

## The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard

The first Thanksgiving celebration held in Fillmore was not unlike the one centuries before. Life in those early Fillmore found the settlers busy building homes and taking care of their families as winter was about to set in. The settlers were still living in the old fort in cramped conditions, but they were thankful for what they had and for the new settlement here at the base of the Pahvant Mountains.

According to accounts, the day dawned crisp and cold and the early morning hours saw the men and boys busy with their usual daily chores of taking care of the animals and making sure the fires were kept burning for warm and for cooking.

About eleven o'clock families left their cabins or tents and carried pots of food to the meeting house where the men had constructed long tables of planks on barrels with similar benches for seats. The aroma of tasty food filled the crowded room. When the food was piled on the tables, everyone stood, clasped hands and bowed their heads as Bishop Noah Bartholomew offered a prayer of thanks for their harvest and for the safe arrival of the new families who had just arrived in the community, the Melville's. They all joined in singing hymns of praise and even the Indians who were standing nearby joined in the happy spirit of the occasion.

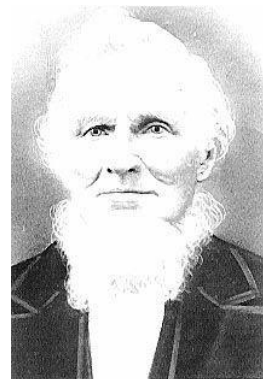
There was an area set up where the Indians were invited to join the feast. Most of them ate without the utensils familiar to the settlers, but Chief Kanosh surprised everyone by eating with a knife and fork. He and his brother Arapene were dressed like the settlers. Almost the first gifts Brigham Young had given Chief Kanosh were pants of broad cloth and a homespun shirt, which he wore with pride under his bright blanket.

In the afternoon, there were games, wrestling and races. The Indians joined in some of the activities and excelled at some. One of the last events of the day was a wrestling match between Orange Warner and young "Buck" who was chosen by the Indians. Orange had a friendly winning grin and shook hands with his opponent. The match went on for some time with excited cheers from the audience and then was stopped by Bishop Bartholomew and Chief Kanosh. The two leaders shook hands and told the wrestlers it was time for the men to start their evening chores.

The day closed with prayer and the grateful feeling that the whites and Indians were friends.



Chief Kanosh



Orange Warner