river, which was named after mountain man Ephraim Logan who first came to Cache Valley in 1824 with a group of trappers that included Jim Bridger. After Logan was killed by Shoshone near the Snake River, his fellow mountain men named the river in his honor. In the spring of 1859 the first pioneer settlers crossed the Logan River and constructed log homes facing each other in fort style along what is now Center Street. Having plenty of water and good soil, Logan attracted a multitude of settlers. In January 1873 the narrow gauge railroad reached Logan and the town quickly grew and became the largest city in the valley. Early in its history Logan had an opera house, a bank and a college. Utah State University was founded in 1888 as a land grant college. From its small beginnings, Logan has become one of Utah's prominent cities. Its tabernacle, temple, courthouse, historic homes on Center Street, and the Old Main Building on the Utah State University campus remind visitors of its pioneer past.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Logan LDS Tabernacle, 50 N. Main; Logan LDS Temple, 250 N. 300 E.; Logan Temple Barn, 368 E. 200 N.; St. John's Episcopal Church, 85 E. 100 N.; Old Main Building (Utah State University Campus); Cache County Courthouse (restored), 199 N. Main; Union Pacific Railroad Station (Café Sabor) 600 W. Center; Caine Lyric Theatre, 28 W. Center; Ellen Eccles Theatre (restored), 43 S. Main; Logan's Historic Main Street; Cache Chamber of Commerce and Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum, 160 N. Main; Bluebird Restaurant, 19 N. Main; First Settlers Marker, Pioneer Mills of Cache Valley Marker and Pioneer Memorial, 50 North Main; Numerous historic homes on Center Street from 100 East to 600 West.*

VISIT: *Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway, Highway 89 east of Logan; Historic Downtown and the restored Cache County Courthouse, 199 N. Main; the Cache Valley Food Tour (inquire at the Cache County Visitors Bureau in the Courthouse).*

EVENTS: *Cache Valley Cruise In, first Saturday in July; Utah Festival Opera, July-August; Fourth of July Celebration; Pioneer Day, July 24th; Cache County Fair and Rodeo, August; Old Lyric Repertory Theatre, June-July. See www.tourcachevalley.com for full calendar.*



LDS Tabernacle, LDS Temple in Background, ca. 1870s

MENDON

The first permanent settlement of Mendon was in 1859. As in other Cache Valley towns, Mendon was initially constructed as a fort consisting of two rows of buildings facing each other. One early settler lost his life when he was attacked by a grizzly bear. Tom Graham and his son-in-law, Andrew Shumway, were cutting willows near the Little Bear River when Graham “chanced upon a female grizzly bear.” Armed only with an ax he “swung but missed” the bear which “literally tore Tom’s head from his shoulders.” The bear nearly killed several more settlers before it was killed. Today, Mendon is a thriving community. A pioneer monument stands in a park beneath the cemetery as a tribute to the early settlers of this Cache Valley community.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *First Settlers Marker, 40 N. 100 W.; James G. Willie home (hand cart pioneer leader), 97 N. 100 W.; George Washington Baker Home, 115 N. 100 W.; Samuel Baker Home, 150 W. 200 N.; James Gardner Home, 173 N. Main; Whitney Home, 195 W. 100 N.; Forester Hotel (1870-1890), 176 N. 100 W.; Train Depot, 90 N. Main.*

EVENT: *Mendon May Day Celebration (May 1).*



Baker Cabin, Mendon, ca. 1860

MILLVILLE

Millville, founded in 1859, was named for the many mills that were built in the town. At one time there were ten mills built along the mill race, including a saw mill, cider mill, gristmill, molasses mill and a lath and shingle mill. However, most of Millville's early settlers did not earn their living by running mills. More were farmers who grew hay, corn, wheat, barley and later, sugar beets. Many had a few cows, and everyone had a garden. Early Millville was also the site of a distillery that produced liquor called "Valley Tan." The distillery was in operation for only a short time before the town fathers closed it down.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Millville Pioneer Marker, 100 S. 200 E.*

VISIT: *Millville Museum, Millville City Hall, 490 E. 300 S. (For tours call 435-752-9523).*

THE MORMON VILLAGE

Early Mormon settlers to Cache Valley organized themselves into small, compact, close-knit farm villages. Such communities not only afforded protection against Indian raids, but also allowed close cooperation and social interaction among the residents. Each "Mormon Village" was comprised of home sites with spaces for a garden and an area for milk cows, chickens and other farm animals. The village was organized within a grid pattern with a log church and schoolhouse located near the center. Surrounding the village were larger farm plots for raising grain, hay and other crops. Men worked in cooperative efforts in the fields each day, returning to their homes in the village each evening. Although an echo of the past, the Mormon Village pattern can still be seen in Mendon, Franklin, Newton and Richmond.

NEWTON

Late in the year 1868 many Clarkston residents discussed moving the site of their community toward the end of Clarkston Creek. On February 29, 1869, a vote was taken by nearly all the male members of Clarkston to move the town to the present site of Newton. The vote was favorable and they then drove stakes for a public square and surveyed the new town site. The community was named Newton because it was a new town. During the summer, in spite of the previous vote, many residents of Clarkston changed their minds and decided to remain in their homes. Residents voted to build a dam and reservoir in Newton and the site was selected by Brigham Young. Newton had its own outlaw, Black Jack Nelson who raided Utah ranches, rustled cattle, stole horses and then would “lay low” at his father’s ranch.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Reservoir Marker, 100 W. Main; War Veterans Marker, Cemetery; J.H. Barker Home, 50 S. Center.*

NIBLEY

In July of 1826, the trappers’ rendezvous was held along the Blacksmith Fork River near the present site of Nibley. For this occasion, a supply caravan from St. Louis brought in valuable goods as dozens of mountain men and Indian families gathered together for two weeks of trading, drinking and festive sport. Beaver pelts were the source of exchange and the mountain men were forced to buy their supplies at highly inflated prices.

Compared to other Cache Valley communities, Nibley is comparatively new and was an outgrowth of nearby Millville. It was established in 1920 and named after Charles W. Nibley, a wealthy entrepreneur and LDS leader. The Nibley area was originally part of the huge Elkhorn Ranch which was established as a cattle ranch in July of 1855.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Original Church Farm Marker, 325 W. 3200 S.; Elkhorn Ranch, 2400 S. Main.*

NORTH LOGAN

In 1878, Ralph Smith built a stone house and became the first settler of North Logan. Life in North Logan was not easy for the early settlers. Crickets destroyed most of the crops some years. One summer the crickets were so bad that the residents gathered together and fasted and prayed for deliverance. After the service ended, a stiff wind blew the insects away. Nevertheless, the settlers were fond of their new home and were determined to stay.

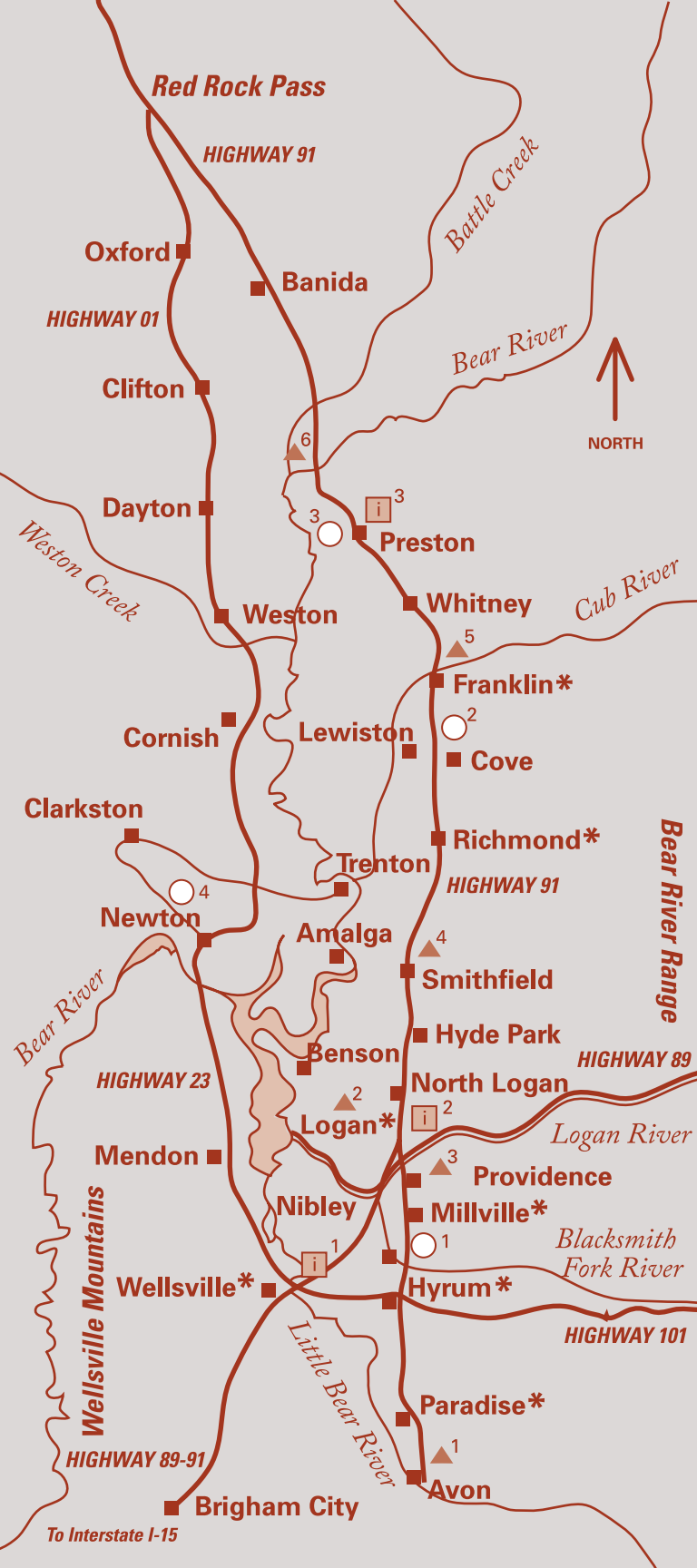
HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Pioneer School, 1900 N. 1200 E.; Lucille Peterson Home, 1491 E. 2300 N.; Ralph Smith Home (first home in North Logan), 2160 N. 1800 E.; Temple Stone Quarries, Green Canyon.*

EVENTS: *Pioneer Day Celebration, July 24th; Pumpkin Walk, October.*

OXFORD

Oxford is the second oldest permanent settlement in Idaho. It was established in 1864 when two families constructed log homes on the site. Because of possible trouble with the Indians, the settlers were ordered by church officials to band together and “fort up.” Years later Oxford grew to over 700 inhabitants, making it one of the largest cities in Cache Valley. At one time it boasted two stage lines, a land office, a shoe shop, two saw mills, a butcher shop, two blacksmith shops and three churches (Methodist, Presbyterian and Mormon). The first newspaper in Idaho, the *Idaho Enterprise*, was established here. By the 1890s, Oxford was noted for its fine barns and community brass band. Oxford was the home of Edgar Brossard who became chairman of the U.S. Tariff Commission.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Harold B. Lee Marker, 150 W. 100 N.; Harold B. Lee Home, 6325 N., west side of Hwy 81; Lime Kiln, 3579 N. west side of Hwy 81.*



▲ NORTHWESTERN SHOSHONE SITES AND ENCOUNTERS

- ▲¹ For generations, a favorite Northwestern Shoshone location for gathering chokecherries
- ▲² During summer months, Shoshone harvested seeds from the luxuriant grasses that grew in the center of the valley
- ▲³ Site of skirmish between Shoshone led by Bear Hunter and California volunteers commanded by Major McGarry, Nov. 23, 1862
- ▲⁴ One Shoshone and two settlers killed in encounter at Smithfield, July 23, 1860
- ▲⁵ *Mosotokani*, “House of the Lungs,” Shoshone area for hunting woodchuck and ground squirrels
- ▲⁶ A favorite wintering ground for Northwestern Shoshone and site of Bear River Massacre, Jan 29, 1863

○ MOUNTAIN MAN SITES

- ¹ 1826 Rendezvous site
- ² Mountain Man Winter Camp 1824-40 and 1831 Rendezvous Site; from this location, during the winter of 1824, Jim Bridger followed the Bear River and discovered the Great Salt Lake
- ³ Peter S. Ogden’s 1825 Snake River Expedition Camp of May 1, 1825
- ⁴ Peter S. Ogden’s 1829 Snake River Expedition Camp of March 17, 1829

■ MORMON SETTLEMENT SITES

- * Towns with Museums

□ TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS

- ¹ American West Heritage Center
- ² Cache Valley Visitors Bureau
- ³ Preston Area Chamber of Commerce

PARADISE

Paradise was first settled early in the spring of 1860 by a group of eight Mormon families who constructed log houses built close together in fort fashion. By irrigating the dry soil with water from the east fork of the Little Bear River, the early settlers built prosperous farms. Thomas L. Obrey and LDS Apostle Ezra T. Benson were so “charmed” with the country in the southwest corner of Cache Valley that they named the community Paradise.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *J.P. Olsen mercantile establishment (antique tractors), 8993 S. 200 W.; Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Relic Hall/Tithing Office, 8970 S. 200 W.; John P. and Sarah James Home, 210 W. 9000 S.; John H. Gibbs Gravesite (martyred LDS missionary), City Cemetery.*

EVENTS: *Paradise Trout and Berry Days, August.*

PRESTON

For hundreds of years before white men came to Cache Valley, the Preston area was crossed and re-crossed by Native Americans. During the early 1820s fur trappers from American and British fur companies entered Cache Valley. In 1825, members of Peter Skene Ogden’s Snake River Expedition traveled near present-day Preston. In his journal, Ogden stated that he saw two large herds of buffalo, “...we reached early our course this day East over a fine level plain covered with Buffalo...” After Mormons settled Franklin they grazed their cattle on the flat area known as Worm Creek and Sand Ridge, but few pioneers chose to settle there permanently. In 1866 William Head became the first permanent settler and built a two-room cabin and raised cattle. Later, more settlers came to the area and when the Utah Northern Railroad came to Preston in 1878 the town flourished. Preston was named after prominent Mormon leader William B. Preston.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *First School House, one mile east on 400 S.; Log Replica of First School House, Benson Park in the center of town; Matthew Cowley's Birthplace, 100 E. 200 S.; Battle Creek Mural, Post Office, 49 E. Oneida St.; Packer Bridge and Ferry Marker, 2 miles west on U.S. Hwy 91; Bear River Massacre Site and Markers, 2.5 miles west on U.S. Hwy 91; Utah Northern Railroad Marker, U.S. Hwy 91; Oneida Stake Academy, 100 E. Oneida St.; Old Delta Sediments, Hwy 36 north of Preston; Nelson Gymnasium, by Preston High School.*

VISIT: *Franklin County Courthouse (1939), Carnegie Library (1915).*

EVENTS: *Preston Night Rodeo, Thursday-Saturday, last weekend in July (rodeo, antiques/crafts in park, sidewalk sale, Wild West Shoot-out, parade, food and entertainment); 24th of July Celebration; Concert in the Park, 1st and 2nd weekend in August; Franklin County Fair, 3rd weekend in August; Idaho's Festival of Lights, day after Thanksgiving (community Christmas light displays, parade, fireworks), continues through December 31.*

PROVIDENCE

In 1859, pioneer homesteaders established a small community along the banks of Spring Creek. Logs were cut and hauled from nearby canyons and cabins were erected and arranged in rows facing each other in fort fashion. At first the settlement was called Spring Creek, but LDS Apostles Orson Hyde and Ezra T. Benson thought that name too common and undignified and suggested that they name the town Providence. Many of the early pioneers to the town came from Scandinavia, Switzerland, Germany and England. Most of the settlers were farmers, but by 1865 Providence had grown enough to boast a blacksmith shop, shoemaker, and pea vinery, saw mills, molasses mill, a professional candy maker, lime kiln and brickyard. The same year Providence City enacted laws governing dogs in the city, drunkenness,

stealing, taking the name of God in vain and even laws against those who failed to take their church obligations seriously. In 1862 the bench above Providence was the scene of a skirmish between the Second Volunteer Cavalry from Ft. Douglas, Utah, and a band of Shoshone warriors led by Chief Bear Hunter. After two hours of fighting the engagement ended with the Shoshones' surrender. In 1873, the community constructed a fine rock meeting house. This church is called "The Old Rock Church" and still stands as a monument to the fine craftsmanship of the early settlers. Today, the building is used as a meeting and special events center as part of the Providence Inn Bed and Breakfast.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *The Old Rock Church/Providence Inn Bed & Breakfast, Main and Center; Zollinger, Ferdinand House, 193 N. 100 E.; Edgewood Hall, 300 N. 300 E.; WWII Veterans Memorial, Corner of 100 N. and 200 W.*

VISIT: *The Annual Sauerkraut Festival, September.*

RED ROCK PASS

This area marks the location of the outlet of ancient Lake Bonneville. During the Pleistocene epoch, gigantic Lake Bonneville was formed. Starting about 25,000 years ago, the huge lake extended over most of northwestern Utah and parts of Nevada and southern Idaho. At the highest level it reached a maximum depth of 1,080 feet and covered an area of 19,750 square miles. About 15,000 years ago, Lake Bonneville broke through the pass and drained into the Snake River and eventually into the Pacific Ocean.

RENDEZVOUS 1826

The annual summer rendezvous of the mountain men was an exciting event. Mountain men and Indians from friendly tribes would gather in hope of obtaining a good price for their furs and to have a little fun. When the supply caravan arrived from far-away St. Louis, the

gathering quickly turned from a fur trading fair to a wild fiesta. James P. Beckwourth, a participant in the 1826 Rendezvous, left the following description of the event: “It may well be supposed that the arrival of such a vast amount of luxuries from the East did not pass off without a general celebration. Mirth, songs, dancing, shouting, trading, running, jumping, singing, racing, target-shooting, yarns, frolic, with all sorts of extravagances that white men or Indians could invent, were freely indulged in. The unpacking of the medicine water contributed not a little to the heightening of our festivities.” The trappers at the rendezvous also celebrated the Fourth of July by firing their guns and making toasts. This unique gathering lasted for two weeks.



Artist's Rendition, Mountain Man Summer Rendezvous Scene

RICHMOND

The Richmond area was first settled in July of 1859 by John Bair, William H. Lewis, Francis Stewart and Robert D. Perry. The immigrants lived the first winter in dugouts and log cabins. The winter was hard and the newcomers existed on boiled wheat and meat procured by hunters. During the summer of 1860 a community center was erected which served as a meeting house, schoolhouse, social hall and civic center. There is some question as to how Richmond received its name. At least three theories are argued: one

was that the town was named in honor of LDS apostle Charles C. Rich, two, because of the area's rich mounds of soil and three, it was named after Richmond, Virginia, by several homesick southern settlers.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Fort Marker, 50 S. 200 W.; Marriner W. Merrill Gravesite, James and Drucella Hendricks Gravesite and Amanda Smith Gravesite, City Cemetery, 400 N. 200 E.; James Hendricks Marker/Tithing Office/Relic Hall, 31 S. State; Carnegie Library, 10 W. Main; Relief Society Hall, 15 E. Main; ZCMI Store (Theurers), 23 W. Main.*

EVENTS: *Richmond Black and White Days, May.*

RIVER HEIGHTS

River Heights was settled later than many other Cache Valley communities. Its name is derived from the fact that the town sits on higher ground than the Logan River, and the locals call the area north of the town "The Island." In 1883-84 the first pioneers constructed log homes in River Heights. The early settlers tried dry farming but, due to difficulties switched to raising berries, fruit and row crops. River Heights was the home of Col. Russell Lowell Maughan who made the famous Dawn-to-Dusk flight from New York to San Francisco in 1924. A historic marker commemorating Maughan's flight is found at 133 East Center Street in Logan.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *River Heights Marker, 400 E. 490 S.*

SHOSHONE

The original native inhabitants of Cache Valley were the Northwestern band of the Shoshone who spoke a Shoshone-Comanche dialect of the Uto-Aztecan language group. The Shoshone's nomadic lifestyle made them rely upon ancient food-gathering cycles that brought them to Cache Valley in the early spring to gather roots, bulbs, berries, seeds and edible green

plants. The Shoshone also fished the area's streams. Prior to the 1830s, they also hunted buffalo in Cache Valley. Fur trappers to the area described the Shoshone as brave, robust, active and shrewd. Osborne Russell, a trapper in the 1830s, portrayed them as, "kind and hospitable to whites, thankful for favors, indignant at injuries." He also reported that Shoshone women were, "cheerful, affectionate to their husbands, and very fond of their children." The encroachment of Mormon settlement on Shoshone ancestral lands in Cache Valley during the 1850s-60s created a cultural clash that eventually destroyed the Shoshone way of life.



Shoshone Indian Women, ca 1870

SMITHFIELD

Smithfield was settled in October of 1859 by Seth Langton and Robert and John Thornley and was named after its first LDS bishop, John G. Smith. They selected a site on the banks of Summit Creek. Though advised to build the community in a “fort line,” the first settlers failed to heed the counsel. However, five Shoshone killed two men and wounded a third in the act of rescuing their chief who was being held captive in the home of John G. Smith. Shortly after, the residents began to construct homes closer to each other. During the summer of 1861, 1,000 Shoshone camped near Smithfield and the settlers gave them eight cows and 3,000 pounds of flour. When the settlers paraded fifty well-armed men, the Shoshone broke camp and moved on. On one April 1, the town bugler sounded the alarm and the men scrambled to ward off an Indian raid. When the bugler exclaimed, “April Fool!” he was rewarded by being thrown in the creek.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Ira Elias Merrill Marker, 5 N. Main; Pioneers of Smithfield Marker, 27 N. Main; Harmon Field/Old Log Cabin, Public Square; Samuel Ewing Home, 107 S. 100 E.; Carnegie Library, 25 N. Main; LDS Tabernacle, 31 N. Main; Smithfield Implement Company, 99 N. Main; Morgan Canning Company, Cannery Building, S. Main.*

EVENTS: *Smithfield Health Days, May.*

TRENTON

The earliest settlers came to Trenton in 1876 and located their homes along the road the freighters used to transport their goods to Montana. They dug wells, planted gardens and constructed section houses so as to claim the land and meet government homesteading requirements. In 1876 it was suggested that since the “Big Range” was located across the Bear River just as Trenton, New Jersey, was across the Delaware River that the new community be called Trenton. By 1905 Trenton had a mill, a railroad depot, irrigated farmland and two

stores. The area experienced a boom in population which rose to 2,300 before the boom collapsed in 1917. Some interesting early laws passed by the town board made it illegal for children under 16 to be out on the streets after 9 p.m., vagrants were not permitted in town and it was illegal to own a cannon.

WELLSVILLE

Wellsville, the first community in Cache Valley, was founded in 1856 by seven pioneer families led by Peter Maughan. Driving the first wagon into the valley was Peter's wife Mary Ann, who when she saw the valley in all its September splendor, cried, "Oh, what a beautiful valley." The settlers brought with them crude plows, wheat, corn and oats for seed and flour sufficient for the winter. After their arrival they constructed small, flat roofed houses made from quaking-aspen and birch trees. The first winter was hard and the snow became so deep that the immigrants had to shovel the snow away from the window of their crude homes so that they might have light. Wellsville was named after Daniel H. Wells, a prominent Mormon leader. Visitors today will find the tabernacle (built in 1908), located in the heart of the city, a fascinating structure as it reflects Mormon architecture at the beginning of the twentieth century with a Gothic English emphasis. The chapel with balcony, wooden benches and slanting floor are unique among Cache Valley's religious buildings. Wellsville is also the site of several well-kept pioneer homes many of which were built of native rock brought out of "Cookie's Holler," a nearby granite quarry named after an early black settler named Cookie.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Original Log Cabin, 300 East 50 South; Founders Marker, Main and Center; Zial Riggs Home, 94 S. 100 E.; Howell/Theurer Home, 30 S. 100 E.; Relief Society Meeting House, 67 S. Center; Samuel Crowther Mitton Home, 242 E. Main; Elijah Fordham and James H. Haslem gravesites, City Cemetery.*

VISIT: *Wellsville Tabernacle, 75 S. 100E. (tours available); American West Heritage Center, located along U.S. Highway 89-91.*

EVENTS: *Wellsville Founders Day Celebration, Labor Day.*

WESTON

On August 29, 1843, John C. Fremont of the U.S. Topographical Engineers entered Cache Valley from the north and exited through Weston Canyon into Malad Valley. At the entrance to the canyon he wrote, “We halted at the gate of the pass, on either side of which stole a little pure water stream, with a margin just sufficiently large enough for our passage.” Twenty years later, in 1865 Weston was settled by seven families from Richmond. These immigrants dug holes in the ground, put a roof on the hole and called their homes “dugouts.” Each home had an open fireplace, which provided a place for cooking meals. There is some dispute as to just how the new community got its name. One claimed it was called Weston because it was on the west side of Cache Valley, while others say the community was named in honor of Mary Ann

Weston Maughan, who drove the first wagon into Cache Valley. Early Weston was not trouble-free. In 1874, two men fought a duel over a polygamous marriage. Nine shots were fired. No one was hurt except an innocent horse standing nearby that was wounded. Two years later, John Evans hid in the bushes near Weston Creek and ambushed Robert Wilcox, shooting him in the back as he crossed the bridge. Evans spent ten years in the Boise penitentiary for the killing. In 1920, Weston native son Parley P. Christensen ran unsuccessfully on the Progressive ticket for the United States Presidency.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Pioneer Settlement Marker, Depot & W. Center; Grade School Bell (1892-1988), Public Square; Old Weston High School (1916-1946), Public Square; Standing Rock, Weston Canyon; Fremont Plaque, Weston Canyon (base of Standing Rock).*

WHITNEY

Shortly after Franklin became a community, settlers began grazing their animals on the grass that grew northwest of the town as far as the Bear River. At first, Whitney was considered an extension of Franklin. But in 1888 the small community was given the name of Whitney in honor of Orson F. Whitney, a prominent LDS leader. Unlike residents of other Cache Valley Mormon towns, Whitney's citizens lived on the land they farmed, which was often far from the center of town. Whitney was the boyhood home of Ezra Taft Benson who served as Secretary of Agriculture in the Eisenhower Administration, and then as President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The home in which he was raised and nearby barn still stand on the family farm.

HERITAGE SIGHTS: *Ezra Taft Benson Gravesite, Whitney Cemetery, 1400 South; Benson Home, 2003 E. 800 S.*

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