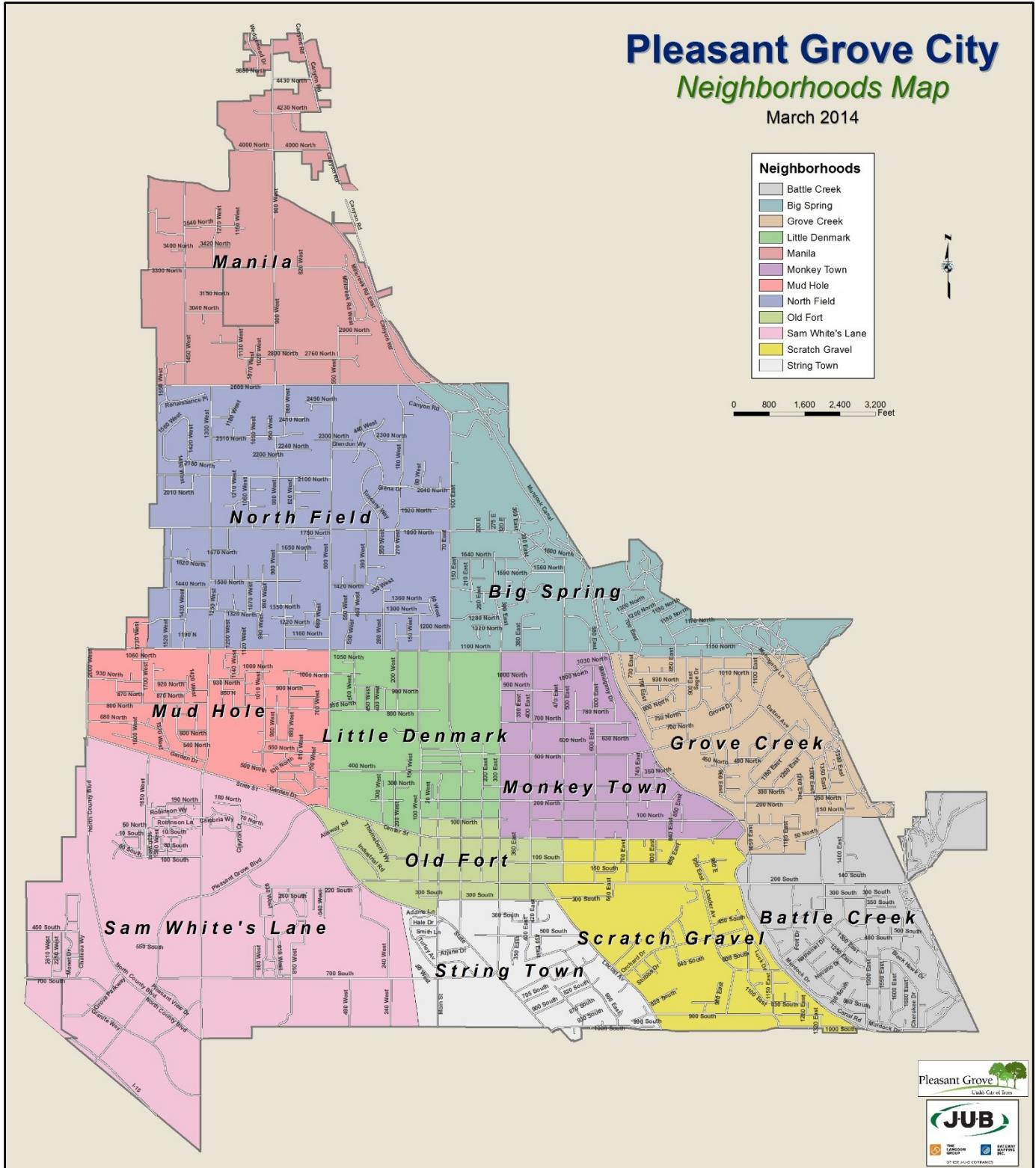


The History of Pleasant Grove City Neighborhoods



The History of Battle Creek

by Beth R. Olsen

Transient Timpanogos Ute Indians seasonably hunted and lived around the canyons above what is now Pleasant Grove. Between and above the two east canyons lay a large flat area known as the summer Indian campgrounds. It is the mouth of the south canyon that Roman Nose and Blue Shirt and those of their lodges, constituting seventeen members, had camped the winter and the first few days of March 1849. Little Chief, logged near the south end of Utah Lake with his group, had driven this renegade group from his main group for living off white men's cattle that winter. The Indians had stolen cattle from the Mormon Church's herds, wintering at Willow Creek (Draper). Little Chief made known to O.B. Huntington that he wanted the whites to kill the renegade group lest Little Chief's band be blamed for the theft and retribution be taken on them. Upon receiving information that identified the guilty party, Brigham Young called the Council of Fifty and appointed John Scott to lead the group in search of the guilty parties.

Scott's group left Salt Lake City March 1, traveling toward the Indian inhabited Utah Valley. After stopping to supply themselves with good horses and fresh meat from the church's herds at Willow Creek, they entered Utah Valley on March 3, by way of the Jordon Narrows. After a search of the northern end of the valley, they visited with Little Chief at the south of Utah Lake near Provo River. He told them the location of the renegade Indian's camp and offered three of his sons as guides. Traveling by night, first east to the mountains and then north along the foothills, the renegade camp was located and surrounded by daybreak, March 5.

The Indian camp lay close to a deep ravine with a small stream of water running down it. Scott offered Roman Nose the opportunity to surrender his group. Roman Nose and his men answered with flying arrows and volley from the one gun they had. Roman Nose fell mortally wounded when the Mormons returned the fire. The remainder of the camp members took refuge in the willow- and brush – covered ravine. The skirmish went on for two hours before the Indians' arrows were exhausted. During that time, three other Indian men, including Blue Shirt, were killed when each attempted to escape. After the surrender of the women and youth, fifteen cow hides were found in their camp, the evidence of the Indians' guilt.

This first short encounter with Indians, which turned violent, was the first conflict the two groups had had since the Mormons entered Indian Territory in July 1847. It was unfortunate that lives were taken during what was termed the first battle. The place of the battle, named Mepah or Little Waters by the Indians, from then on was called Battle Creek by the Mormons.

One and one-half years later, on September 13, 1850 Pleasant Grove was settled and took on the name of Battle Creek for a short time. Bishop Clark, not wanting his settlement to be noted for the tragic occurrence, chose a more pleasing name for the settlement. However, the canyon at whose mouth the battle occurred continued with the name of Battle Creek as a reminder of the cold crisp day of March 5, 1849, when as the sun began to rise a disagreement turned into the first Mormon and Indian conflict.

The History of Big Springs

by Beth R. Olsen

Big Springs lay north east of the original Pleasant Grove settlement. At the top the first rank of hills rising above the valley floor emerged a year-round, steady –flow of water, which appeared to seep from the south base of mountain Mahogany. Indians traversed the eastern hills, stopping to refresh themselves and their mounts at the inviting freshwater pond that formed at Big Springs.

Henry Bullivant Radmall came to Pleasant Grove with his large family in 1862 and settled below the Big Springs Hill on about eight acres of land. His only neighbor William Bush moved his family to the area in 1863, one-half mile from Radmall. Bush's son Henry wrote "At that time we owned one-half of Big Springs Country, about seventy –five acres. We sold it for a cow. The grasshoppers and the crickets, and Indians made it impossible to live there. We move down into town in 1865."

Henry James Radmall, Henry B's oldest son, probably traded the cow for the Bush's half of Big Springs for Henry James Radmall owned the south part of the ground when land reports records began to be kept. He built his house, barn, pig pens, and other utility buildings from rock deposited at the Big Springs. The trickling water at the spring spread wide over the sloping hills for thousands of years, depositing a calcified stone over a large area. Big Springs was the source of some of the rock used to build the fort wall and from 1869 to almost 1900, the stone became the town's major house material.

Clay deposits were mined by open-pit during the early part of this century by Apostle John A. Widsoe and his partners, new owners of the land, who had also purchased the mountainous mining area above the farm from Sterritt and Warnock, who took out a mining homestead on the hill.

Widsoe and partners sold to William H Homer, Jr. in 1916. And part of the land went to John M. MacFarlane. These two men sold the clay in partnership. Homer acquired 235 acres, and named it Homer's Big Spring Ranch. Much of the land had already been planted in fruit, for the initial year that Homer owned the land; he shipped 2,000 bushels of peaches by September 9, the largest shipment of peaches in town that year. Being a horticulturist and business man, he formed and operated a fruit shipping company near the Union Pacific Railroad tracts.

The pristine mountain foliage drew an abundance of wildlife and was one of the feeding stations through the first quarter of the century for quail and pheasants. The Utah State Fish and Game Association provided the feed for the Homers to distribute. Homer had borrowed heavily against the land to make improvements and start his business. He eventually had to sell. MacFarlane retained the clay mining hills and continued to mine and ship clay.

Claud and Annie Birch purchased 134 acres on the north in 1928, but the Depression years were hard on fruit farmers and the Birches sold to James W. and Caroline A Wade in 1934. The Wades, who were strictly investors, hired Fred and Laurel Scholes to manage the fruit orchards, and Fred, also a horticulturist, farmed the acreage quite successfully for a number of years. The Big Springs water was purchased by Pleasant Grove City, and the ranch ground was annexed January 2, 1979. Those former orchards now blossom beautiful houses.

The History of Grove Creek

by Beth R. Olsen

Grove Creek, the northern most canyon directly east of Pleasant Grove, was named because of water that flowed out of the mouth to that canyon when pioneers arrived. The creek took a southwest turn and following the contour of the land, it ran through a grove of cottonwood trees located at 200 South above 450 East. It was in this grove that the first settlers lived the fall and winter of 1850 -1851, and it was because of this water that they stopped there. It was also because the water from this canyon ran through the grove that the canyon received the name "Grove Creek."

Grove Creek is notorious for its raging flood water. Earlier settlers defoliated the mountains by felling the trees and over-grazing the foliage, increasing the danger of floods in later years. Almost every mayor and city council has watched the canyons closely in time of spring runoff, especially in years of heavy snowfall in the mountains. The area from the mouth of Grove Creek Canyon through Joseph S. Walker's property has been flooded so often it became known as The Walker Wash. The first serious control of excess water came in 1935 when the CCC Camp came to town. One of the first projects begun by the Pleasant Grove unit was to construct a flood basin and rock-check dam at the mouth of Grove Creek creating a deep bowl to catch and control excess water. The city in 1964 contracted out the enlarging, deepening, and updating of the catch basin, which through the years has saved the town much grief.

The rugged canyon has always been a favorite haunt for those seeking beauty and hiking adventure. Many a canyon bear story was recalled by old-timers of the last century. For this century, many a flood adventure can be recalled. One of the earliest on record happened in 1914, when the floods didn't hit once but twice. On the night of 5 June a heavy one-hour storm, centered over Bald Mountain and Battle Creek turned that creek into a raging river, sending boulders and debris rolling through bridges and canals, breaking them and creating floods below.

But even more devastating was a later July storm when two to three inches of rain fell in one hour. This storm centered over Grove Creek and farther north near Big Springs. The water dug gullies that filled with water, which dumped into the newly-dug Murdock Canal, tearing open its soil foundation and leaving 15 to 20 foot deep and 40 foot wide openings. In turn torrents of water escaped from the canal, flooding irrigation ditches below with like results. Farmers' fields were washed away and crops ruined. The pressed Brick Company below Grove Creek had devastating damage; several of the kilns were washed out, unfired brick in sheds and kilns were thoroughly wet down, and adobes stacked in the yard were destroyed. Curiously this destructive rain fell on the face of the mountains and above town, while at Thomas Gleason's Farm west of town it barely sprinkled. And the farmers around him went on harvesting and stacking grain.

Aside from adventure and floods the majesty of Pleasant Grove's mountains, including Grove Creek, cannot be surpassed.

The History of Little Denmark

by Beth R. Olsen

“Little Denmark” began with a few dugouts, progressing until near 1900 when there stood rows of neatly-kept and picket-fenced, two-room houses, most with lean-tos at the back. Little Denmark Street, now 100 North, west from the cemetery, remained very much the same into the mid 1900’s with the exception of an occasional larger, later home. Until the late 1930’s the long residential top-half of Little Denmark Street was lined on both sides with poplars, and the lower farmland half was lined with wild roses and hollyhocks.

Because many of the Scandinavians were artisans, making their living by their skills, they purchased less ground to farm, thus they built closer than usual on small plots around and below the cemetery. This close living pattern assured continued frequent association that supported and extended their Old World ways. A few were farmers who drove to and from their farmlands in The North Fields.

Clustered near the cemetery in the early years lived the brick-layer Poulsens, father and son: Crog Nielson, the town tailor, Klok Kristen Jenson, the mother of Andrew Jensen, LDS, Assistant Church Historian; William Williamson, the wooden shoe and leather shoemaker; Moritz Anderson the cemetery caretaker; and Chris Fisher, who sat outside his house at eventide, entertaining his neighbors by playing his fiddle, or, as the neighbors said, he “fiddled.”

Annie Nielson Eggertson, an early arrival to “Little Denmark” wrote: “We were emigrants in Pleasant Grove, and were often made to feel it, but we were not alone,” She names others in town the Larsons, Swensons, Petersons, Sandgrens, Fugals, and Johnsons. “It was really a little Danish Colony.”

Scandinavians who formed one-third of the town’s populations, “soon began to set the pace for fine farming and for thrift.” Eggertson felt that the “hospitality and social contact of the Scandinavians drew the respect of the of the town folks” and “they began to edge their way into our circles.” But the assimilation of Scandinavians into an English-American culture wasn’t easy and it took time to earn the respect of the elite of the town and accepted into their circles.

Dorothy Peterson grew up during the 1920s and early 1930s and remained on Little Denmark Street until 1992. She remembers that not just one street was Scandinavian, but almost the whole west side of Pleasant Grove, even those with non-Scandinavian names. “Mrs. Mitchell was a Jeppson. Mrs. Moore a Monson: Mrs. Bullock A Poulsen. So at least half of every family was Danish or Swedish.” And so the races began to merge and all were recognized as Americans. But as long as at least one of a family was Scandinavian, many of the accustomed traditions survived, even into the mid-1900s.

Their leather-trimmed wooden shoes, used to work in the garden, were neatly put under a bench on the back porch where they exchange them for leather house shoes. In this way their homes and shoes were always neat and clean. They made fruit soup, headcheese, smoked sausage, and Spaaga meat and served their coffee and buns. They took family rides in horse-drawn bobsleds in winter with Swedish bells ringing from the horses’ harnesses, which they claimed sounded much more musical than American bells. They often met in groups to socialize and dance into the night.

The History of Manila

by Beth R. Olsen

Extracted from "the Community of Manila" by Effie W Adams

From the beginning the community that later became Manila was ecclesiastical forming a part of the Pleasant Grove Ward. On October 29, 1887 the North District Primary and Sunday school were organized. These meetings were held in the North School, built in 1882, while the population living in The North Fields continued to go into Pleasant Grove for Sacrament Meeting.

A separate ward was organized on April 20, 1890 and named Pleasant Grove 3rd ward. Immediate plans were made to build a church house. Millan D. Atwood donated a parcel of land which had a magnificent view of the valley. It took four years to cut and haul the soft rock from William Wadley's quarry and another year to lay the walls. Three additional years were taken to finish the construction and pay for the building. At the time of the dedication December 18, 1889, the population had grown to 200. During that meeting a new name for the ward was discussed. A visiting authority from Utah Stake Presidency, Reed Smoot, proposed the name of Manila. He was inspired by the United States' victory that year at Manila Bay in the Philippines, during the Spanish-American War. Ward members stirred by patriotic fervor, readily accepted the suggestion.

Manila boundaries stretched south to north from 1100 North to the American Fork Creek bed; and on the east from the mountain to an irregular line on the west, i.e., going only to 1600 West until 2600 North is reached, and then west again to the Utah State Training School road. These parameters circled all of Manila's progeny wards for about one-hundred years. And these measurements also roughly constituted the same area referred to as The North Fields in very early history.

In 1900 Manila's economy was mostly comprised of small grains, potatoes, and other vegetables, along with livestock. At the beginning of the 1900s large acreage raspberry patches and fruit orchards contributed to the economy. Only two early non-agricultural commercial enterprises existed in Manila—a clay pit and a lime kiln, both were operating for a short period.

Electricity came to Manila just before World War I, and by their own ingenuity, Manila residents pulled together to develop their own culinary water system beginning in the mid-1920s. Along with community development, Manila residents socially bound themselves together through their own July 24 celebration and through creating original social events as early Christmas morning services and MIA Sunset Services. These and other events were associated with their religious activities.

After the Depression and WWII, several men distinguished themselves by becoming nationally recognized leaders in specialized farming, that of the dairy and turkey industries. Others specialized on a lesser scale in fruit and livestock. Still others became part-time farmers, employed at Geneva steel. With increased housing and ward divisions, Manila lost its original identity and intimate associations.

The History of Monkey Town

by Beth R. Olsen

How Monkey Town obtained its unusual nomenclature the designation for the northeast part of town has been firmly in place for longer than anyone alive can remember. Pleasant Grove natives who lived there never questioned the name or asked to have the area defined. It was common knowledge that those who lived there took delight in proudly claiming their neighborhood as such. One good humored father, Frank Atwood, took his children to visit their grandparents each Sunday; when it was time to go home he would stand on the porch and yell, "All aboard for the Monkey Town Hotel, leaving in five minutes." As a child, a daughter Margaret thought monkeys had once lived in her house or it had been a hotel. Although she never understood how her section of town got named, she learned while growing up that "the kids from Monkey Town were a close-knit group."

The term "Monkey Town" may have originated shortly after 1909 when the division of the one downtown Pleasant Grove LDS ward was split into three, for the boundaries of the Third ward closely relates to those of Monkey Town. The Relief Society, concerned with the morals of the youth, kept a watchful eye on their activities. In 1913 at a conjoint meeting, a sister Allred spoke of how blessed of the Lord the people of Manila were, "here where there are no street corners for young people to gather." The central wards had the "disadvantage" of block division evidently looked upon as leaving youth open to evil practices, while Manila, an area of larger farms and fewer streets, seemed blessed because fewer corners existed. Allred's advice to mothers: "Be stern and have the children in at dark."

Just before this a street light has been installed on the corner of 500 North and 500 East. Youth came from many blocks to congregate there on "Dog Corner," to socialize after their evening chores. Perhaps the term "Dog Corner" came about because other watchful people thought that the youth of the day were going to the dogs. The street light was the first at that end of town, which provided illumination for nighttime games. We can assume that, indirectly, the new innovation of electricity in Pleasant Grove brought about the naming of the neighborhood.

Soon after the light was placed on "Dog Corner," Hans Heiselt, who lived just one block west, complained to the police that he was losing sleep because of the noisy youth playing into the night. Perhaps he was the Danish man who observed that all the kids jumped around like a bunch of monkeys-just like a monkey town-when a large group of youth played on the corner. From the youth's point of view, they "enjoyed relaxed and happy times congregating on old "Dog Corner" in Monkey Town. Many of the present older generation still remember their youth spent playing "kick-the-can," "run-sheepy-run," "follow-the-leader," and other popular games, during summer evenings. And many a winter evening they spent skimming down snow-packed 400 North Street from Grove Creek to the cemetery on the Fugal or Walker homemade schooners.

A well-read social tie in that part of town was the Third Ward newspaper entitled, "The Monkey Town News," that circulated into every home as late as 1946. All-in-all "Monkey Town" may have resembled the rest of the town in many respects, but the people of the northeast may have been a bit more homogeneous, informal, fun-loving, and free. Those who grew up in Monkey Town have always been extremely proud to claim their heritage there.

The History of Mudhole

by Beth R. Olsen

Extracted from "String Town to Mudhole," by Mildred B. Sutch

This land west of town first known as the "Upper Meadows," was soggy and water-logged much of each year in early settlement days. The composition of the ground-heavy clay with adhesive qualities-furnished the main ingredient for many an adobe block, the major building material used in Pleasant Grove between 1852 and 1870.

The high water table on the ground in the "Upper Meadows," of bottom land as it is often referred to, at first was thought inhospitable to most crops that would sustain humans; however, it was quality forage ground for animals year round most years. The meadows produced an abundance of grass hay or meadow hay, for storage as winter feed. In fact several crops were harvested through a season. Therefore, the land was desirable in early settlement years and often coveted. Alfalfa had not yet been introduced to the territory, and animals and their sustenance were important factors that had to be dealt with in a pioneer economy.

The name Mudhole came naturally to the area for the upper slopes of the town drained toward the low level land creating in effect a Mudhole out of the bottoms. The sticky mud that clung to a farmer's feet was a natural combination of the soil's composition and an excess amount of drain water into the meadows.

After irrigation began on the upper land, the drain water increased for drain ditches had not yet been thought of. Farmland became scarce as the population increased and late arrivals had the task of coaxing the bottom lands to produce crops for human consumption. Many of these were Scandinavians who populated much of the western side of town.

One particular tract of land in Mudhole had been only partially productive. As a result owners came and went until Burton Adams purchased it. After much work; it became one of the most productive farms in Mudhole. He proceeded to drain the boggy land to dry it out, channeling the water into a waste ditch. He had five deep wells drilled in strategic and convenient places for irrigation purposes. The land was pocketed with springs. One on Adams farm could not be conquered. The soggy ground around it propagated a lot of wild flowers, which the children liked to gather. On property of Adam's Neighbor, Reed Peterson, another farmer who conquered the bottom lands, there remained a large spring with fish in it. When the dark soil was drained, properly planted, and crops rotated by these and other men, the ground produced excellent sugar beets, corn, wheat, potatoes, alfalfa, and garden produce. In 1952, a news item surprisingly reported that Peterson "had a splendid bed of strawberries on his black bottom soil" west of town. He had conquered his Mudhole property, for strawberries were thought best grown in rocky, well-drained soil.

Mudhole, not a derogatory name but simply a description of the west of town, produced as well as other types of soils when farmers gained the skill to care for and farm that land.

The History of North Fields

by Mildred B. Sutch

The earliest reference to ground north of Pleasant Grove is from the G.H.A.Harris journal of 1855. He wrote that pleasant Grove, American Fork, and Lehi fields were all surveyed at the same time in 1852, and the survey was labeled The American Creek Survey of Farm and Meadow Land, adding, "But we call it the North Field to distinguish it from the other fields in Pleasant Grove." The 1852 Survey was done by Andrew Jackson Stewart. The ground was surveyed a second time in 1854 by James C. Snow. Harris said "the North Field contains about 1500 acres bench land." Harris helped with the second survey; he also plotted the land and collected the survey bills from land owners for a cut of ten percent. Harris took up 20 acres in North Field for himself in 1855. He and Thos Robins, who had the 20 acres west of him, plowed and planted their ground together; "Our crops came up good and looked healthy and strong, June came and with it millions of grasshoppers, who very quickly harvested our crops."

The singular spelling of "field" soon became plural. At some point "The" began to be capitalized also. Brothers-in-law John G Holman, Lewis Harvey, and George S. Clark, took up claims in the North Fields at a very early date. Holman wrote, "The settlers grazed their cattle in the South Fields, but the fields were too wet and we were therefore advised to take them to the North Fields." When Harris was in charge of the town's cattle herds, he rotated them between the South Fields, the North Fields and the face of the mountains. The far North Fields were used mainly for grazing for many years. Richard D. Wadley remembers that he "could ride a horse across the bench and there were no fences at all, only small patches of ground broken among the sagebrush."

Lack of water slowed the cultivation of The North Fields. Holman and his son initiated the first two ditches across the land, bringing water from American Fork River. Others were added before the end of the century. Introduction of water did not change the composition of the ground. Above the canyon entrance an alluvial fan left acres imbedded with rocks and gravel. Closer to Pleasant Grove a clay soil exists, and in other areas the soil is sandy. Much of the rocky ground became orchards, while William Wadley added compost and nutrients to the clay by planting and plowing under alfalfa. He also irrigated by furrowing the land rather than flood-irrigating it, eliminating a crusted, hard condition.

In 1859, Neils Heiselt settled on the far northwest bench of The North Fields. He was joined by several other Scandinavian families. This became known as Heiselts' Bench or Danish Bench. Numerous other Scandinavians settled in The North Fields as well. Paul Anderson was one of the settlers; he had worked other people's land in the Old Country. In America he wanted land of his own, so he took up twenty acres and build a dugout to live in. He later purchased three acres in town and built a house there, commuting to his fields. Commuting to The North Fields became a way of life for many men who owned parcels of farmland north of town, and yet continued to live in the center of town. Today The North Fields remain more rural than most outlying sections of Pleasant Grove, but houses are fast changing the character of the once small-farm area.

The History of Old Fort

by Beth R. Olsen

In mid-July 1853 a band of Wakara's Indians angered by the killing of one of their members at Springville, attack that settlement by night. Fearing for the safety of his spread-out territorial people, Brigham Young ordered all settlements south of the Salt Lake Valley to move into forts. A. Jackson Stewart, who had accompanied President Young and George A. Smith, quickly surveyed and marked out a fort above the prime farmland. Smith, a member of the Council of Twelve Apostles, had been commissioned by Young to regulate the affairs of southern settlements. He drew the fort plans as the group traveled between towns. Smith noted that he "located a site for a town on Battle Creek, called Pleasant Grove, in the form of a Spanish Town, about a quarter of a mile square to possess the conveniences of a town and security of a fort." Contrary to Smith's desires, a Spanish town did not result from the plan; however, that plan and survey ultimately shaped the permanent town site for it became the nucleus from which the town developed. While other small towns established their permanent cities outside their fort boundaries, Pleasant Grove City developed inside those boundaries.

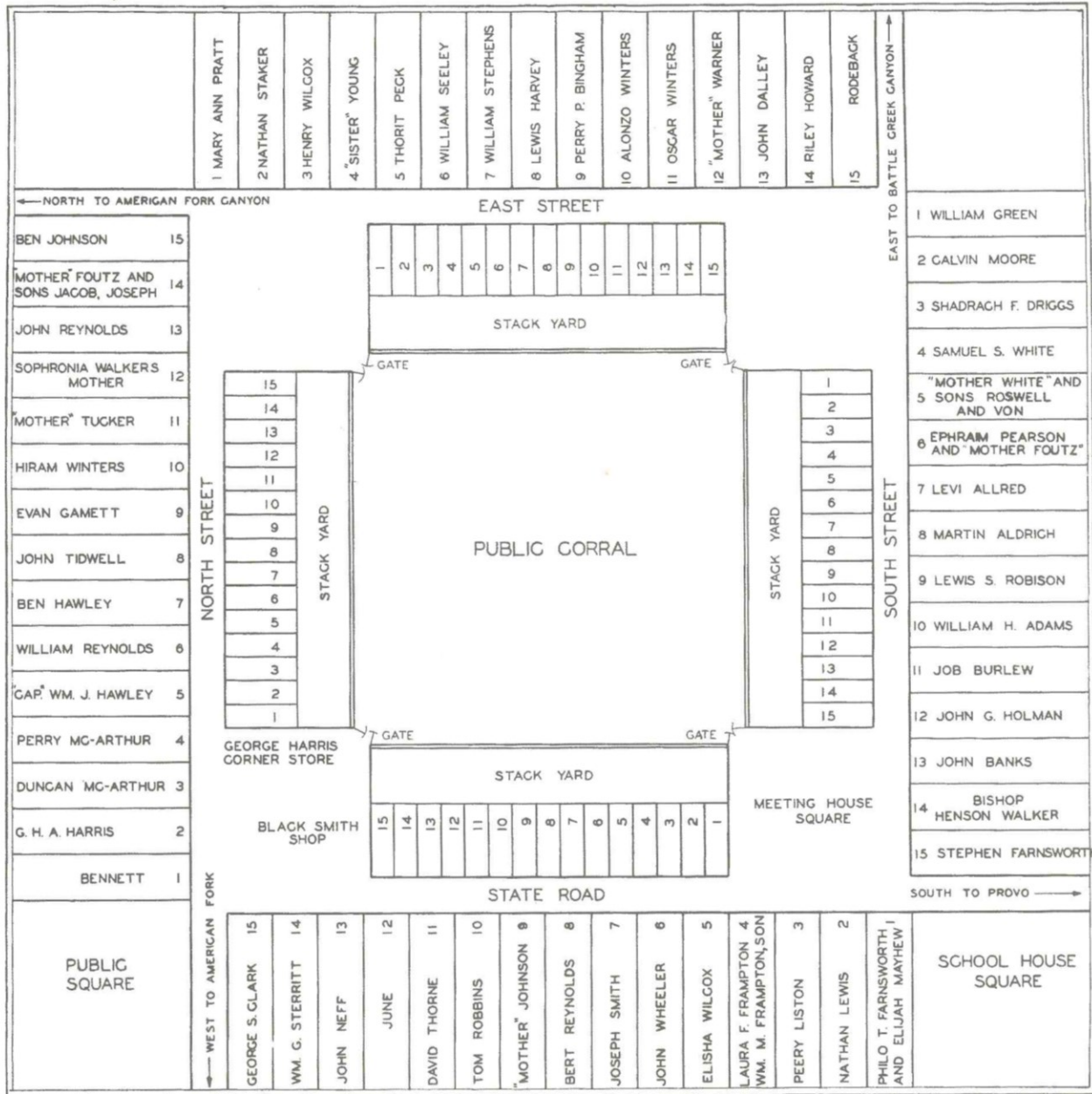
Smith's four square block plan specified fifteen lots of three by ten rods, arranged on all four sides of the fort. All lots and houses faced inside, toward wide streets that ran on all four sides. Across these streets, a large animal compound formed the square center. The compound was surrounded by individual feed yards. The four large corner lots were reserved for public buildings and functions. The adobe school was moved from outside the fort to the southwest corner lot, which was designated schoolhouse square. The northeast corner became known as Union Square. There the town's militia drilled and a small building was built where they deposited guns and ammunition. Grove Creek water was diverted into a covered flume, which ran around the inside perimeter of the houses, delivering water to the houses, each having its own lidded-opening.

On the night of July 23, 1854, before the center animal compound was completed, Indians broke in and stole 23 head of horses. Only one horse came wandering back. Provo's militia men traced the horses' tracks up Provo Canyon.

On February 5, 1854, G.H.A. Harris wrote, "the inhabitants (about 40 families) today agreed to build a rock wal' around our fort of the petrified kind at the Big and little Spring it is soft qarning (quarrying) but the action of the air makes if hard and solid, have determined to build it 4 1/2 ft at bottom 4 ft high. Some do the quaring, some the loading and others the laying up, we progress finely." (original spelling and punctuation) The fort was built of a variety of rocks, some of which are now in chimney and fireplace of the simulated pioneer cabin in Pioneer Park, those are fieldstone. The soft-rocks were recycled into building houses.

Thomas Bullock, President Young's secretary, reported on the fort almost one year after its conception: He wrote that the fort measured 80 rods square with 106 houses. The town had a population of 149 females and 166 males. "Trees are planted inside the fort all around, five rods from the houses, with water ditches running by their sides. This is decidedly the cleanest, neatest, driest and prettiest fort we have yet visited." Although town growth forced the abandonment of the animal compound and the houses were built outside the fort, citizens felt secure in knowing they could gather at the fort if Indian troubles arose.

Pleasant Grove Fort Map



MAP OF EARLY PLEASANT GROVE, UTAH. 6' OF EAST ST. TO STATE RD. 1007 FT.
 1/2" OF NORTH ST. TO SOUTH ST. 1006 FT.
 JUNIUS J. HAYES.

The History of Scratch Gravel

by Beth R. Olsen

Extracted from writings by Mildred B. Sutch and Drucilla L. Smith.

The name Scratch Gravel implies that farmers scratched deeply into the gravel to find enough dirt in which to grow crops. This southeast section of town is at the outlet of Battle Creek Canyon, where for an immense amount of years the canyon was formed by water action. The forceful water cut away rocks of all sizes and carried them from the canyon, depositing them over a large fan-shaped area on the slopes below.

Perhaps others, at first sight, reacted to the land as did Ann Pierce when her husband, John, brought her wagon from Salt Lake City to settle in Pleasant Grove. She looked at her new home in Scratch Gravel and saw a large hollow, rocks of all sizes, and sagebrush in between. She said "I will not get off this wagon. I am going to Wales." The bishop was called to persuade her to stay.

In order to clear the land of boulders for planting, farmers made rock sleighs, simple homemade wooden drags pulled by horsepower. The large rocks were piled on the sleigh and pulled to a farmer's designated piling area. It was impossible to clear all the rocks, so planting went on despite the gravel.

The slope of the land and the rocky condition created a well-drained soil for fruit trees. Early in the history of Utah a horticulture society was found, and early nurseries became a part of Pleasant Grove's farm-related business enterprises. Large orchards were planted in the soil of Scratch Gravel.

John J. and Matilda Slauch settled in scratch gravel. Shortly after settling, Daniel H. Wells hired John to use the piles of rock cleared from the land to construct a wall one-half mile long. This served as Slauch's apprenticeship in masonry. He followed this trade for the rest of his life. It took special skill to build buildings of various shaped cobblestones. Of course he also farmed. Slauch's son described his father's farm as "fruitful fields and fine orchards bearing every kind of fruit." This description could fit all of Scratch Gravel.

In the spring when the orchards were in bloom, the fragrance and spectacular beauty of Scratch Gravel could not be equaled. And the view of the valley from the eastern slopes was also described by Slauch's son: "My soul trilled with grandeur of our surrounding, there was the beautiful Utah Lake, thousands of acres of lush cool meadows, and rugged mountains on either side."

Of course the alluvial, well drained soiled was just what the smaller fruits thrived on as well, and strawberries became one of the leading crops in Scratch Gravel. In 1921, a reported 200 acres of strawberries were bearing and another 200 acres planted in Scratch Gravel and across Orem Bench which had a similar situation. Some Scratch Gravel farmers had as many as 30 acres each planted in Strawberries. The prolific acreage of berries in the first quarter of the 1900s created the need for larger markets for this fruit; therefore, Strawberry Days were started. Thousands of cases of berries were donated by Scratch Gravel berry-growers over a period of many years. The berries were served in dishes with cream and sugar at the celebration. The celebration along with the free berries advertised the strawberry corp. Strawberries and Scratch Gravel were synonymous for that farm product grew abundantly in Scratch Gravel.

The History of Sam White's Lane

by Beth R. Olsen

Samuel Steven White settled in Pleasant Grove in March 1851. He had been a member of the Mormon Battalion on the long march from Iowa to California and he was installed as Infantry Battalion Commander of a Pleasant Grove group of Utah Territorial Militia. He received a United States land patent for a 160 acre quarter-second of land in southwest Pleasant Grove in 1890. He owned part of that land by squatters' rights. Since 1850 these meadows have been looked upon as prime grazing and farming land and have been traded, bartered for, and used for such.

The earliest city minutes refer to this lane, going west from south Pleasant Grove through the meadow land, as Sam White's Lane-long before he took out the homestead. It is one of the exceptionally few streets in town that has retained its original name for such a long period. While many other streets have had several names and number changes, this narrow street through the west part of town still retains its name. When the present address system began in the 1940s, it was designated to be 700 South; Sam White's Lane still dominates and persists.

The word "lane" describes the road as it was for nearly one hundred years—simply a narrow dirt access leading to meadows and farm land. Although it runs straight, "cow path" is a literal interpretation of how boys in early days used Sam White's Lane. One of the early herding grounds for the community's cowherd was the southwest meadow lands. Down this lane was driven the town's collective cowherd in the morning and then back again in the evenings.

Duck hunting and fishing in the waste ditch were other long held activities, which community members enjoyed along the lane. The sink holes were often visited on hot summer days by boys skinny dipping. Spring wild flowers grew abundantly in the meadows and the Adams sisters, Iona and Gwelds, enjoyed gathering them and wild asparagus, all the while listening to the melancholy call of the Morning Dove and the lyrical voice of the Meadowlark. Other open-field birds: Killdeer, Mountain Bluebird, quail, and pheasant, were abundant, most of which have since sought less human frequented fields.

Estelle Fenton wrote of the soggy meadowland being developed into good farms. Near the century's turn, Nelson Fenton bought twelve acres of farmland called the "Thornfield." Two good flowing wells furnished plenty of irrigation water with proper drainage and fertilization this became the best plot in the area. Sugar beets, grain, and corn grew well on ground near the lane under those conditions. "Some year's garden vegetables were raised in the field; it was fun to ride down in the cool of the evening to change the irrigation water and to gather tomorrow's vegetables. Dad and Mother rode on the seat and kids sat in the back of the light wagon." As it did in earlier days, meadow hay grows abundantly with little care and is harvested by the tons each summer by farmers.

Robert Proctor created an access to his property and named it Proctor's Lane. It crosses Sam White's Lane as it nears American Fork. These two lanes became quicker routes to the popular old Geneva Resort and the old fish cannery near Utah Lake. Today few residences have encroached upon the openness of the fields along Sam White's lane, however, the peace and tranquility is fast diminishing as industry gobbles up the land.

The History of String Town

by Mildred B. Sutch

Extracted from "Timpanogos Town" by Howard R. Driggs
"Stevens Springs" by Chastina Holman Walker and
"A Small Town Building Profile" by Beth R. Olsen

By spring of 1851, the first settlers of Battle Creek, later known as Pleasant Grove, began moving their temporary winter cabins at Grove Fort to their farmlands. Here they built a string of houses along the old Indian Trail. This traversed across the northern end of meadows, skirted the uplands, and followed the old wagon road to Sand Hill (Lindon). The String of houses became known as "String Town", viewed by travelers passing through as a departure from the compact settlements recommended by Brigham Young.

Along the trail, about one half mile east of Lake City, (American Fork) was "Cold Springs" where Indians and travelers camped before continuing their journey. The cold clear water was refreshing to those who camped there. This was a favorite camping ground for the Indians and Christina Holman Walker wrote, "When wandering tribes of Indians sought rest and comfort, the Cold Springs campground often had the appearance of a miniature tent city." Ed Jeppson lived close to Gleason's corner. He recalled going over to the Danish pasture across the road and wrestling with the young papooses. "The Indian parents got a big bang out of wrestling and often laughed loud and long."

William Stevens built his house near Cold Springs, later known as "Stevens Springs". His house was large enough to hold the first informal school, socials and served as a meeting house. Immigrants were in favor of creating the town center around the lower area. However Brigham Young advised them to keep to higher ground and use the creek for their water supply. He instructed them saying that "when storms came and irrigation began, the lowlands would be swampy and the springs unhealthy".

In 1853, news that Utes were on the warpath prompted Church leaders to order the settlers to "fort up". President Young who had advised the protective procedure from the beginning stated: "The Saints are slow in heeding my advice, but quick enough to obey when Chief Walker speaks". The settlers quickly dismantled their houses and assembled them within the surveyed lines of the fort.

Fortunately, the war was short-lived and the settlers again moved to their farmlands and built houses along the road, extending it about a mile south of the Sand Hill. String Town was again used to identify this part of Pleasant Grove.