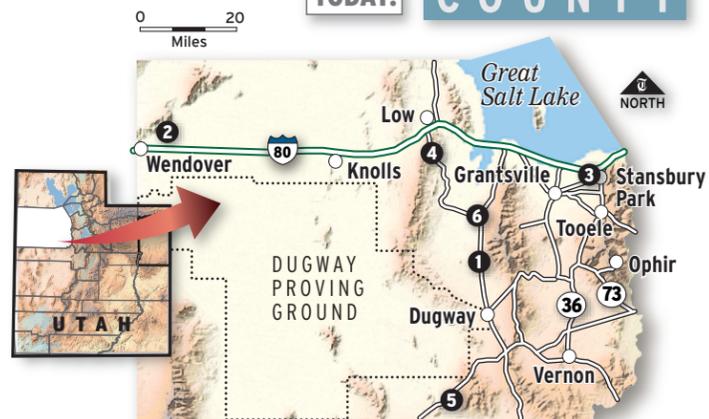


Join us as we explore Utah – one county at a time

# TOOELE COUNTY

TODAY:



**POINTS OF INTEREST**

- 1 Skull Valley Indian Reservation
- 2 Bonneville Salt Flats
- 3 Benson Gristmill
- 4 Bonneville Seabase
- 5 Simpson Springs
- 6 Iosepa

Sources: U.S. census reports, Salt Lake Tribune archives

### OUT AND ABOUT

- **Simpson Springs Pony Express Station** Named for explorer Capt. James H. Simpson.
- **Iosepa** Nearly 50 Polynesian LDS converts were moved to a 1,920-acre ranch in Tooele's Skull Valley in 1889. Now it is a ghost town.
- **Benson Gristmill** The restored mill was built in 1854 by Mormon pioneers.
- **Donner-Reed Museum** (Grantsville) In 1846, the Donner-Reed wagon train struggled through the Great Salt Lake Desert en route to California.
- **Bonneville Seabase** Saltwater pools, stocked with tropical fish, offer opportunities for land-locked Utahns to go snorkeling and scuba diving.



### ABOUT THE PEOPLE

**Population:** 40,735 (2000); 52,133 (2005)

**Density:** 6,923 square miles, 7.5 people per sq. mi.

**Towns with largest population:**  
 Tooele City - 39,800  
 Grantsville - 7,100  
 Wendover - 1,600

**On average, how the county compares:**

	TOOELE	UTAH	U.S.
Median age	27.1	27.1	35.3
Family size	3.11	3.13	2.59
Owner-occupied housing units:	78.4%	71.5%	66.2%
Median monthly homeownership expenses	\$1,028	\$1,102	\$1,088
Median income	\$45,773	\$45,726	\$41,994
College graduates	16.9%	26.1%	24.4%
Mean travel time to work (in minutes)	35.1	21.3	25.5

**Major employers:** Dugway Proving Ground, Tooele County School District, Tooele Army Depot, Deseret Chemical Depot, U.S. Magnesium Corp.

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

● **One way folks in Tooele County**

know if people are new to the area is how they pronounce Tooele. Natives say "Too-wil-ah." Newcomers pronounce it any number of ways: "Tool," "Too-lee," "Too-ill-ee."



Tooele County was originally known as Tuilla County. The spelling was changed to Tooele in 1852, when boundaries of the State of Deseret were extended to the California border.

Historical research reveals the name "Tooele" comes from the Goshute Indian word "bear." There are several families with the last name "Bear" – descendants of the Goshute Indians who signed a treaty with early Tooele Valley Mormons.

● **Other versions of how Tooele got its name**

"Tooele" supposedly refers to the name of the Goshute Chief Tuilla who lived in the valley years before the arrival of the Mormons.

● **Another claim** is that an Englishman remarked the area's thick growth of willows was "too willy."

● **Tooele could have taken its name** from "tule" after the abundant bulrush weed found in the valley.

GRAPHIC BY RHONDA HAILES MAYLETT AND SHINIKA SYKES/The Salt Lake Tribune