

In 1875 George Hill, Mormon missionary setup Chief Sagwitch Timbimboo's band of Shoshone, working on farms near Collinston, Utah. The new Mormon converts had an area covering about nine thousand acres of land.³⁸ "In late December 1876, after the approaching winter finally made further homebuilding impossible, most of the Indians headed to the Promontory Mountains, where they could find more abundant fuel supplies and forage for their stock."³⁹ The Shoshone returned to the Mormon settlement as soon as the weather would allow in 1877.⁴⁰

Shoshone were reported in the area in 1879: "A meeting of the citizens of this [Park] valley was held to take into consideration the best methods of protecting ourselves against the Indians and to build a schoolhouse. This valley, which is beautifully situated on the south side of the Raft River Mts., is frequently visited by Indians who pass through here. Yesterday two warriors supposed to be spies called at the house of a family while the man was away and behaved in a very unfriendly manner. Fires have also been seen on the mountains around and the people have thought it prudent to build some kind of a fort for protection for the women and children. Thomas Dunn was chosen chairman of the meeting and Wm. Godfrey Secretary, It was unanimously resolved that we build a house of logs that will be suitable for a fort and that will also be a good school house. It was also resolved that we petition the governor for 40 guns to defend ourselves against any immediate attack. Thomas Dunn was chosen captain of the guard."⁴¹

In 1927, 1935, and 1936 Julian H. Steward carried out ethnographic fieldwork in the Great Basin. The two bands in the Golden Spike (Promontory) area he named the Promontory Point (1938:177-178) and Grouse Creek (1938:173) bands. I would say that the Promontory band was under the leadership of Chief Sagwitch Timbimboo and the Grouse Creek band under the leadership of Chief Pocatello in 1869. It seems that both Shoshone bands used the Promontory area during the winter. This may have been a favorite spot of the Shoshone because of the milder winter weather, caves, abundance of game, and fuel.

An anthropological study and dig of Hogup Cave about 50 miles west of Golden Spike NHS provided a wealth of information on Native American habitation of the area. "Hogup Cave provides a record of more than 8000 years of prehistory in the Great Salt Lake region" Before the Shoshone was the Fremont, although the relation between Fremont and Shoshone is not fully explained. They did find the cave habitation by the people they believe are different from the Fremont and known today as the Shoshone to start at A.D. 1350 to 1850.⁴²

Marion Brown Woodward was born at Promontory in 1889 to Thomas and Althea Brown who ran the Promontory restaurant and a small store at one end of the restaurant. Marion lived in Promontory until 1902. Later she wrote about her time there, She wrote, "Several Indians lived in the mountains around Promontory. They used to come to Promontory and trade buckskin gloves and belts for sheep pelts and groceries."⁴³

Willie Ottogary, a Native American journalist, wrote for several papers. On December 30, 1912 Ottogary tells us that, "Mr. Grouse Creek Jack with his two sons went out trapping out west around Promontory"⁴⁴ (Figure 5.6).