

# Hobble Creek

## Springville's First Name

Oliver B. Huntington and Barney Ward arrived at the Utah Lake region in the spring of 1849 to trade with the Utes. Bringing commodities such as red flannel, bandannas, beads and paint, they made a “thrifty exchange” for otter, beaver and deer skins. On the evening of the third day, they camped on the banks of a lovely creek.

Huntington and Ward put hobbles on their bell mare to keep the herd contained while the animals grazed on the high grass that grew in the area. The next morning the men realized their horses were nowhere in sight. Huntington followed their trail and retrieved the horses near Maple Canyon.

Without her hobbles, the bell mare had taken the opportunity to lead the band on a valley excursion. As the incident was pieced together, the traders realize that when their bell-horse had waded in the creek water, her hobble had loosened and fallen off. From this incident, the area was named Hobble Creek.

When the city charter was approved, the town was renamed Springville, but the creek and canyon still bear the Hobble Creek name.



Photo courtesy of *Glimpses of Springville* book

*The journals documenting the 1776 Domingue-Escalante exploration of Utah County describe a permanent and large settlement of Utes at the south-end of Utah Lake. In the mid-1820s, explorer William Ashley also wrote of a village of Timpanogos Utes who lived along the shores of Utah Lake. The Utes tended to be a nomadic people who relied on the surrounding valleys and canyons for food and resources. When the pioneer settlers came, the struggle over resources caused tension among the settlers and the early inhabitants of this region.*

**1776**

Friars Francisco Atanasio Dominguez and Silvestre Velez de Escalante lead an expedition through Utah Valley.

**1847**

The first company of Latter-day Saint (Mormon) Pioneers enters the Salt Lake Valley.

**1849**

Hobble Creek is given its name when Barney Ward and Oliver B. Huntington come to the area to trade with the Utes

**1850**

The first settlers, led by Captain Aaron Johnson, arrive in Springville on September 18.