

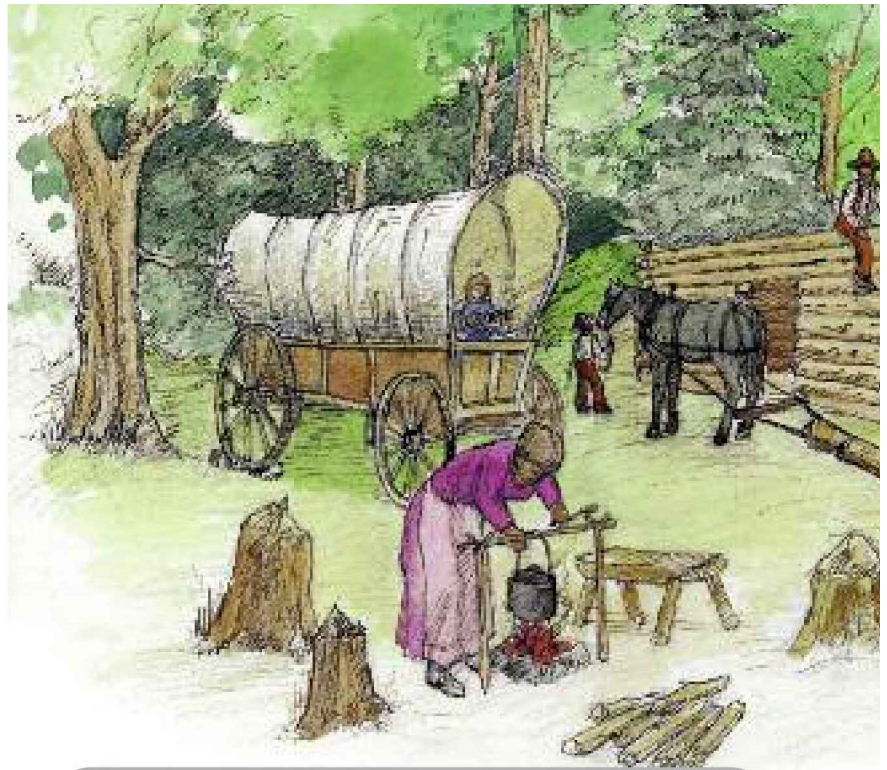
## A Unique Lifestyle

The lives of the people in the early settlements were unique. The leaders of the church were also the leaders of the government. The people were divided into “wards” according to where they lived. “Stakes” were groups of wards.

Each ward and each stake had leaders who were in charge of both everyday survival and religious matters. The leader of each ward was called a “bishop,” and the leader of a stake was called a “stake president.” All church leaders and members, however, were under the direction of the president of the whole church.

Land was given according to the needs of each family, and any extra food was to be given to the bishop. Bishops gave food to the poor and to new immigrants who hadn’t had time to grow their own food.

Not wanting anyone to be idle, church leaders often provided jobs for new immigrants. They worked on public projects such as cutting stone, building temples and other church buildings, cutting timber in the mountains, digging irrigation ditches, farming, weaving, caring for animals, and other jobs. Of course, many began their own farms right away.



“Some have wished me to explain why we built an adobe wall around this city. . . . I build walls, dig ditches, make bridges, and do a great amount of labor that is of but little consequence only to provide ways and means for sustaining . . . the destitute. I have potatoes, flour, beef, and other articles of food, which I wish my brethren to have; and it is better for them to labor for those articles, so far as they are able, than to have it given to them.”

—Brigham Young

## Settlement Problems

The first pioneers in Utah faced several challenges:

- They were in an unfamiliar environment. The land was fertile but very dry. Any trees or crops had to be planted and watered. In other places rain had watered the crops.
- They were **isolated** from the rest of the world, with no fast communication to the East.
- They were living on land inhabited by American Indians. Indians saw them as intruders. This caused problems for both groups.
- Every year thousands of new immigrants of different cultures and languages arrived with no money, homes, or jobs. Everyone had to work together to build a community.

### What do you think?

- How hard would it be to provide everything you needed in an isolated community?
- What problems might occur?
- Could positive aspects balance out the negative?



Seven of the wives of Brigham Young posed for this photograph in 1899, twenty-two years after Young's death.

*Morality is a strong sense of right or virtuous actions.*

## Plural Marriage

A unique aspect of Utah society at the time was the practice of plural marriage, or polygamy. Church members viewed plural marriage as a commandment and a revival of the plural marriage of the Old Testament in the Bible. The rest of the nation saw it as a challenge to the *morality* of the country.

While the number of people involved in plural marriages varied from time to time and place to place, polygamy was lived by a minority, especially in larger cities. Smaller towns tended to have more families living in polygamy. Most men seldom married more than two or three women. In many cases each wife had her own home and raised her children there. Sometimes, however, several wives and children lived together in the same house.

Brigham Young and other leaders married more often. Brigham Young was the father of fifty-six children by sixteen women, and was married to many other wives who did not have children.

“ At the time of my birth in Farmington in 1864, my father and his first wife already had a large family of eleven children. On a mission for the Mormon Church in England, Father met my mother, whom he married the year she emigrated to Utah. I was the second of ten children. We lived across the street from Aunt Mary's family. [Children often called their father's other wives "aunt."] As a child, I went freely from one home to the other. ”

—Annie Clark Tanner

## Food and Clothes

People in early Utah ate mostly bread, meat, milk, cheese, and vegetables such as corn, potatoes, squash, cabbage, peas, beans, lettuce, dandelion greens, and beets. They also ate fresh and dried apricots, cherries, plums, peaches, currants, gooseberries, and raspberries.

During the first two decades of settlement the people were hungry much of the time. The farms were plagued with recurring swarms of hungry crickets and grasshoppers that destroyed crops. The weather didn't cooperate, either; severe hot and cold temperatures hurt crops and animals. When the harvest wasn't enough to feed all of the people, they survived by sharing what little they did have, killing animals for food and gathering wild roots and bulbs, especially thistles and segos. In this way they were competing with Indians for food.

People wore their clothes until they were too worn to be of any use. Even then, part of the fabric was made into clothes for children or quilts. Children usually didn't get new clothes until their old ones were way too small. Most of the clothes were made at home, either from sheep's wool or linen made of a plant called flax. Sometimes traders brought in bolts of cotton cloth, and the women made good use of it for pants, shirts, and dresses. Young girls all learned how to sew so they could make their own clothes, and those of their families, by the time they were married.

When I was seven years old, I needed a new dress badly. One day while I was playing in the yard I found an old bacon sack and took it to my mother. She made some lye water by soaking wood ashes and in this she soaked the sack to remove the grease. Then she got some weeds and made dye in which she dyed the sack brown. From this she made the waist [top of a dress] and from a piece of blue denim the skirt, and I had a new dress.

—Melissa Jane Lambson, 1854

## Celebrations

By the end of the first ten years in the valley, dozens of towns had been built and people's lives settled down. Traditions such as birthdays, wedding celebrations, and holidays helped break up the daily activities and hard work. Utahns celebrated national holidays such as the Fourth of July and Christmas. Pioneer Day was a celebration of the arrival of the first pioneers into the Great Basin on July 24, 1847.

Everyone turned out to cheer when important people came to visit. Often parades were held, with speeches and band concerts.

When Brigham Young and his apostles and party arrived, the streets of our little village [Mt. Pleasant] were lined with children to welcome them. Everyone loved Brigham Young and as they came along in their wagons we all waved our handkerchiefs. . . . We were all dressed up in our best to greet our leader.

—Alma Elizabeth Mineer

## Let's Dance!

Singing, dancing, acting in a play, going on hikes, or watching the sunset helped young people relax from hard work. Every town had a choir and a band. Almost every town had an acting company, and dancing parties were held often. There was usually a fiddle player, and maybe someone playing an accordion. Round and round in different patterns men and women, boys and girls marched. Babies and young children played or slept in one part of the room while the others danced.

When a county courthouse was built in Brigham City in 1856, Sarah Squires remembered: "Among the first things done was the construction of a large platform, where the workmen might dance a quadrille [square dance] or two before returning to their afternoon work; or where, after the day's work they might go for a few hours of amusement."



*A violin and a few band instruments provided one of the few forms of entertainment the people enjoyed. Dances were held outdoors and indoors, in cities and out in the country.*



# New Settlements

## *North and South*

During the first decade in the Great Basin, about 100 settlements were established, from the Bear River Valley in Idaho into Arizona and Nevada. Here are some of them.

### **Bountiful, 1848**

The first September in the valley, Peregrine Sessions moved his family around the mountain from Salt Lake City and built a home and farm at a site they called Sessions Settlement. About twenty-five families joined them and spent the winter there. The settlement was renamed Bountiful for a beautiful green garden spot in the Book of Mormon. Bountiful lived up to its name and was a thriving farming community.

### **Ogden, 1848**

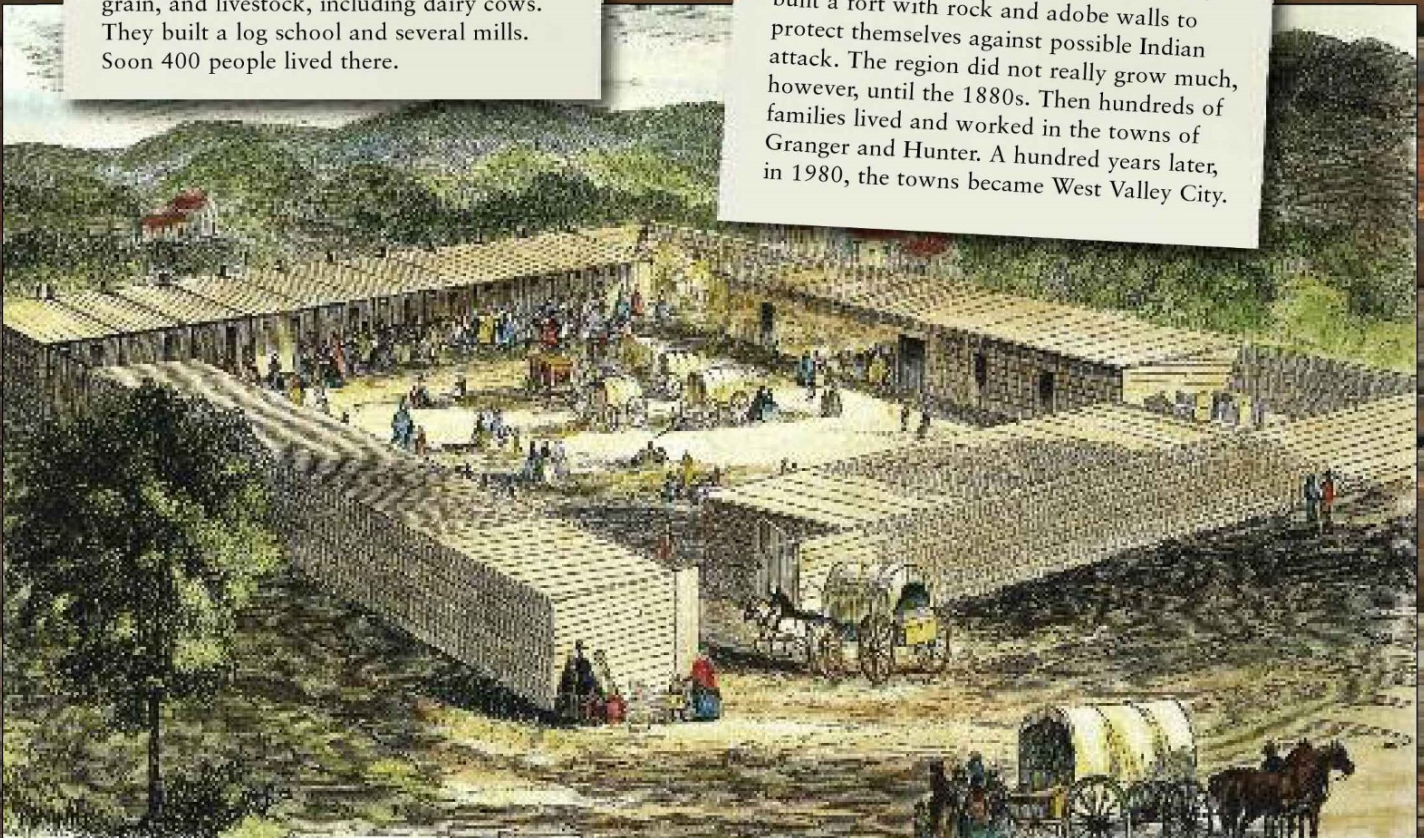
James Brown bought Miles Goodyear's Fort Buenaventura on the Weber River. Soon families were living there, grazing cattle, and planting crops. Brigham Young visited and talked to the people about laying out a city. The settlement was called Brownsville, but was later named Ogden for a trapper, Peter Skene Ogden, who had trapped in the Weber Valley.

### **Farmington, 1848**

At the same time as Bountiful was being settled, Hector Haight took cattle a few miles farther. Five families joined him and started a farming community. More families came the next year. They raised alfalfa, grain, and livestock, including dairy cows. They built a log school and several mills. Soon 400 people lived there.

### **Granger, 1848** *(today's West Valley City)*

Settlement began in the western side of the Salt Lake Valley in the fall of 1848, when Joseph Harker settled near today's 600 West and 3300 South. Soon seven other families moved to the region. In 1853, the families built a fort with rock and adobe walls to protect themselves against possible Indian attack. The region did not really grow much, however, until the 1880s. Then hundreds of families lived and worked in the towns of Granger and Hunter. A hundred years later, in 1980, the towns became West Valley City.



*Fort Utah became the town of Provo. Settlers farmed outside the fort.*

### Provo, 1849

In March, John S. Higbee and thirty settlers went south to Utah Valley and made a settlement on the Provo River. They plowed, planted, and built Fort Utah.

This was the territory of the Utah Lake Utes. The Indians, who had been friendly to settlers in Salt Lake City, did not like the white people coming so close to their settlements and hunting grounds around Utah Lake. Once in a while, an arrow would hit near a settler who was gathering wood outside the fort.

Then three white men killed a Ute man. Apparently, local residents did not make a full report of the event to Salt Lake leaders. Under the impression that the Indians were prepared to attack without a cause, a militia was sent from Salt Lake City with orders to kill all hostile Indians. The fight left one white man and at least twenty-six Utes dead. Eleven Indians surrendered, but the militia slit their throats anyway.

White settlers, feeling safer, laid out city lots and started farms. Other communities spread out around Provo. **Alpine, American Fork, Lehi, Payson, Battle Creek (Pleasant Grove), and Springville** started small. Scattered farms were also established in **Lindon and Pleasant View**.

### Manti, 1849

In November, Chief Walkara, living in Sanpete Valley, issued an invitation to pioneers to settle there. Isaac Morley led a company of 224 settlers to the distant valley. No sooner had they arrived than snow fell, and a cold winter closed in before they had time to build cabins or a fort. Some of the men made it to Salt Lake City and back on snowshoes and brought back supplies.

In the spring, ten teams arrived with grain to help the settlers and the Indians, who badly needed food. The people went to work building homes, plowing, and fencing their farms. By the end of 1850, the settlement of Manti had 365 people. Turn to the last page of this chapter to see famous paintings of Manti's early years.

### Settlements to 1857



*Present-day state lines and names are to give an idea of location. Other maps will show boundaries of the territory. Only some of the towns are labeled.*

### Parowan, 1851

An exploring group went south during the winter of 1849-50. Iron ore in the mountains attracted the explorers, and plans were made to start a colony the next year. A group finally arrived in the freezing days of January, 1851. A site for the town of Parowan was chosen, and a road was built into the canyon so timber could be brought down. A 90-foot-tall pole was erected and soon held up the waving Stars and Stripes. Men built a log fort surrounding cabins, a meetinghouse, a schoolhouse, and a watchtower. George A. Smith led the community. His energy and great enthusiasm helped colonize southern Utah.

### Cache Valley, 1851

Peter Maughan was the leader of the earliest pioneer group to settle in Cache Valley. He established Maughan's Fort, which became the present town of Wellsville. At first the people thought Cache Valley's growing season was too short to raise wheat and other crops, but in 1859 several hundred families were sent there. **Wellsville, Providence, Mendon, Logan, Richmond, and Smithfield** were settled, and the valley soon became "Utah's granary" because of the successful farms there.

## Sugar House, A Sweet Failure

The people started many industries in the new towns. Some were successful, and some were not. The sugar industry was a good example. Imported sugar was expensive, so people used molasses for sweetening. However, LDS missionaries in France had seen sugar being made from sugar beets and wanted to try it in Utah. They brought in seeds and people to run the operation. They arranged for heavy machinery to be shipped across the ocean to New Orleans, then up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, and then by ox teams across the plains and mountains to Utah.

A factory was erected in what is now Sugar House, near Salt Lake City, but the factory was a failure. In 1855 more than 22,000 bushels of sugar beets were harvested and ground into molasses, but the workers did not succeed in getting more than sweet syrup. Some people blamed a lack of skilled management and workers. Others blamed the equipment. No sugar was ever produced in Sugar House.

It wasn't until about thirty-five years later, in 1891, that the Utah Sugar Company in Lehi succeeded in producing sugar from sugar beets. The Ogden Sugar Company went into production several years later. After that, Utahns had all the sugar they wanted.



### Cedar City, 1851

After iron was discovered near Parowan, a group of thirty-five skilled miners from England, Scotland, and Wales were called by Brigham Young to found the Pioneer Iron Mission at nearby Cedar City. It was September, 1851. Committees were appointed to lay out a town, erect a fort, dig a canal, plant a farm, built a road to the coal deposits, and locate materials with which to build a small blast furnace. Within a year a small amount of iron was produced and was used to make nails for horseshoes and some tools. Despite their hard work, however, iron was never very successfully produced in large quantities.

### Brigham City, 1851

As new immigrants continued to come by wagon, fifteen new settlements were established. One of them was Brigham City. William Davis brought his family and others to farm. In 1853 Lorenzo Snow led the community and named it Box Elder for the box elder trees in the mountains. Years later, shortly before his death in 1877, Brigham Young gave his last public sermon there, and the name of the town was changed to Brigham City.

### Harmony, 1852

The small community of Harmony was formed as the county seat of Washington County, named after President George Washington. For a while, it was the only town in the far corner of the Utah Territory. The region was much warmer than other places, which meant there were no freezing winters that would kill crops such as cotton. Later, the county seat was moved to St. George.

# Utah Settlements to 1860\*

## Salt Lake Valley

Salt Lake City	1847
Big Cottonwood	1848
East Mill Creek	1848
Sugar House	1848
South Cottonwood	1848
North Jordan	1848
West Jordan	1848
Little Cottonwood	1849
Draper	1849
Herriman	1851
Midvale	1851
Crescent	1854

## Davis County

Bountiful	1848
Farmington	1848
Centerville	1848
Kaysville	1848
Layton	1850

## West from Salt Lake Valley

Tooele	1849
Grantsville	1849
Batesville	1852
Clover	1854

## Ogden Valley

Ogden	1848
Harrisville	1850
Marriott	1850
Slaterville	1850
Uintah	1850
West Weber	1850
North Ogden	1851
Far West	1851
South Weber	1851
South Hooper	1852

## Weber Valley Northward

Willard	1851
Pleasant View	1851
Brigham City	1851
Call's Fort (Harper)	1853
Perry	1854

## Utah Valley and Eastward

Provo	1849
Pleasant Grove	1850
Springville	1850
Payson	1850
Alpine	1850
Spanish Fork	1850
American Fork	1850
Lindon	1850
Santaquin	1851
Salem	1851
Mapleton	1856
Garland	1857
Heber City	1859
Midway	1859
Charleston	1859

## Sanpete Valley

Manti	1849
Ephraim	1852
Spring City	1852
Mount Pleasant	1852
Fountain Green	1859
Moroni	1859
Mount Pleasant	1859
Gunnison	1859

## Juab Valley

Nephi Valley	1851
Mona	1851

## Pavant Valley

Fillmore	1851
Holden	1855
Meadow	1857

## Sevier Valley

Parowan	1851
Cedar City	1851
Paragonah	1852
Beaver	1856

## Cedar Valley

Cedar Valley	1852
Fairfield	1855

## Southern Utah

Harmony	1852
Pine Valley	1855
Pinto	1856
Washington	1856
Gunlock	1857

## Morgan Valley Eastward

Wanship	1854
Morgan	1855
Peterson	1855
Milton	1856
Peoa	1857
Eden	1859
Coalville	1859
Hoytsville	1859
Wanship	1859

## Cache Valley

Logan	1856
Wellsville	1856
Mendon	1857
Providence	1859
Richmond	1859
Millville	1859
Franklin	1859
Smithfield	1859

\* Other towns were settled later. You will see them in later chapters of this book.