

Images of America, Springville, Utah

April Clawson

Southern Utah University

### **Abstract**

Arcadia Publishing, in the Images of America series brings to life the histories of towns, neighborhoods, and unique ambiances that capture the essence of each place featured in the series. In some ways, Springville was a typical American old west town; yet it had an atmosphere unlike that of other towns springing up during this time; the people created two different towns. During this time in Utah, religion played an enormous part in what was produced. This small town, now a prosperous city, not only embraced change, but learned how to adapt itself to the modern world.

### Acknowledgments

The Daughters of Utah Pioneers and the Springville Historical Society have been the most helpful groups in this book process. Quite a few of these individuals are walking dictionaries on the history of the area. A few of them made minor suggestions of what to change in the book, and a couple of them asked if certain pictures were in the book; making sure that I had included an image history of their memory. The Parks and Recreation department chair who just recently retired, believed this book would be a great addition to the history of the area. To the few people who let me use photographs; their names have courtesy lines on the pictures they shared. The *Serve Daily Newspaper* allowed me to use whatever pictures I wanted; I was not able to find what I was looking for in their photographs, but, I appreciate the nice gesture. Thanks must be expressed lastly to my neighbor, and friend, David Paxman, a retired BYU Professor, who took the time to read through the book draft, and offered suggestions. Being an online student, I feel a bit disconnected with the university as a whole. I do not have chummy relationships with any of my professors, nor do I feel like I can count on them to help me with this huge project; when they don't even know the area I am writing about. Feedback in any form has been a bit limited, and very brief, in regards to my project. I am grateful that David is kind enough to realize how important this book is to me, and to my degree, and I appreciate his help.

**Signature Page**

Southern Utah University

College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Department of Communication

We hereby approve the capstone of

April Clawson

Candidate for the Masters degree of Professional Communication

---

---

Jon Smith, Advisor  
Professor Communication

---

---

Ellen Treanor  
Adjunct Communication

---

---

Kevin Stein  
Professor Communication

---

---

Matthew Barton  
Graduate Coordinator

ACCEPTED

---

---

Art Challis

Department Chair

School of Graduate Studies

**Table of Contents**

Title page	1
Abstract	2
Acknowledgments	3
Signature page	4
Table of Contents	5
Introduction	6
Literature Review	7 – 9
Method	9 – 10
Results	10 – 12
Project Method	12 – 13
Discussion	13
Conclusion	13 – 14
Bibliography	15 – 16
References	17 – 18
Appendix	

### **Introduction**

Springville, Utah was settled on Sept, 18, 1850 by the Mormon Pioneers. At first the area was known as Hobble Creek; named after a horse incident, in a nearby creek canyon. This book in the Images of America series, by Arcadia Publishing was a continuation project. I had tentatively been approved to complete it, when the company first contacted me. The drawback was the fact that the Mapleton book previously written by me, had not sold as fast as the company had wanted it to. The marketing department was basing the sale of the previous book in the area, on how well this book would do. I explained to the department, again, that Mapleton does not have stores, retail shops, or any type of a downtown area, and cannot be compared to Springville. The department had me fill out a marketing sheet of what businesses or stores would be willing to sell the book. Upon review of my submission, this satisfied the company that this book could be sold to their liking, and the contract proposal was approved.

In doing my research on this project, I was able to discover that none of the books published so far have been accurate; as to the history of the area. The historical society has been very vocal about this, and they were anxious to have a book completed that would showcase the history as accurately, as possible.

At first the publishing company wanted to group both cities together and publish only one book. I therefore did some research on the cities and found that each one was unique in its own way; and by combining the two cities together, many historical aspects would have to be left out. It was eventually determined that each city should have its own history written about it. The title is approved by the publisher; I tried to add the 'arts' to the Springville title and that was not approved.

**Literature Review**

Clawson Family History, (1990): In this family history book, the Clawson line is presented. The book includes family history records, journals, and pictures. In this volume I was able to research Moses Clawson. I looked for the dates of when he was in fact in Springville. Also, I looked up the record of how many children he had in Springville.

Finley, (2003): This journal volume is based upon a few diaries that Mrs. Finley obtained to write this work. This book helped me to accurately record the dates of when certain events happened within the city. The text also offered images that helped in researching who the individuals were, in the photographs that I had obtained.

Francis, (1979): Rell Francis is the gentleman who obtained the George Edward Anderson glass plates, and brought his artistry to the forefront. I used this book just a few times, to make accurate determinations of where the photographs actually were taken, and when.

Freeman, (2013): *The Glimpses of Springville* book I used to make sure I was not putting the same photographs in my book. I did this because this book was recently published and the city is having a hard time selling it; due to some of the inaccurate information it contains.

Harmer & Johnson, (1976): This work was completed as a Masters project for Harmer, and Johnson, a friend, helped him. I have a release from the authors of this book; and I was able to obtain just a few data entries that I needed from it.

Huff, (1947): *The Daughter of Utah Pioneers* made this volume of work. Each town in Utah County is highlighted with historical information. I found this book helpful because it gave

me a more complete look into Springville's past. I was able to put some of the pictures in date order; given the information they wrote about.

Jeffers, (2007 & 2010): The Jeffers volumes of work are similar to my book. An historical picture is shown, and then a bit of text is written about the image. Both of these pamphlets helped me determine some of the names I needed for my photographs. These two texts also reminded me of what photographs I needed to track down, in order to tell a more accurate image history.

Springville Historical Society: A member of the society went down to BYU and paper copied about two hundred George Edward Anderson photographs. The picture and text give a very brief history of the time frame of when the photograph was taken, and sometimes it even lists who is in the photograph. I went through this copied volume to track down the images I thought would be interesting for the book.

Springville/Mapleton Daughters of Utah Pioneers, (1996 & 1997): The Daughters of Utah Pioneer camps in the area created these two short pamphlets that trace the history of Springville, and Mapleton. These short volumes helped immensely in finding people, places, and names, to research, and locate data on.

Springville/Mapleton DUP Museum, (1994): This storybook is for children who come and visit the DUP museum. The color book tells a brief story about an historic person in the area, and then has a color page for the child to use based upon the incident mentioned. I was able to find one gentlemen in this story color book that I had no information on.



Springville, The Art City: The booklets were created by Springville City to highlight the downtown business history. I briefly used them to help me find where certain businesses used to be located around the city.

## **Method**

My methods have been primarily archival and historical, with the main task of poring through collections to select photographs that tell a picture story of Springville. Arranging them in topical chapters and supplementing the archival and narrative-historical work, with an oral history aspect; since quite a few society members know that information. Therefore there is an oral history facet to this project, and it was used to support the archival data.

The first step was helping the publishing company realize that Mapleton and Springville are two separate cities, each with their own histories. The next step was to assure the marketing department that Springville had shops that could sell the book. Then, the last step was to obtain permission to use the photographs that I wanted in the book. I was able to get releases from the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, and the Springville Historical Society, both of which granted a one image use, specification.

The next process took the longest scrolling through thousands of images and determining which ones told a story. Many of the images were duplicates, and some are of better quality than others; sorting through them took awhile. I then took the time to go through all the photograph binders at the DUP museum, trying to locate those images that were not found online.

At the Springville Historical Society I went through all their filing cabinets, looking for photographs that told something about the history of the area in detail. I tried to find images that I thought people would enjoy looking at. I wanted scenes that people could study and think

about, not just of faces, but of people in interesting settings or doing interesting things. Once I located the ones I liked, I was able to take them and get them scanned.

For the cover of the book, I found a building that people could instantly recognize when they see the cover. The structure stands out in the downtown area, and I knew it was the one that needed to be used. The image got approved by the publisher, and now I can officially promote the book.

After locating photographs, it was then time to find the most accurate data on each one. This takes quite a bit of time, doing the research on each photograph. Family histories, journals, and tracking down the correct spelling of the names are what occurred next. Unfortunately, there happened to be about twenty photographs that I really liked that I had to discard out of the book, because I could not find any information on those images. I did include a few that had no information, just because they told a story, even without knowing who was depicted.

I was able to connect with a newspaper in the area, but it has not been in service for very long; therefore I was not able to find the photographs that I was hoping to locate. I also addressed the city council, and asked if they wanted to put any photographs in, but I did not get a response. Mapleton was able to run a brief insert in their city-wide newsletter about the book, and I asked if any resident wanted to contribute; nobody replied. Additionally, I connected with three social media groups that promote the history of the area; the members were excited about the book, but did not offer any photographs.

## **Results**

My purpose was to produce a historic pictorial narrative, the result is the book, itself. I had hoped to preserve and make available the images and commentary on the history of this

town. This book will be published, even though it is a small volume of work, my purpose has been achieved. History will live on; the current residents will glean a better understanding of what made this area, and those who descended from the early settlers will have a more accurate record of what occurred.

When people think about history, many find it boring and unrelatable in today's world. Events were celebrated. Deaths occurred. War happened, and the threat of more wars, constantly lingers. Families had struggles: death, divorce, drinking, infidelity, and more. By showing how people still remained positive in the midst of all their suffering, I believe the Images of America series is valuable in our technological world.

The Bible chronicles the repeat of history over, and over, again. By showcasing the American old west, this series brings to forefront what we have forgotten. People are still people, no matter what the media may say. Life continues to move along. In an effort to build their nationwide library, I tried to show that in the midst of trials this community faced; they figured out how to build, and sustain themselves, and not only that, Mapleton started, too.

The overall result will be a book that delves into as many aspects of the community as I could find. The book mentions death, wars, divorce, abandonment, and daily struggles. Even with all the hardships, Springville shines within the state of Utah. Many firsts were accomplished in the city. A few events currently held throughout the year are the longest running in the nation. The city truly has accomplished much, and continues to be a fabulous place to live.

## **Project Method**

1. Get releases in place to obtain photographs
2. Search and find photographs that I think 'say something' about the area
3. Find information about each photograph
4. If I can't find anything, start the search process all over again
5. Research the information gathered on the image
6. Decide what information is accurate, do lots of reading, and internet searches
7. Start figuring out which images belong in what chapters
8. Start putting the book together, with the informational data
9. Ask historical people to check your findings, and to read through the document
10. Make corrections
11. Get a final read through from somebody who knows how to edit
12. Present the book to the publisher
13. Make any corrections they deem necessary
14. Approve the final proof pages
15. Publisher markets the book
16. Hopefully get a signing day

## 17. Promote the book

### **Discussion**

These books are hugely time consuming, and I tend to forget how much research and digging through photographs I have to do to find images that in my mind tell a story. Sometimes one image takes a good hour or more to delve through. I start by going through the books that I have; around thirteen books, I used this time. I locate how many times the image appeared and what was said about it. Next, I do an internet search to see if that information is valid. Then, if I can't find anything based on the information given; I start looking for a near ancestor, hopefully a parent, or a grandparent, that might have interesting story to tell. It boils down to what I can find, and what people have shared via; books, journals, or family history stories.

I do enjoy the process of learning about the community. It is really interesting to see the marked differences in the two communities, who are right next to one another, and basically they were founded on the same day. Springville embraced change and growth. Mapleton still fights growth, change, and progress.

A few of my neighbors have asked if I will continue to write, and hopefully add more to the Images of America series by doing Spanish Fork, Payson, and whatever cities the series has not done yet, locally. I don't know if I will continue to do this, but it is intriguing to think about, and ponder.

### **Conclusion**

The book project hopefully will make the residents happy by showing what a great place Springville continues to be. Not only its rich history, but what it currently is doing to embrace

progress, and its objectives to adhere to the past. I did not highlight everything the city indulges in, but I tried to show the interesting things that many people know Springville for.

Communication has many forms and uses, impacting and exchanging ideas with one another, and finding that connection is never an easy process, because nobody knows on what level how certain things will affect the other person. This book is meant to convey the true meaning of perseverance. Anyone who reads it and looks clearly at each image; will come to understand the depth, and breadth, of what is happening in it. Not only will that person start to appreciate what that individual or group went through, but they will gain a greater understanding of what they are blessed with now.

Presenting the lives of other people through an image is a daunting task, especially as I try to understand what was really happening, and there is no way to know if I got it right. Divulging into history is hard because who knows if what has been written about you is true. I do hope that the book will delight the reader, and that this historical journey into Springville will be one that each reader cherishes.

**Bibliography**

Brinkerhoff, E.C. (2006). *Mapleton: A Collection of Folks' Tales*. Self-published.

Camp Union, DUP (2007 & 2015). *Historic Homes of Mapleton*. Camp-published.

Camp Union, DUP (1994). *Early Houses in Mapleton, Utah*. Camp-published.

Clawson, A., & Youngberg, K. (2015). *Mapleton*. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing.

*Clawson Family History* (1990). Provo, Utah: Stevenson's Genealogy Center.

Finley, M.J.C. (2003). *A History of Springville*. Springville, Utah: Art City Publishing Co.

Francis, R.G. (1979). *The Utah Photographs of George Edward Anderson*. The University of Nebraska Press: Lincoln and London.

Freeman, R. & J. (2013). *Glimpses of Springville, Utah's Art City*. Springville, Utah.

Harmer, R.K., & Johnson, W.B. (1976). *History of Mapleton*. Provo, Utah: Press Publishing, LTD.

Huff, E.N., & Assistants (1947). *Memories That Live, Utah County Centennial History*. Springville, Utah: Art City Publishing, Co.

Jeffers, V. (2007). *History of Springville, Utah Volumes I*. Self-published.

Jeffers, V. (2010). *History of Springville, Utah Volumes II*. Self-published.

Johnson, A.P. (1991). *Aaron Johnson, Faithful Steward*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Publishers Press.

Johnson, D.C. (2003). *History of Springville*. Springville, Utah: Art City Publishing Co.

Sorensen, S. (2011). *The Utah Story*. Springville, Utah: Bonneville Books.

*Springville Historical Society, G.A. Anderson Collection*. Springville, Utah.

Springville/Mapleton Daughters of Utah Pioneers (1996). *Pictorial History of Springville and Mapleton, Vol. 1*. Camp-published.

Springville/Mapleton Daughters of Utah Pioneers (1997). *Pictorial History of Springville and Mapleton, Vol. 2*. Camp-published.

Springville/Mapleton DUP Museum (1994). *Early Springville/Mapleton Pioneer Story & Color Book*. Camp-published.

*Springville, The Art City, Historic Main Street*. Springville, Utah.

*Springville, The Art City, Historic Main Street, West 200 South Block*. Springville, Utah.



**References**

- Clawson Family History* (1990). Provo, Utah: Stevenson's Genealogy Center.
- Finley, M.J.C. (2003). *A History of Springville*. Springville, Utah: Art City Publishing Co.
- Francis, R.G. (1979). *The Utah Photographs of George Edward Anderson*. The University of Nebraska Press: Lincoln and London.
- Freeman, R. & J. (2013). *Glimpses of Springville, Utah's Art City*. Springville, Utah.
- Harmer, R.K., & Johnson, W.B. (1976). *History of Mapleton*. Provo, Utah: Press Publishing, LTD.
- Huff, E.N., & Assistants (1947). *Memories That Live, Utah County Centennial History*. Springville, Utah: Art City Publishing, Co.
- Jeffers, V. (2007). *History of Springville, Utah Volumes I*. Self-published.
- Jeffers, V. (2010). *History of Springville, Utah Volumes II*. Self-published.
- Springville Historical Society, G.A. Anderson Collection*. Springville, Utah.
- Springville/Mapleton Daughters of Utah Pioneers (1996). *Pictorial History of Springville and Mapleton, Vol. 1*. Camp-published.
- Springville/Mapleton Daughters of Utah Pioneers (1997). *Pictorial History of Springville and Mapleton, Vol. 2*. Camp-published.
- Springville/Mapleton DUP Museum (1994). *Early Springville/Mapleton Pioneer Story & Color Book*. Camp-published.

*Springville, The Art City, Historic Main Street.* Springville, Utah.

*Springville, The Art City, Historic Main Street, West 200 South Block.* Springville, Utah.

.

## Why do pictures tell stories?

From Biblical narratives to hieroglyphics, picture storytelling has been around as long as history itself. Oral storytelling from what we know of history; has been utilized for as long as individuals have been speaking. Humans have a need to portray their experiences using some form of narrative impulse. In this verbal or nonverbal interaction the person, print, or image unfolds or tells the storyline.

Walter Fisher, a 20<sup>th</sup>-century philosopher proposed a theory called the Narrative Paradigm. His ideas stemmed together to explain that individuals understand their lives better within a series of ongoing narratives. Fisher explains that communication in all its forms, appeals to humans when they are communicated and formed into a story setting format. For example, each person has a history that is tied to a certain culture, and within that environment their character emerges.

Pictures not only tell stories, they create visions, memories, and perceptions. Each image engaged with that individual opens a narrative lens, and begins to unfold a logical perception. In my presentation, I mentioned my 88-year-old mother. She enjoyed the Mapleton book very much, re-reading it many times over, within the first few days she had it. She laughed, cried, and remembered all the things that tied in with her upbringing. My mother did not know any of the individuals in the pictures, and she has only visited my home a couple of times; but she could look at the images and was able to form her own conclusions, about what was being portrayed. She absolutely loved the book, and is really looking forward to the Springville edition.

George Edward Anderson the main photographic artist in my book; who lived in Springville during its early days, truly has created a 'Half-remembered World' within his images. We have no way to really comprehend the lives those early founders went through in establishing a new area. When we want anything, we travel to somewhere, and go and get it. Years ago if you didn't grow it, collect it or build it, you went without. Through his photographs we glimpse the narrative that people in our past lived, and we can capture a piece of that communication narrative and make it a part of our own consciousness.

The evolution of photography is phenomenal. Our communication platforms today would be boring and largely irrelevant without the additional dialogue that a picture adds to your post, blog, or tweet. We are consumed with pictures in all their forms whether for good or evil; our society relishes them.

In my book I worked very hard to unearth and identify a collection of imagery that immediately captures the imagination, and at least in my mind, makes you wonder what the story is, and invites you to dwell on that narrative while taking in the details of the photograph. I want my Mother to enjoy again, the beauty of each image; and once again be able to experience the joy, sadness, and wonder each photograph brings to her mind, and the internal meaning it

April Clawson  
Master's project add-on  
9-8-16

renders. The story narrative I intend to unfold to the reader will be of hardships, struggles, and merriment in a little town that continued to flourish and finally became a city. Springville is unique in this area because it holds onto its town charm, and yet gives the residents a feeling of being an artistic city. If you study the cities close to Springville, none of them compare to it. It has its own beauty and charm that I hope the reader will grasp.

Therefore the process that I used in my master's project encompasses Fisher's space, time, and causation attributes. I obtained environmental pictures that represent the relevant aspects about growing a community. The small achievements have been captioned, and I approached the space idea believing that situations could improve; and they did. Wagon tents became log cabins, and then homes were built. Each building step is profiled in the book.

Time's essence is hard to comprehend because we can only assume through photographs that what has been written is true. Presumption plays a huge role in accurately determining if what is perceived is factual. Here again, I worked hard through research and interviews to correctly identify names, places, events and circumstances, in order to properly inform the reader what is detailed within each image.

Each photograph has causation, almost by definition. Why would the photographer take the picture if there was not some reason for doing that? Why would they waste their time in taking meaningless photographs? I believe each image has a narrative attached to it. There is a setting, a context, and somebody who cares about what is before them; and wants to preserve it. Next you have the audience: a house, an animal, or people, who will be remembered for years to come. Then comes the photographer, somebody who wants to create a memory, this individual is important in the process because he/she can see something that is worth creating, and remembering. Lastly you have the action of actually taking the picture. Is it what was wanted? Is that precious moment in time something you will look back on for the rest of your life? Truly each image is worth a thousand words because no one else has your memories.

Picture stories truly are important because that moment in time can never be re-created. I truly hope that my book will be a valuable addition to the history of this community. I tried to find depth, breath, and meaning, for each image. Every image speaks from the page as soon as it is revealed. My hope is that the caption attached to each photograph will enhance the meaning that is already present. Therefore each image will have a history, a culture, and a character attached to it, which I hope the reader will enjoy, re-reading, for many years to come.