

# MILLVILLE, UTAH

## History at a Glance



John T. Garr Abel W. Garr



Benjamin F. Garr William H. Garr

In the spring of 1855 the Garr brothers were the first known settlers to the Millville area - then known as Elkhorn Ranch. Cattle ranchers, they had been herdsmen for the LDS Church for several years on Antelope Island.



In 1859 Esaias (Zebb) Edwards forded the Blacksmith Fork River and built the first sawmill in Cache Valley, giving the area its name. This sawmill provided lumber for early homes built in Millville. Edwards also built a distillery and cider mill.



Home life centered around family, work, and church. The people proved to be good improvisers. The original homes were dugout in hillsides. Buffalo and other skins were used for bed coverings and rugs. Mattress ticks were filled with hay, corn husks and cattail down. Open fireplaces, tallow candles and kerosene lamps provided light to pioneer homes.



Monument to the Hjorth Molasses Mill

In the fall of 1867, Neils Peter Hjorth built a molasses mill. Sorghum, or sugar cane as it was called by the settlers, was brought to the mill to have its sweet juices extracted. The molasses syrup obtained was a rich brown color and very thick.

Competition in the lumber industry increased about 1870 with the establishment of another water-powered sawmill at the Second Flat in Millville Canyon. The next major change in the lumber industry took place about 1880 when the water-powered mill was replaced with a steam-powered mill near the area known now as Ferry Springs.



In 1883, M.D. Hammond purchased the old grist mill site that was not being used and began building a new grist mill out of rock. The Hammond mill was an impressive edifice with a capacity of 20,000 pounds of flour per day. It was destroyed by fire in 1921.

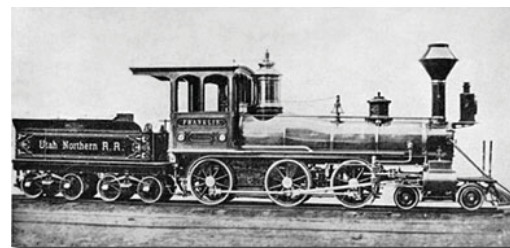


Millstones from Millville and Wellsville - DUP monument.

Edwards built a grist mill in 1866, worth about \$10,000. Corn, coarse grain and two types of whole wheat were commonly used. Flour from dark-colored grain made "pioneer black bread".



Millville was also affected by the railroad. Prior to the joining of Union Pacific and Southern Pacific at Promontory Point in 1869 Brigham Young took a heavy contract with Union Pacific which resulted in a general call for all hands that could be spared from the harvest to work on the railroad.



In 1871, workers from Cache and Box Elders Counties commenced building a railroad line from Ogden to Soda Springs, a distance of about 130 miles. It was completed in 1875 and called the Utah Northern Railroad.



LeGrand Hale with 7.5 tons of beets

Agriculture has always been an integral part of Millville's economy. Important crops were sugar beets, peas, cereal grains, corn, berries and nursery plants. Cattle and dairy farming expanded considerable from 1880 - 1910.



First Millville Town Board - 1902

Millville was incorporated in 1902, with Ola Olson as town president and trustee. Municipal leaders made two important decisions in 1906. They granted a franchise to the Independent Telephone Co. to install a line to Millville. They also purchased a road scraper and land for a gravel pit, thus starting the road department.



In around 1895, John E. Roueche built a store to serve the western part of town. He sold everything from pitchforks and horsecollars to brooms and ladies hats, salted herring to sour pickles in salt bring vinegar.



Annie P. Anderson also had a small store opened in 1903. It was located two blocks south of First West.



In 1903, John Johnson bought the old Yeates store. In 1938, Parley and Jessie Jessop purchased the building. Anthon and Betty Jenson kept the store open until sometime in 1961 when it was closed for the final time.



Millville Elementary was established in 1939 as a four room school house. The old school bell stands atop a tower at the city office building. In 2008, it received the Utah High Performing Title I School Recognition award.



Millville Post Office - 1946



Millville Post Office - 1983

Mail service began in 1860 provided through tithing offices. Later, postal service was part of the Jessop store. In 1983 a new post office was built.

Courageous men and women from Millville have served in every war since the Mexican War. Throughout Millville history, 132 servicemen and women have been lost. In 2010, a memorial was created with their names engraved on large sandstone rocks near the cemetery.



Even with growth and innovation, Millville has maintained its charming, rural atmosphere. With a strong community and location in innovative Cache County, the future looks bright for residents of Millville!



1855 .....> 1860 .....> 1869 .....> 1880 .....> 1902 .....> 1930 .....> 1950 .....> 1980 .....> 2014

Elkhorn Ranch & Early Settlers      Mills      Railroad      Agriculture      Incorporation      Business & Industry      Resilience      Growth      Improvement      Modern Millville



Samuel Whitney



Chief Washakie

The sudden influx of settlers ignited skirmishes with the Shoshone Indians and other tribes. Samuel (Peg Leg) Whitney helped bridge the gap between the two cultures. Whitney had learned to speak the Indian language as a young boy. Shoshone Chief Washakie preferred to speak to him as no interpreter was needed. Chief John, a Sioux who converted to Mormonism, considered Samuel Whitney to be a life-long friend. Indians continued to be part of the Millville culture well after the turn of the 20th century.



Millville Beet Dump



Harvesting Corn



Thomas Jessop

Millville farmers raised sugar beets for the Amalgamated Sugar Company and in 1917 a beet dump was constructed. Corn is thought to have been first grown in Millville in 1859. Broom corn was raised in the 1870s by the Jessop brothers who had learned the broom making trade when they first arrived in America. Thomas Jessop helped to establish a United Order Broom Factory in Millville.

The cemetery was created from six acres of the Garr homestead in 1860. In 1932, Millville City and the Nibley City Cemetery District assumed control of the cemetery.

