



THE HISTORY OF SUGAR CITY  
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For the Tetonwan-Schubeeta Camp of the Daughters of  
The Utah pioneers  
Completed in November, 1943

The greatest valley in Idaho, according to history, and one of the most productive found anywhere, is our own upper Snake River Valley. The soil is both rich and deep and the combination of volcanic ash, disintegrated lava, vegetable mould and an abundance of water give long life to the soil. However, the trappers, travelers and early settlers were generally quite unimpressed with this section of the country. Though unattractive in 1880, this country has become "The Valley Beautiful" because of the science applied to irrigation and agriculture. In early times, game abounded in this locality. Numerous streams, mountains, valleys and desert country made this section a choice habitat for buffalo, beaver, elk, deer, wolverine, martin, badger, antelope, bear and fox. These same conditions also made this section a choice one for the Indians.

These conditions prevailed until 1810, when the first white men came here. Andrew Henry and his companions came in 1810 and in the following year established Fort Henry four miles northwest of the present site of Sugar City.

After 1811, trapping became the industry that flourished until after the first settlers came in. However, later trappers were never so richly rewarded as the earlier ones had been. As the fur bearing animals disappeared, the trappers turned to elk, deer, and antelope for the meat markets farther east, and for the mines. When this demand slackened, the settlers turned either to stock raising or moved to the less settled localities.

During the seventies there came a period of transition from the temporary type of settlers to the more permanent who introduced stock raising. There then ranged through the country large herds of horses and cattle. This was so until about 1885. These cattle represented considerable wealth and as mining in other sections was declining at this time, the stage robbers turned to the cattle stealing business. This became a well organized business and the settlers lost their stock continuously during the first several years of their settlement in this locality.

The real pioneer, however, with a tendency toward a settled order of life to be supported by stock raising and farming made their first appearance about 1871, and settled at Lyman. These people brought the first cattle and confined their efforts mostly to stock raising.

Then came the Mormon settlers in 1879. From that time on the Snake River Fork country received a momentum of colonization which brought many thousands of home seekers. In fact so great was the influx of these people that during the eighties the great Upper Snake River Valley was almost entirely settled and many settlements and towns sprang up over the entire section.

In the year of 1879 the first railroad built in Idaho, by the Utah Northern Company, reached Camas. The mormon settlers in this section made it one of their strong aims to bring the railroad to this section. After the Union Pacific System bought the line, this aim was realized when the line was extended as far north as St. Anthony in 1899.

Since the summer of 1903 continuous building up of the residential district made this town beautiful, prosperous, and up-to-date. Its general appearance being one of prosperity, cleanliness and comfort.

In 1908 the school had outgrown the building which was erected in 1904. It became necessary to build the large rock building west of the railroad track. The rock building had eight large class rooms and an office. Since then a large playroom has been added. When this building was finished and ready for use, a celebration was held. A very entertaining program was given and lunch served. In the evening a big public dance was held.

It was the year this building was finished they started the ninth grade in the school. It grew in numbers and efficiency until by 1914 it had reached the requirements of the State to become a Standard High School. Quoting from a short history in 1914 year book "Mr. Ford and Miss Travis, the first teachers met with many difficult problems. They made the needs of a High School known to the people of the rural district and the next year under Mr. Thompson and Mr. Peterson the school was given a name and privileges of a High School. The name given was "The Sugar-Salem High School." The practical side of education was stressed by them and Domestic Science, Manual Training, and Art were introduced in 1912. Dave Williams was principal and the High School was moved from the rock building to the brick building by the city park, making it more convenient to carry on department work.

The young people began to realize that their education had not begun until they have graduated from high school. In the first graduating class we find the names of Mary Ricks; Flora Jaques; Ray, Agnes Myrtle, and Ruth West. The faculty for this banner year was William B. Oldham, J. W. West, Miss A. J. Young, and John Phillips.

The first school paper to be published was called "Commencement." It was published in 1914 and dedicated to John K. Orme for his devoted services as president of the school board, for his deep interest in the work, and his successful efforts to establish and maintain and complete the High School.

About this time the society bug began to bite the female population, whose lot was not one which demanded all their time and attention. There were organized as time went on a number of women's clubs for the purpose of enjoying social contact and promoting cultural interests, as well as a higher sense of social responsibility. These clubs varied in their activities from literary, sewing, cooking, health, gardening, culture, and so on to the purely social. In time they became a prominent factor in the social life of the community, rating second only to the church and school.

The church took the lead for the most part in the activities of the community. Indeed it was found difficult to find enough days and nights to complete the program. Then the school acquired many new and exciting activities. All these functions wielded a definite social and cultural influence over the community. The school grew rapidly and the high school was the first organized in the county. For a full four year course of instruction. The town became known generally, as having a lot of talent. On summer when the Chatauqua program failed to arrive in town as per schedule, an extemporaneous program was arranged for by the townspeople themselves and presented to the audience. It was proclaimed the best program of the entire series. So by many such influences the town came to be known equally well with much larger towns, as a place where the people took advantage of the opportunities for higher learning and cultural advantages.

The younger residents of the town delight to hear of the old time customs and celebrations of those first years of the city. The first fourth of July was a gala occasion. The telephone poles at the time went down the middle of the street. They were wrapped with bunting from top to bottom with an upright flag at the top and two flags at angles

a little lower down. The business houses and homes were all decorated with flags and bunting. A bowery large enough to cover the dignitaries and those on the program was built of green branches of willows, and planks were placed for seats for the crowd that gathered from all the neighboring towns. There was a salute of guns at sunrise. An excellent program was given in the forenoon and games, races and sports and a ball game in the afternoon. The evening was spent with fireworks and dancing. The ladies' dress at that time formed part of the picture to us now. The skirts were well down to the ankles, shoes were high topped with buttons or laces. Collars were high with whale bone stiffened to hold them high up behind the ears and sleeves came down to the wrists. Skirts and shirt waists were very popular. We leave the picture of those old days with reluctance.

Building in the town has now become more gradual and confined principally to the residential district. The inhabitants of the town are mostly employees of the sugar factory, farmers, stock raisers, school teachers, and private business men and their families. The population remains around seven and eight hundred as an average figure for those living within the townsite.

There have only been two churches in the town, the Latter-Day-Saints, and the Lutheran Church.

The inhabitants of the town are loyal and proud of their little community. They might have inspired these lines of verse:

This is our world, this portion of the earth  
Means much to us--nay do not mock or jeer;  
This spot has held the things to us most dear;  
Our earliest dreams, our sorrows and our mirth.  
Who enters it must never count the worth  
Of homes in terms of gold lest he appear  
As one whose heart is sadly out of gear--  
Who holds no reverence for our place of birth.  
Evening comes gently, housewives turn to light  
Their lamps and spread the table's simple fare  
Then comes the friendly clicking of a gate  
That makes the day's soft blending with the night  
And all the houses seem to wear  
A peace unknown to mansions of the great.

....Copied....

#### IN MEMORIUM

Our history would not be complete without acknowledging the names of our boys who served in World War I. The list was furnished by Jesse P. Evans, Clerk of the American Legion with the following inclosure: "In response to your request for a list of the World War I men who left Sugar city: the American Legion and the Madison County records were searched and according to the records and the memory of Frank L. Davis, who assisted, the following seems to be the information you desire."

Name	Enlisted	Discharged
Harold Bean	Not recorded in Madison County	
Marshall R. Dalling	August 5, 1918	April 28, 1919
Frank LeRoy Garner	October 22, 1918	December 16, 1918
Jesse G. Garner	June 26, 1918	April 12, 1919
Isaac N. Hynes	August 27, 1918	January 24, 1919

With the Mormon settlers came the group who filed on the land in and around the place to be known later as Sugar City, legally described as the south half of section 4, township 6, North of Range 40, East of the Boise Meridian. Sugar City was then in the territory known as Bannock County. On January 14, 1885, the county was divided and Sugar City became a part of Bingham County. In 1893 the county was again divided and Sugar City became a part of Fremont County until February 1913, when the boundary lines were changed and a new county was created. Since that time Sugar City has been a part of Madison county.

In 1883, Willard Ricks homesteaded and filed on the land designated as the Southeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 6, North Range 40, East of the Boise Meridian, and received patents of this land in 1890 from the United States government. C.B. Valentine likewise filed on and obtained a patent in 1897 for the land designated as the Southwest quarter of Section 4, township 6, North Range 40, East of the Boise Meridian. As time went on Willard Ricks sold parts of his land to Conrad Miller and Amos Canue Jacobs and C. B. Valentine. Around these quarters sections of land were these other settlers: James C. Stone, James Winnill, John E. Pincock, James H. Pincock, George A. Pincock, John A. Garner, John Dalling. The land of these men was in the territory designated unofficially as Sugar City, but the city limits comprised only the lands originally filed on by Willard Ricks and C.B. Valentine.

It is not generally known that the first site for the Sugar Factory and city was located directly east and north of where the factory now stands. The following farmers gave the Utah Idaho Sugar Company an option on their land for thirty days at 40 dollars per acre: John E. Pincock, James Pincock, Hyrum Jacobs, and David Browning. There were two of the men who afterwards refused to sell their land for the \$40.00 per acre. That, of course, released the entire deal, for the Sugar Company needed a definite number of acres. They then bought the tract of land now occupied by the factory farms and the city of Sugar. It was in 1903 the Sugar Company bought the homestead of John Dalling and sent Frank L. Davis to that point as receive-agent for the company. This place was close to the railroad and a receive-station was set up beside the railroad to receive materials for the building of the sugar factory.

The Utah Idaho Sugar Company began excavating work there. In the spring of 1904 there began a clanking of steel and ringing of hammers as a great force of steel workers, mechanics, carpenters, and masons went steadily forward in the erection of one of the 1 largest and finest factories ever to be built by the Sugar Company. In fact it was then the largest sugar factory in the United States. It cost one million dollars. During the year the factory was being built, there were hundreds of tents surrounding the company property, which formed the temporary abode for the builders. There were also tent stores, restaurants, and hotels put up to accommodate the workers.

In 1903, a group of business men in Salt Lake City organized themselves and purchased a plot of 320 acres of land directly adjacent to that purchased by the Sugar Company. This group of men purchased the plot for the purpose of building a town. The plot recorded in 1903 was called the "Sugar City Townsite Company." With Mark Austin as their representative, they then proceeded to offer lots for sale. These 320 acres were of the very finest land in this section and were purchased from Willard Ricks, Amos C. Jacobs, Conrad Miller, C. B. Valentine, Hyrum Bell, and Christian Johnson.

Very little was accomplished until the spring of 1904. Then a large percentage of the lots were sold and the city began to take on activity. All holders of lots in the city were under contract to build the homes thirty feet from the sidewalk line, and to build respectable homes or residences of first class building and materials. They must be painted within sixty days of erection. The business houses were to be built of brick or stone. Thus, the would-be speculators were kept out. The townsite company planted

trees on every street in the town and uniform fences were placed around each lot. Prizes were given for the best kept gardens, lawn and surroundings.

Another thing which added to the attractiveness of the city was a circular park, laid out by Mark Austin and J. B. Gaddie. It was platted by means of a long chain held in the center by one and the other going around to make the circle. It consisted of twelve acres which was planted to grass and trees. This little park was proclaimed the cleanest place for a celebration in that section. In those days the dust was generally about a foot deep for such occasions; so this circular park became the favorite place for such celebrations and for family reunions and so forth.

Sidewalks were constructed, covering the main pathways of the town. The Townsite Company also inserted a clause in every deed given by them prohibiting the sale of liquor on any property included in the townsite. Thus Sugar City automatically adopted prohibition many years before the country went dry.

The townsite was surveyed and platted by C. D. Chapin of Idaho Falls. Platt A was signed November 16, 1903 by the President of the Townsite Company, Joseph F. Smith, and the Secretary H. G. Whitney. The platt was recorded in December 1903 and then given to the city.

Platt B. was surveyed in July 1907 by O. E. Peterson of Rexburg, the townsite company recorded this platt and presented it to the people on Oct. 16, 1907. Platt A. covered all the land within the townsite east of the railroad. Platt B. covers all that in the townsite west of the railroad.

When Sugar City was platted and organized it was in the Salem School district and a part of Common School District #40. This included all of Salem, Sugar City, and extended as far east as the land later taken up by Alvin Murdock. Because of the increased valuation in the district it was now eligible to become an independent District. Consequently, Independent School District #4 was created October 10, 1905. It consisted of the same boundary lines as the old common district #40. The first superintendent was J. T. Worlton.

The first store to be built was located where the Sugar City Mercantile now stands. It was named the Sugar City Cash Store. The manager was Ben Ferman. The building was a little frame structure, and when it was finished in 1904, the first dance in Sugar City was held there. The roads were very muddy and people came in buggies and walked in the mud. They wore boots which they changed for their shoes on arrival at the dance. Mud was a common thing in those days, but the people never let it interfere with their good times. The music for the dance consisted of a fiddle and an organ. Everybody went home tired but happy.

The Fremont County Bank was organized October 10, 1904, with a capital of \$10,000.00. It was one of the largest banking businesses in the great Snake River Valley. The first bank occupied the corner in the Havermeyer Hotel Building. Mark Austin was president, G. E. Bowerman of St. Anthony, Vice President, and Artie I. Comstock, Cashier. In September 1906, the Bank was moved into the beautiful new stone building built by the Mutual Investment Company of Sugar City especially for the use of the bank. The bank occupied the first floor, while the second floor was used by the Telephone Exchange and for the Commercial Club rooms. Fred J. Heath also had their office as an accountant.

During the years of 1904 and 1905 the population ranged from 1000 to 1200 in this thriving little town.

In the spring of 1904, because there were so many men without opportunity of amusement, a baseball team was organized. The first ball park occupied the block east of the Sugar

City Cash Store. It had a high board fence around it. The grand stand was built around the north west corner of the block. There were many men to choose from when the team was organized, and it became exceptionally good. A keen rivalry sprang up between Sugar and the neighboring town of Rexburg. In time there were fewer men to choose from in both towns so in order to keep a good team the two towns consolidated and became known as the Red Socks Team. This plan continued for two or three seasons but proved unsatisfactory. Though it succeeded greatly in destroying the old rivalry between the two.

The city was the scene of much building activity and as the U.S. Post Office had not yet been established, the Sugar Company's receiving station acted as post office with Frank L. Davis as receiving clerk and unofficially the post master as well.

The Sugar City Cash Store was sold in 1904 to Hegstead Jensen and Earl Company and became known as the Sugar City Mercantile Company. It has been enlarged and rebuilt a number of times, changing managers from time to time, but still retaining that name.

Other business places in Sugar City in 1904 were: The Sidney Whitehead Restaurant, James and Brothers Meat Market, James H. Wallace Book Store and Printing office, The Bromely Hotel, John E. Schwendiman Furniture Store, Fred Schwendiman Hardware and Lumber Company, Mr. Blackburn's Blacksmith, Sidney and Skelton Butcher Shop, Wilson and Dowe Contractors and Builders, Charles Ohran manufacturer of cut bricks. Some of these firms continued for a number of years.

The townsite company built the first building to be used as a public building in the center of the townsite on what was called the Cutler Block. This building was called the Havermeyer Building and it housed the first Drug Store, which was operated by Mrs. Graves; the meat market by James and Brothers, a Telephone office, Dance Hall; the Opera House combined; and the Sugar City Times Printing office. The Times was the first newspaper printed in Sugar City. The first Editor was James H. Wallace, the second Joe Adams and then Lloyd Adams. Another large building which was across the street was called the Bromley Building. It was used for a hotel. The first manager was Mr. Bromley.

Early in 1904 the government officially opened a Post Office which was housed in the northwest corner room of the opera house; the first official post masters was Heber Anderson, followed successively by John Williams, D. R. Harris, Christian Schwendiman, and E. Holman.

The dance Hall and opera house was at first for a short time under the management of J. E. Ross, and J. M. Gaddie, followed in order by J. W. Timpson, Fred J. Heath and Frank L. Davis. A dance was held every week and vaudeville or drama every two weeks, booked on the old Pelton and Smutzer circuit. The shows were regular and greatly enjoyed in the community. Aside from this a home dramatic group was formed and produced many plays and furnished much amusement for the community. During the winter season it became one of the chief amusements of the town. Those participating most regularly in the productions were: Mrs. Mark Austin, Stanley W. Gaddie, R. B. Gaddie, Nettie Garner, J. W. Timpson, Ben R. Firman, Frank L. Davis, and Gladys Gaddie. The dances were held every week end and were attended by people from many of the surrounding communities. It was the only dance with a good orchestra and held regularly which was under contract in the entire upper valley. People came from as far south as Blackfoot and from as far north and east as it was possible for them to come. The floor manager was Frank L. Davis whose policy was that there should be no wall flowers, for he felt there was less trouble when the people were dancing.

Until July 24, 1904, Sugar City was a part of Salem Ward. On that day on the stage of the Opera House Building with the Fremont Stake Officers presiding, a meeting of all

the residences of Sugar and Salem was conducted. The meeting was under the direction of the Salem Ward Bishopric. Bishop Victor C. Hegstead presided. Stake President Thomas E. Bassett and his first counselor, James W. Webster were present. Bishop Hegstead said he was in favor of the creation of another Ward and wished the new one success. President Bassett said because Salem Ward was the largest in Fremont Stake it was thought wise to divide it. The new ward should be called Sugar to correspond with the name of the Post Office. A vote was taken to divide and name the ward. All voted in the affirmative. Mark Austin who was the agricultural superintendent for the Sugar Company, was chosen bishop, with James B. Gaddie and Alfred Ricks as his counselors. Stake Sunday School Superintendent Ernest Bramwell was present and he presented the name of James Blake to be the Sunday School Superintendent, the other officers to be selected later. On September 4, 1904, Sister Elizabeth A. Roberts was sustained as president of the Relief Society of the ward, with Helena Jensen first counselor and Alice P. Pincock as second, Marie Austin Treasurer and Harriet P. Dally, Secretary, and Edith Larsen Chorister. The Primary officers were chosen as follows: Luella Garner, President; Annie Smith, first and Opal Graham organist. The Young Men's M.I.A. as follows: Walter L. Webb, President, Bernard Christensen, first counselor; James C. Stone, second Counselor; Alex McOmie, Secretary; William Garner Treasurer; Eugene Graham, Librarian. The Young Ladies Mutual president was Maude Driggs, with counselors, Mattie Webb and Ethel Schwendiman. Thus the Sugar Ward was organized and the auxiliary organizations began to function, all using the Opera House for their activities until the Park Brick School building was completed in the fall of 1904. The church activities were conducted there.

The rock meeting house was built in 1905. Here the Ward continued as one ward until July 21, 1935. At Ward Conference meeting on that night, Elder George F. Richards, met with the ward with the stake presidency, President Ricks, Arthur Porter Jr., Oswald Christensen, and F. L. Davis. Elder George F. Richards presented the proposition of the dividing of the Ward. Bishop C. O. Hamilton, counselors L. A. Bean, and W. E. Thomas were released. The first Ward sustained Marion L. Murdock as Bishop, with Marvin C. Meyers as first and Albert R. Holman as second counselor, and Gordon Hillam, Clerk, John W. Stoker was sustained as Bishop of the second ward. Later W. E. Thomas and Kenneth Thatcher were selected as counselors.

The Park Brick School Building which was built in 1904 was a fine four roomed brick building and housed the first high school of the county. It was erected on the south side of the city park. Adjacent to the park was considered an ideal spot for the school. It was the following year the beautiful rock L.D.S. meeting house was built on the north side of this same park. The architect who drew up the plans and had charge of the building of these two fine structures was Franz Salzner. He later became president of the German Mission. On April 10, 1954 ground breaking ceremonies were held for a new chapel which was dedicated on May 27, 1957. The old meeting house was later torn down.

Jake Hegstead opened and operated the first shoe shop in the home of his brother-in-law, James J. Simonsen. He later moved to a room in the back of the bank building. Still later he bought a shop for himself where the theater now stands.

The first flour mill was operated by Anderson and Larson. This later became the building for the Van Tassel general Merchandise Store. This store discontinued and the building housed the Diamond Garage under the ownership of R. B. Gaddie.

In 1905 the commercial club was organized. It was formed by the business men of the town to secure better cooperation and to be more beneficial and helpful to the town. As time went on the organization became successively known as the Chamber of Commerce, the Business Men's Association, and at the present time the Boosters Club.

In 1906, the ball park was moved to the block directly adjacent to the northeast part of the city park.

Y. M. M. I. A.  
November 10 1884-1900

The Y. M. M. I. A. was organized by the stake superintendent on November 10, 1884, with fifteen members. This was also accomplished with the Martin and Emma Bird home.

November 10, 1884

Simon P Baker, President  
Fred Gardner, 1st counselor  
John Anderson, 2nd counselor  
Neils Peter Anderson, Secretary

No date:

Robert M. Naef, President  
Eli Clark, 1st counselor  
N. P. Anderson, 2nd counselor  
Wm. Davis, Secretary  
S. T. Lames, Assistant secretary

1894 to 1895

George W. McKinley, President  
James W. Siddoway, 1st counselor  
William Davis, 2nd counselor  
William Naylor, secretary

1895 to 1896

Jesse M. Baker, President  
William Naylor, 1st counselor  
Fred Schwendiman, 2nd counselor  
Benjamin Gillet, Secretary

1896-1897 and 1897 - 1900

Jesse M. Baker, President  
William Naylor, 1st counselor(1896 to 1897)  
James Clark, 1st counselor(1897 to 1900)  
James W. McKinley, 2nd counselor  
Benjamin F. Gillett, secretary

RELIEF SOCIETY

Sophia Nelson Ricked, Stake Relief Society President and other sisters came from Remburg and organized the Relief Society on November 19, 1884 ;with five members This organization was also accomplished at the home of Martin and Emma Bird.

1884 - 1893

Mary Donaldson, President  
Alice Graham, 1st counselor  
Adelia Jones, 2nd counselor  
Sarah ;J. Baker, secretary  
Mary Sorensen, treasurer

1893 to 1909

Alice Graham, President  
Jane Graham, 1st counselor  
Elizabeth A. Nibley, 2nd counselor  
Emma Bird, secretary  
Sarah Ann Baker, Treasurer

Dora Eames, Mary Saker, Rhoda Hansen, Vera Merler, Celeia White. These women labored with president Alice Graham of the tem durint the 16 years she was president

Name	Enlisted	Discharged
Jesse L. Johnson	May 27, 1918	January 24, 1919
Ervin W. Murdock	September 18, 1917	December 16, 1918
Johannes Neilson	February 27, 1918	September 15, 1919
Samuel W. Pincock	December 7, 1917	April 21, 1919
Earl E. Ricks	July 26, 1918	February 24, 1919
Warren A. Ricks	August 5, 1918	April 25, 1919
Wm. C. Roberts	August 5, 1918	December 17, 1918
Walter Wickham	August 4, 1918	August 21, 1919
Earl Wilding	July 26, 1918	January 27, 1919
Thomas C. Neibaur	Not recorded in Madison County	
Reginal Galloway	April 3, 1918	January 11, 1919
Fran. Roy Davis	October 18, 1918	December 21, 1918
Wm. R. Row	May 28, 1918	May 1, 1919
Leland Neilson	July 26, 1917	March 15, 1919
Wm. A. Pincock.	December 15, 1917	June 6, 1919
Howard W. Heath	December 13, 1917	January 6, 1919
Alvin E. Harris	September 28, 1917	July 21, 1919
Albert Bayliff	September 18, 1917	May 8, 1919
Hugh S. Johnston	July 6, 1918	February 15, 1919
Elmo Franklin Jacobs	October 22, 1918	December 1, 1918
Theodore Ricks	November 6, 1917	May 17, 1919
Annon R. Ingram	December 15, 1917	January 24, 1919
Fredrick William Garner		
Peter Ingram		
Lawrence Burrell		
Emery Thomas		
Lawrence Thomas		
Ray W. West		
Victor Butler		
Harry Browning		
Simpson Molan		
Albert Pincock		
Jack Butler		