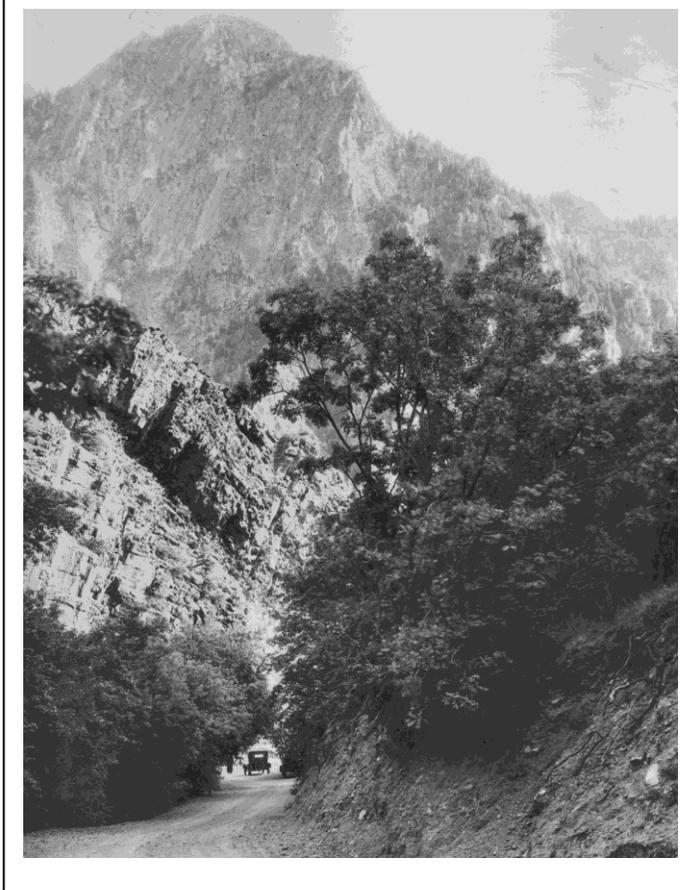


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## Hello Big Cottonwood

Once upon a time, the entry to Big Cottonwood was covered by ancient Lake Bonneville which extended three miles into the canyon. Surrounding foothills were once fine beach property.

The Wasatch Fault runs through the Park & Ride, and the artesian springs that supply Murray City's water run under the parking lot.

In 1852 Brigham Young gave the entire canyon to his older brother, Joseph,

for exclusive control and ownership of the land, wood, water and stone. Joseph opened a summer campground near Storm Mountain. But soon the canyon's lumber and water were required to build a city in the valley. A gristmill, paper mill and a brewery were built near the mouth of the creek. Joseph slowly lost exclusive control as people realized the value of the canyon's resources. When the road improved, people came to enjoy the canyon scenery and cool summer days. Huge celebrations and dances were held to celebrate Pioneer Days and family reunions.

The canyon road began as a packhorse trail along the creek and was widened in 1856 to allow wagons to bring logs out of the canyon. A tollgate was installed to help pay for the road widening. Loggers were charged \$1 per wagonload as they left the canyon. It was not a popular idea, however. One of the loggers, Alvie Butler, decided he had paid enough and offered to thrash the gatekeeper with an oak stick as he drove his wagon by. Others made the same offer, and the tollgate era came to an end.

A Civilian Conservation Corps Camp was built where Prospector Drive is now. The work done by the Corps is still being used at Storm Mountain, Spruces, and other picnic and trail sites in the canyon.

Three major chapters of human activity have left an imprint in the canyon: logging, mining, and recreation.