

UTE LEADERS



Tabby-To-Kwanah

TABBY-TO-KWANAH

Tabby-To-Kwanah led the Utes who lived around the Uintah Mountains and Basin. He was respected by Indians and white settlers alike. He was known as a wise and considerate leader. He fought for peace during the Black Hawk War.

On the promise of payment for the lands they were leaving, Chief Tabby signed the Treaty of Spanish Fork. The government broke its promise and did not pay, so some of the Ute people raided Mormon settlements for food. However, Tabby-To-Kwanah's people remained peacefully in the Uintah Basin.

Recognizing Chief Tabby as a respected leader, Captain Wall of the Wasatch Militia came to him to negotiate in 1867. Tabby-To-Kwanah felt betrayed by the whites after the last treaty had been ignored. He came with warriors in case things did not go well. Eventually he was able to work things out with Wall and accepted

gifts of cattle and supplies for his people. Chief Tabby calmed down the battle-ready warriors and achieved peace, at least for a while.

In 1867 the Ute people led by Tabby-To-Kwanah and the townspeople of Heber City came together to eat and celebrate the peace. After the celebration, raids stopped almost entirely in that part of Utah. By 1869 the Black Hawk War was over, and most Utes were living on the reservation.

Chief Tabby continued to look after the needs of the Ute people. When they again faced a lack of food in 1872, he led them off of the reservation to hunt and hold important dances. His act of non-violent defiance got the attention of the federal government, and they sent representatives to negotiate. Tabby-To-Kwanah explained that there were not enough resources on the reservation for his people to survive there. The government promised to send the needed supplies, so Chief Tabby led the Utes back to the reservation and continued to serve them until his death.

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Ouray

OURAY

Ouray was born in New Mexico and grew up speaking Spanish and English. He later learned the Ute and Apache languages. As a child, Ouray's father and stepmother left him with Spanish ranchers in Taos to gain a white education. He lived as a shepherd until the age of eighteen. Then he joined the Tabeguache band of Utes in the Pikes Peak area. His mother was from this area and his father had become the leader of that band. Upon his father's death in 1860, Ouray became a leader of the Uncompahgre Utes who lived in Colorado. The Utes had come to depend on Ouray because of his ability to communicate with the Spanish- and English-speaking government agents.

Ouray grew to become a great leader among the Utes, known for his diplomacy and ability to negotiate peacefully. His desire to keep the peace led him to sign many treaties on behalf of the Utes, including one with Kit Carson.

Ouray went to Washington D.C. and met President Hayes, who was impressed with his great intelligence. He also met President Grant on one of his visits. The government called upon Ouray to negotiate the release of the hostages after the "Meeker Incident." Against the forces that were trying to push his people onto a reservation, Ouray fought for peaceful coexistence.

BLACK HAWK

Black Hawk became known to the white settlers of Utah by being in the wrong place at the wrong time. He has become an integral part of Utah's history because of the leadership skills he exhibited in the events that followed.

In 1865 Black Hawk and a group of Utes went to Manti to settle an argument with a group of Mormon frontiersmen. The conversation did not go well, and a drunk settler knocked one of the Ute chieftains off his horse. The Utes left, threatening retaliation for the insult. Within days, Black Hawk had proven himself a man of action, and the Utes had stolen hundreds of cattle. Black Hawk was able to feed many Utes with the stolen beef and was named a war chief. Unfortunately, five settlers were killed in the cattle raids.

In the next year, Blackhawk and his followers stole more than two thousand more cows and killed two dozen more white settlers. Blackhawk had followers from many different Ute bands, and he also gained support of some Paiutes and Navajos for his raids. This time has come to be known as the Black Hawk War.

Some Mormons requested troops from the federal government to protect their lives and cattle. Their requests for help were ignored for eight years, so the settlers took matters into their own hands. Because they did not distinguish between friendly Indians and raiders, the settlers killed many Indians in these years.

In 1867 Black Hawk signed a peace treaty with the Mormons, but different groups of Indians continued to raid the settlements. Federal troops arrived in 1872 and brought most of the attacks to an end.

UTE LEADERS



Wakara

WAKARA

Even as a child, Wakara was a respected hunter. Because he spoke Ute, Spanish, and English, he became a successful trader. He also negotiated between his people and the non-Indians who entered Utah.

At first, Wakara believed that the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who entered the Salt Lake Valley in 1847 would be useful trading partners, and he kept the peace between the settlers and the Utes for many years. Tensions between the Utes and the settlers grew for many reasons. The Mormons, like other non-Indians who entered the Great Basin, carried diseases for which the Utes had no immunities. The towns that the settlers built disrupted the habitat of the plants and animals that the Utes depended on for food. Also, the Utah territorial government passed laws against horse and slave trading; this was a problem for Wakara because he and

his followers made a great deal of money in those businesses.

In 1853, with relations already strained, an argument escalated to violence, and one of Wakara's followers was killed. Wakara demanded to have the killer brought before him and was refused. Wakara and his brother Arapeen responded with a series of raids on Mormon settlements that came to be called the Walker War.

Both sides realized that the Walker War needed to end and a peace was arranged. Wakara agreed to peace and lived up to the treaty he had signed, though the federal government never formally recognized it. Wakara died of pneumonia on January 28, 1855.