

Boom and Bust: The Development and Un-development of Nevada 米国ネバダ州の人口増加と下落

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Unlike its neighbors, Nevada had a difficult time in establishing itself. Still, it was able to become a state early in the western development period. After gaining statehood, Nevada experienced a great boom in population. However, this boom quickly changed to bust, creating hundreds of ghost towns in place of thriving metropolises. Moreover, this trend continues in the 21st century as certain areas are following a trend toward a boom economy, while others are indeed going bust as Nevada continues its dual path of both development and un-development.

Key Words : U.S. History, Territorial Acquisition, Demographics, Ghost Towns, Overland Trails

The development of what is now United States of America began in the 17th and 18th centuries with thirteen English colonies clustered on the east coast of the North American continent. By 1783, these colonies had become independent, and in the process had grown as far west as the Mississippi River, as far north as the St. Lawrence River, and as far south as the Spanish colony of Florida, the panhandle of which then extended to the Mississippi River¹⁾. In 1803, the territory of Louisiana, which contained all territory from the Mississippi River to the Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains in the north and the eastern border of Spain's Mexican provinces of Texas and New Mexico in the south, was added. The easternmost areas of Louisiana began to be settled almost immediately, based on the older French trading settlements of New Orleans (Louisiana) and St. Louis (Missouri).

Due to the proximity of these port towns, the Santa Fe Road was built to connect St. Louis with the New Mexican capital of Santa Fe in 1821. At the time, Santa Fe was a transportation hub connecting south to El Paso and continuing on to Mexico City, southwest along the Gila River to Spain's first California outpost at San Diego, and northwest circumventing the Grand Canyon to Los Angeles, also in California, which subsequently connected it, via California's El Camino Real through the California capital of Monterey, to California's major port city of San Francisco. About this time, the United States began to look for its own western gateway in the country north of Spain's northern California border and south of Russia's Alaskan border. This was the undeveloped Oregon Country.

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Until the 1830s, the Oregon Country was used by many nations²⁾, but controlled by none of them. To expedite development, the United States secretly encouraged American missionaries to create their own road, the Oregon Road, entirely through non-Mexican territory. Mexico had gained its independence from Spain in 1821 and included Texas, New Mexico, which at the time included Arizona³⁾, and California, which itself included the present-day states of Nevada and Utah, as well as the portion of Colorado west of the Continental Divide. This meant that development of the Oregon Road was restricted to territory north of the present-day border of California, Nevada and Utah as far as the Continental Divide. This Oregon Road was laid out in 1836 based on previous fur trading caravan wagon roads and gradually modified and expanded from 1843, bringing thousands of Americans to the Oregon Country forcing Britain's plans for control to be divided with the United States in 1846, at which time Britain took legal control of the northern half renaming it British Columbia, while the United States took legal control of the southern half renaming it Oregon Territory. This gave the United States control of its second-largest river, the Columbia, and a West Coast port at what is now Portland, Oregon.

While all of this was happening, a persecuted neo-Christian sect called the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints (also known as the Mormon Church) felt a need to move their church outside of the United States. These Mormons, under the leadership of Brigham Young, decided to develop the easternmost area of northern California, which they renamed Utah after the Native Americans who inhabited the area. These Mormons created yet another road, called the Mormon Road, from their home bases in Nauvoo, Illinois, Far West, Missouri and Independence, also in Missouri, to their new church headquarters in what is now Salt Lake City in 1846. This road brought still more thousands to populate the area known as Utah.

About the same time, a man named John Sutter negotiated a settlement contract to develop a colony, which he named New Helvetia, on the western flanks of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the present state of California near the present state capital of Sacramento. The first group of overland settlers⁴⁾ also made their way west in 1846 using the existing Oregon Road as far as Fort Bridger in southwestern Wyoming, and then switching to the Mormon Road as far as Salt Lake City. From there they blazed their own trail across the great Bonneville Salt Flats in western Utah, and then across what is now northern Nevada to the present city of Reno (then called Truckee Meadows) before attempting to cross the Sierra Nevada Mountains through what is now known as Donner Pass. What was left of their group⁵⁾ arrived in Sutter's New Helvetia the following spring. Two years later, in 1848, gold was discovered in New Helvetia creating the California Gold Rush which brought tens of thousands of additional settlers along this California Road to the West Coast, and secured the state of California for the United States⁶⁾.

This left a hole in the middle in the area which is now known as the Great Basin centered on the present state of Nevada. In this paper I will show that, unlike the steady and continued development of other areas such as Oregon, Utah and California, Nevada experienced unusual boom development which

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was followed by an even more unusual collapse, resulting in severe depopulation from which Nevada was unable to recover until well into the 20th century.

Pre-Columbian Nevada

The first residents of Nevada were the Native Nevadans who have lived in the area for tens of thousands of years. In the north-central and northeast areas, most residents were citizens of the country of the Northern Paiute, affiliated with the Ute Indians of Pre-Utah⁷⁾ or the Shoshone of Pre-Idaho, while in the northwest, they were affiliated with the the Klamath of the Pre-Oregon nation and the Washoe, Modoc and Koso of the Pre-Northern California nation. In the southernmost tip (in and near what is now Las Vegas) they were affiliated with the Pueblo of Pre-Colorado, Pre-New Mexico and Pre-Arizona, while in the southwest (from the area of Death Valley to south of Las Vegas near the present Bolder Dam) residents were associated with the Mojave Nation of Pre-Southern California. To the east (from what is now Lake Mead to the western mouth of the Grand Canyon) lived the Walapai of Pre-Arizona. The Shoshone also lived in the central eastern area near what is now Ely. In the westernmost and southernmost sections, nations such as the Chemeheuvi lived as part of the Southern Paiute culture. Although the descendants of these same people still reside in each of these areas of Nevada, there is no accurate information available on their numbers in pre-Columbian times. Currently, there are 21 Indian nations (Reservations) in Nevada⁸⁾.

Post-Columbian Nevada

Post-Columbian Nevada was officially born in 1492, although defacto political control was not established until 1522, when Spain 's Hernando Cortez discovered pre-Mexico, which he officially named New Spain. New Spain included not only Nevada, but Pre-California, Pre-Arizona, Pre-Utah, Pre-Colorado, Pre-New Mexico, Pre-Texas and Pre-Mexico. At this time, the population of Nevada was officially zero, although many thousands of people in fact lived in Pre-Nevada at the time. To determine the actual population of the area, Spain sent Francisco Coronado to survey Nevada and the surrounding territory in 1540. Although Coronado never set foot in what is now Nevada, his party traveled northward along the west coast of Mexico northward after which he took an inland route entering present-day U.S. territory through what is now Tombstone, Arizona. He traveled further northeast through what is now Gallup, New Mexico and on to Santa Fe, which he proposed as a capital for Spain 's new territory of New Mexico. From there he traveled northeast through the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles into Kansas, south again through the southwestern corner of Missouri (at Joplin) and then southwest into Arkansas before heading further south through Texas and back to Mexico City. Coronado, therefore, never entered either Nevada nor neighboring Utah, although his scouting parties came very close when they visited the Arizona-California border of the Colorado River from which they could see Nevada and the Arizona southern rim of the Grand Canyon from which they could see Utah.

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Their survey of the Native Americans, however, was to determine the amount of gold they would be able to obtain in trade and not the exact population of the area or the state of the people they found. Still, the Native American groups they encountered were very different from those which had lived in the same area only 200 to 500 years earlier at the height of the Anasazi civilization which boasted far greater populations and much greater wealth⁹⁾.

Of importance to the topic at hand, Coronado did note that he found great mineral wealth in the area, and later Spanish and Mexican expeditions did, indeed, develop mining operations in not only Arizona, but in eastern California and southern Nevada, projects which were inherited by subsequent American miners who contributed to the mining boom which was responsible for Nevada's great growth and importance to the United States in the mid to late 19th century.

According to William Rowley, the first Europeans to visit Nevada proper were probably Francisco Domingo and Sylvestre Velez de Escalante when they were looking for a road (which later became the Old Spanish Trail) to California from Santa Fe in New Mexico in 1776¹⁰⁾. These two pioneering missionaries were unable to find the rumored Buenaventura River¹¹⁾, which was to be the last leg of their road and failed to complete their mission. In the same year, Francisco Garrotes traveled from Sonora, Mexico to California when he passed through southern Nevada. It is believed that he camped in Las Vegas Meadows, although he did not stay there long. So it can be said that the Spanish, although they had visited the southernmost region of Nevada, showed no interest in living there, trading with its people or developing its resources.

In 1821, after the Mexican Revolution, Nevada became Mexican. After the Spanish pullout, Mexico was under populated with whites, and advertised for brokers to create settlements in the under populated areas of northern Mexico (California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas). This offer was taken up by Samuel Austin, who started a colony in Texas, and John Sutter, who started a colony in northern California.

Interest by Americans to develop this undeveloped Mexican territory sparked an interest in other individuals as well. First, Peter Ogden of Britain's Hudson Bay Company entered Nevada from the north in 1825. Ogden entered Nevada again in the spring of 1826 as he traveled down the eastern foothills of the Cascade Mountains from the Hudson Bay Company headquarters at Fort Vancouver. On his first trip he probably entered only the northeastern corner of the state, a point which immediately becomes desert and therefore not attractive terrain for hunting beaver. Ogden returned, however, in November of 1828, when he ventured further south as far as the Humboldt River (which he named Unknown River). After gathering a few pelts, Ogden turned east into Utah. The following spring, in 1829, Ogden followed his own tracks back into Nevada and then his Unknown River as far as the Humboldt Sink, a few miles east of the present-day Reno. He then left Nevada heading north to return again in the fall. On this third expedition, Ogden again retraced his steps as far as the Humboldt Sink and continued south as far as Walker Lake, and then into California never to return.

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Also in 1826, Jedediah Smith of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company entered Nevada from the southeast. Jedediah Smith was probably the first American to actually cross Nevada and leave a description of both his routes and what he saw. Smith was one of the first mountain men to venture into the Rocky Mountains in 1825, when he attended the first mountain man rendezvous at Henry's Fork of the Yellowstone River. There he met William Ashley and the two became partners. The following year, in 1826, Smith attended the second mountain man rendezvous in Cache Valley in what is now Logan, Utah. After the rendezvous, he and 17 men ventured out past the Great Salt Lake into the Great Salt Desert. Traveling southward, the Smith party followed the north-south mountain ranges until they arrived at the Colorado River in the southwest corner of Utah. Smith followed the Colorado across the Mojave Desert through the southern section of Nevada, after which he crossed into California, finally arriving at the Spanish San Gabriel Mission in what is now Los Angeles. From Los Angeles, Smith headed northward to the American River near the present-day Sacramento. The following spring (1827), Smith headed eastward across the Sierra Nevada Mountains and dropped down into the Great Basin near the present-day Highway 6 in Northwestern Nevada¹²⁾. Crossing Nevada, Smith passed through Utah and reached the southern tip of the Great Salt Lake. Later that year, Smith retraced his steps and was arrested by Mexican officials when he arrived a second time in Los Angeles. After spending the winter in San Francisco, Smith traveled northward along the coast through the redwoods and into Oregon, where he camped at what is now called Smith's fork of the Umpquah River. Smith's party reached Fort Vancouver in August of 1828, where he spent the winter. In March of 1829, Smith traveled east in time for the rendezvous at the Pierre's Hole, Idaho. The following year, he sold his interest in the company and began to develop trade in the Santa Fe region.

While Smith showed no interest in developing Nevada¹³⁾, he did realize that furs from the Sierra Nevadas and Cascades could be traded if they could be transported to rendezvous or markets in the east such as his new venture in Santa Fe, New Mexico¹⁴⁾. With this in mind, Smith described two possible routes. The southern route was problematic in that a straight route was blocked by the Colorado River and its Grand Canyon, including the northern stretches of the canyon known as the Grand Staircase including, Zion and Brice Canyons, before returning south to what is now southern Nevada and arriving at Los Angeles, necessitating a 2,000 mile detour just to get across the central desert areas. The second northern route was across northern Utah via either the Bonneville Salt Flats or the high passes of the parallel mountain ranges of western Utah and eastern Nevada, and then across the deserts of northern Nevada and what was to become Donner Pass through the Sierra Nevada Mountains before arriving in San Francisco, three similarly significant barriers.

Then in 1833, Joseph Walker, working for the U.S. Army, led a troop of about 40 men to explore the Great Salt Lake. In August, Walker led his party west to California following Ogden's Unknown River. In the area of the Unknown, Walker's party encountered a group of Native Nevadans and Caucasians, proving that there were Caucasians living in the northern section of Nevada at the time,

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even though there is no historical record of their existence. Walker returned along basically the same road in 1834, although wanting to avoid the Great Salt Desert, he turned north at Wells and then headed northeast toward Fort Hall in Idaho. This route later became a popular cut-off for those heading from the East Coast to California.

In 1841, the first organized overland emigrant journey through Nevada was made by the Bidwell-Bartleson party. This group was envisioned by John Bidwell in 1840, when he created the Western Emigration Society. Five hundred people signed up to emigrate to California in the spring of 1841. However, only 69 arrived at the departure point of Westport, Missouri in May. John Bartleson led the party with the help of Thomas Fitzpatrick who was leading another group of missionaries to the Soda Springs area of Idaho in the Oregon Country. When the groups split at Soda Springs, 32 of the 69 members decided to head for Oregon with the missionary party, while the remaining 37 followed Bidwell and Bartleson south to the Great Salt Lake and then west into Nevada. All 37 members of the group arrived in California in November of 1842, meaning that Nevada was yet to have its first settlement. It should be noted, however, that while all 37 members of the party arrived safely, all wagons and animals were abandoned along the trail.

At the same time, the United States began its first official exploration of the Great Basin when John Fremont began the first of three expeditions anticipating U.S. Manifest Destiny of the Great Basin area. John Fremont made expeditions to or through Nevada in 1842, 1843 and 1845. Leaving the Mississippi River area in 1841, Fremont's first expedition left Westport (Missouri) and followed the Platte River northwest across Nebraska and Wyoming, and then returned in 1842. The following year, in 1843, Fremont 's job was to survey a route for trails to Oregon and California¹⁵⁾. Fremont again left from Westport, traveling west across Kansas, Nebraska, the northeastern tip of Colorado across southern Wyoming, around Independence Rock and through South Pass, dropping down into the Salt Lake Valley in Utah, before heading up into southern Idaho through Fort Hall¹⁶⁾, after which he followed the Snake River to Fort Boise¹⁷⁾, across the Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon to Fort Vancouver, which was the de facto British governmental headquarters of the Oregon Country. Fremont then headed south along the Willamette River crossing the border into Spanish California at Klamath, after which he dropped down the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains into Nevada. Traveling as far south as the present-day Carson City, Fremont crossed over the Sierra Nevada Mountains to Sutter 's Fort at New Helvitia on the American River. He continued traveling down the Sacramento River to Oakland, and around San Francisco Bay to the California capital city of Monterey. Fremont then headed south to Los Angeles, returning to the United States following the Old Spanish Trail through Las Vegas (Nevada) and then northeast to Salt Lake City, Fort Hall, and then south through Fremont Pass in the center of the Rocky Mountains following the Continental Divide into southern Colorado and finally east across southern Kansas.

This second expedition produced the first high-quality maps and descriptions of the geography of

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northern Nevada, which Fremont published as trail guides for those wishing to migrate and populate the non-American western territories with American citizens. These guides and maps were used by the majority of early western emigrants and were influential in making American ownership of both Oregon and the Mexican Cession, including Nevada, possible. Fremont's maps were also the first to indicate the name of the region as the Great Basin. Their encampment at what is now Carson City also drew the attention of Fremont's most trusted guide, Kit Carson, who made several subsequent trips through the area and arranged for the first outpost which grew into the capital city of Nevada which was named in his honor.

Fremont's third expedition of 1845 entered Nevada from the area of Pilot Peak near the central Nevada City of Ely after crossing central Utah and headed southwest to the present day Carson City, his camp headquarters in 1845. On the way, he rediscovered the Unknown River, which he officially named the Humbolt. After leaving Carson City, Fremont climbed into the Sierra Nevada Mountains, discovering Lake Tahoe, just southwest of Carson City, before dropping down into Sutter's American River settlement of New Helvitia where he instigated the California revolution.

While Fremont's second expedition was in progress in 1844, another emigration party, the Stevens-Murphy party, followed the Bidwell-Bartleson route as far as Truckee Meadows (the present day Reno, Nevada) From there, their party followed the Truckee River over the Sierra Nevada Mountains in a successful crossing and discovery of what was to become the most popular Nevada-California pass. However, as with the Bidwell-Bartleson party, the Stevens-Murphy group also arrived on foot.

In 1846, the Donner-Reed party arrived in Nevada on an extremely late schedule. They followed the Stevens-Murphy route in general, and headed out of Nevada following the Truckee River. However, unlike the Bidwell-Bartleson and Stevens-Murphy groups, the Donner-Reed party was the first to attempt crossing the Sierra Nevadas with wagons and a full assortment of animals. While in Truckee Meadows, the members pondered spending the winter in Nevada. If they had, Truckee Meadows (Reno) may have become Nevada's first settlement. However, they decided to make the crossing in the late fall of 1846, even though snow had already begun to fall.

Still, by 1847, Nevada had no settlement. The catalyst which brought settlement came the following year, when in 1848 gold was discovered just over the hill from Reno's Truckee Meadows in John Sutter's New Helvitia on the California side of Donner Pass. The gold rush started in the same year when almost the entire population of San Francisco rushed to the Sierra Nevada hills. By fall, almost sixty percent of the men in Oregon were in California making their fortune⁽¹⁸⁾. The big rush came, however, in 1849 when easterners rushed to California on the California Trail through northern Nevada, the Old Spanish Trail through southern Nevada and the Gila River Trail through southern Arizona. The following year, 1850, many others also came by sea around the tip of South America and from international destinations such as Europe, Hawaii and China.

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Settlement

As was described above, a large amount of traffic passed through Nevada before 1850, but there was no interest in living there. California had its first settlement in San Diego in 1769. Washington's British sponsored Hudson Bay Company's Fort Vancouver was established in 1825¹⁹⁾. Oregon had American missionary settlements from 1834 in the Willamette Valley, and the Whitman Mission was founded in 1836 on the Washington shore of the Columbia River near the three-corners area of Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Eastern Idaho's Hudson Bay Company's Fort Hall (founded in 1834) was the traditional site of the fur rendezvous from the 1820s. Western Idaho also had its Hudson Bay Company fort at Boise (founded in 1834) and Wyoming had American Fort Bridger (founded in 1842). Even neighboring Utah started its first settlement in 1846 in Salt Lake City, which started as a flood of Mormon emigrants from Far West, Missouri and Nauvoo, Illinois. Each of these forts was a center of a new settlement which was to become a city or town. However, by 1850, there was nothing that could be called a western settlement in Nevada.

There are, however, potential Nevada cities which claim to be quite old. As mentioned above, Joseph Walker encountered whites living with Native Americans in 1833. Unfortunately, we do not now the nature of these whites, i.e., whether they were permanent residents, seasonal residents, or simply temporary residents. Moreover, they were whites living as Native Americans in a situation which cannot be considered the beginning of a town or city in the western concept of the word²⁰⁾.

Similarly, Wells, Nevada, although not established until 1869 as a water supply station for the trans-continental railroad, was inhabited by a Native-American city which entertained white travelers from the earliest trappers, explorers and emigrants to Oregon and California. While some of these non-Indians stayed for a considerable time with the Natives, they were not really residents, and there was no settlement made, other than the Native American settlement which can still be found there today as a reservation.

Perhaps one of the oldest settlements in Nevada was Nelson. Nelson was located about 40 kilometers southeast of Las Vegas on the banks of the Colorado River and was founded by Spanish gold miners in 1775, before the United States was even born²¹⁾. However, the Spanish left when the easy gold dried up, beginning a pattern that resulted in the mass depopulation of Nevada in the late nineteenth century. The mines were abandoned until 1858, when American prospectors and miners discovered the area and the remnants of the Spanish mines. They established the Techatticup Mine, one of the most notorious mines of the era. The town was famous for disagreements over ownership of the mines and the gold found in them. Management and labor disputes occurred daily which resulted in frequent killings. The town of Nelson was, indeed, a typical town one might find in a Western movie about the period. Still, Nelson produced several million dollars worth of gold, silver, copper and lead. The mines were finally closed in 1945 and the town turned into a ghost town when Davis Dam was constructed on the Colorado River submerging it under Lake Mojave²²⁾.

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It is said that the oldest building in Nevada was constructed in 1855 in what was to become the Las Vegas Mormon Fort. The fort was actually established as a mission to convert the local Native American residents. However, their efforts were largely unsuccessful and the fort and mission were closed in 1857. Eight years later, the site was re-occupied, not as a fort, mission or city, but as a ranch named Las Vegas Rancho. The ranch produced beef and various vegetables and fruit, and provided food and lodging for travelers from Salt Lake City who traveled the Old Spanish Trail on their way to Los Angeles in California. But this venture was short lived and was closed in 1881. Then in 1902, the ranch became the site of a post office which was named “ Los Vegas Post Office ”²³⁾ which was never more than a stop on the railroad line. The present city of Las Vegas was created in 1926 when the Hoover Dam project began as a testing lab for cement which arrived on the railroad. Workers also arrived via the railroad and the new city developed as an arrival and departure center for the dam project. The entertainment and gambling city was developed for workers who were waiting for trains, and later as a recreation center for workers who just wanted a day or two away from the dam construction site.

In fact, the seeds for the first serious population centers of Nevada were nurtured in the north of the state. For example, the first non-native settlers to enter the area of Nevada 's capital city of Carson City and nearby gambling center of Reno were probably the Bidwell-Bartleson party mentioned above. However, in 1841, this group was bound for California and only camped in the area and moved on. More solid grounds for the settlement of Nevada began when John Fremont and Kit Carson first passed through Eagle Valley on their way to California in January of 1843. As explained above, like Bidwell-Bartleson, they continued on to California on each of their trips through the area. However, Kit Carson made note of the place, and after his work with Fremont was completed, Carson began ranching in New Mexico. In 1853, having raised a large flock of sheep, he decided to drive them to California where he was able to get a much better price (due to the gold rush) than he could in New Mexico. Naturally, he traveled by way of his favorite Eagle Valley. He spent time in the valley grazing his sheep before taking them up over the Tahoe Pass and into Sutter 's Fort. Carson was happy to hear that a settlement, named Genoa, had been established two years before near Lake Tahoe, about 13 miles from the valley.

Being near the Nevada-California border east of Lake Tahoe, Genoa was begun as a Mormon supply station called Mormon Station in 1850 to supply Mormon miners going to and returning from the gold mines in California, as well as wagon trains migrating to California. As it was not staffed by permanent residents, the beginnings of Mormon Station do not qualify as a settlement. John Reese came through in 1851, finished the abandoned Mormon Station, and set up a trading post called Genoa. Some argue that this post was a settlement and rank it as Nevada 's oldest city. Moreover, the more permanent Genoa became the first capital of Carson County in 1854, when Nevada was still part of Utah Territory, and capital of Douglas County when Nevada Territory was established in 1861. However, due to a silver rush in nearby Virginia City in 1859, which drew away a large portion of its population, and a fire in 1910, Genoa lost its capital status in 1916, after which it continued to decline. Today, Genoa has

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been reduced to a ghost town.

Most scholars seem to agree that the more likely candidate for oldest city in Nevada was born in 1851, when some not-so-lucky 49ers from California thought they might have better luck on the back side (i.e., the Nevada side) of the Sierra-Nevadas. After not having any better luck at prospecting, they thought about making money by farming and ranching, and selling their goods to pioneers traveling to California. They set up a trading post at what is now the corner of Fifth Street and Thompson in what is now Carson City, just a few miles northeast of Genoa. Eagle Station, as they called their store, grew into a community and has been continually occupied since 1851, qualifying it as the oldest existing city in Nevada and the beginning of residency in the state.

Genoa and Eagle Station were isolated towns and cannot be said to be the beginning of a significant population in Nevada. Since 1848, when gold was discovered in California, and especially from 1849, tens of thousands of people passed through Nevada on the way to the Mother Lode, as California came to be called. By 1851, the rush had stopped and 49ers began to give up their search, looking for new occupations or new locations where they might get rich. Frank Hall and his group of 49ers traced their steps back over the Sierra Nevada Mountains to look for gold there when they gave up and founded Eagle Station as discussed above. But they, and others like them, continued to search for gold.

Gold was first discovered in what came to be known as Gold Canyon in 1850²⁴), northeast of Carson City. By 1854, Johnstown was founded as Nevada 's first mining center just up the canyon from the first gold discovery north of the present Dayton²⁵). This was followed in 1856 by Silver City another mile or so further up the canyon. However, none of these towns grew very large and mining activity was minimal. Then in 1859, Pat McLaughlin and Peter O'Reilly ventured up the hill and found gold at the top of the canyon. The problem was that it was difficult to dig out because of the large amount of blue clay in which the gold was embedded. The clay, which turned out to be silver, was assessed at \$2,000 per ton, the highest quality silver ore ever to be found in the United States. When word got out, the population of Old Virginny Town, as residents had christened it, blossomed and Virginia City was born as the center of the Comstock Lode, named after Henry Comstock, owner of the claim where the silver was first recognized for what it was. Virginia City bloomed to a city of over 30,000, becoming Nevada 's first city.

To service Virginia City, other cities developed throughout northern Nevada and late arriving miners searched for similar finds throughout the area. The largest supply city was Eagle Station which grew into Carson City²⁶), the present capital of Nevada when railroads were built to connect it with Comstock Lode mining towns and cities. Nearby Truckee Meadows and neighboring Sparks also grew when the transcontinental railroad arrived in 1868²⁷). Reno was created to host the railroad station, which soon became a junction with railroads from Carson City and other mining areas of northern Nevada.

About the same time, mining operations were also developed in southern Nevada. The town of

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Potosi was founded by the Mormons in 1856, the same year that Silver City was founded. At this time the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints had a mission in the area of Las Vegas to serve the Native Nevadans. Some of the workers at this mission found deposits of lead on a bluff just west of Las Vegas. Nathaniel Jones was sent from Salt Lake City to confirm the discovery. He named the mine Potosi after his hometown of Potosi, Wisconsin. Unfortunately, Jones' efforts did not pan out. Then in 1861, the Colorado Mining Company set up an even larger operation at Potosi Spring when they also discovered silver in the area. To accommodate the 100 or so miners, the town of Potosi was established about 700 feet down the hill²⁸). Similar mines were founded and closed until Senator William Andrews Clark constructed the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad in 1901 which ran through Las Vegas. This line passed within a day's wagon ride from Potosi, solving transportation problems which revived both the mine and the city. By this time Potosi concentrated on mining zinc. A tramway was even developed and production reached a new peak 1928.

Mining, however, was not the catalyst to the development of southern Nevada. That development was based on the 1930s New Deal programs which resulted in the construction of Hoover Dam and Lake Mead, and the subsequent development of Las Vegas as a recreational center for workers on the dam project.

Population Demographics

In considering the development of Nevada, several points stand out as being uncharacteristic. First, Abraham Lincoln admitted Nevada as a state at a time when it only had a population of 6,857. According to the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, and first enacted by the Enabling Act of 1802, the basic requirements for the establishment of a new state are that the area be part of a U.S. Territory and have a population of 60,000 or greater. A delegate must then be elected for every 1,200 people who would decide whether or not to create a state constitution through an election of constitutional convention representatives. The United States Congress then decides whether to admit that state or not.

With only 6,857 territorial residents, Nevada needed only 5 delegates to complete this process rather than the normal 50. Nevada Territory was created on March 2, 1861 and the subsequent Enabling Act was enacted on March 21, 1864. Several reasons have been posited as to why this illegal means needed to be applied to make Nevada a state at this time. One is that statehood would bring Nevada's gold and silver into direct control by the United States government. Another is that the Union wanted to boast as many more states as possible than the Confederacy to international eyes. A third is that presidential elections were to be held in November of 1864, and President Lincoln wanted his government to appear calm and stable even at a time of war, both in the eyes of the world and as a destabilizing factor to the citizens of the Confederacy. In effect, all of these goals were realized when Nevada was admitted as the 36th state on October 31, 1864.

The second uncharacteristic point is that after its founding, Nevada experienced a population dip as

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is shown below:

Year	Population	Increase/Decrease	Percentage:
1850	0		
1860	6,857	+ 6,857	
1870	42,491	+ 35634	519.7%
1880	62,266	+ 19,775	46.5%
1890	47,355	- 14,911	- 23.9%
1900	42,335	- 5,020	- 10.6%
1910	81,875	+ 39,540	93.4%
1920	77,407	- 4,468	- 5.5%
1930	91,058	+ 13,651	17.6%
1940	110,247	+ 19,189	21.1%
1950	160,083	+ 49,836	45.2%
1960	285,278	+ 125,195	78.2%
1970	488,738	+ 203,460	71.3%
1980	800,508	+ 311,770	63.8%
1990	1,193,285	+ 392,777	49.1%
2000	1,998,257	+ 804,972	67.5%
2005 estimate	2,414,807	+ 416,550	20.9%

Indeed, after admission as a state, Nevada experienced a flood of immigrants. While this was partially due to its prominence as a new state, it also coincided with the end of the Civil War on April 9, 1865, after which a large percent of the population from both the North and the South had been displaced. These people had neither jobs nor homes, and Nevada still maintained the image of the Comstock Lode of 1859 by which anyone could get rich quickly. In only five years, Nevada's population grew by over five hundred percent. This trend continued into the next decade. Still, it took until 1880 for Nevada to reach the minimum population of 60,000 necessary to apply for statehood, and subsequent to that date, the population plummeted over the next two decades to 66 percent of its highest peak. In fact, it took until 1910 before Nevada was able to maintain the minimum 60,000 people, meaning that its admission to the Union was, in fact, 50 years premature. Even so, although Nevada's population has never dipped below the 60,000 mark since then, it was not stable as can be seen by the fact that a second depopulation period was seen at the turn of the century, and a third in the 1910s. It wasn't until the boom of the 1920s, after World War I, that population growth in Nevada stabilized²⁹).

A look at the depopulation of individual counties shows even more drastic instability. While there are counties which have shown steady growth such as Churchill, Clark and Washoe counties, others such as Esmeralda, Eureka and Storey counties exhibit more decades of decline than increase. For example, Esmeralda County reached its peak population in 1910 at 9,369, yet today it is home to only

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971 people. Eureka County peaked in its second decade (the 1870s) at 7,086 after which it steadily declined to 767 in 1960. Storey County peaked at 19,528 in 1875 after which it fell to only 568 in 1960. Both Eureka and Story counties have recovered to populations of 1,651 and 3,399 respectively. White Pine County, on the other hand, has shown a roller coaster pattern as it peaked at 7,189 in 1870, dropped to 1,791 in 1890, rose again to 7,441 in 1910, peaking at 12,377 in 1940, fell again in 1960 to 9,808, rose again to 10,150 in 1970, dropped once more to 8,167 in 1980, finally reaching 9,410 in 1990 only to lose another 229 people by 2000.

Third, an analysis of Nevada's cities and towns over the past 156 years³⁰⁾ shows that 826 towns and cities have been established to date. However, after studying the back roads of Nevada for the past several years, it is apparent that there are nowhere near that number of population centers. A study of detailed maps of Nevada and official state records shows that there are only 134 towns and cities still in existence. That amounts to only 16% of the municipalities founded. Moreover, forty-seven of these 134, or 6%, have been re-born on the same location of a settlement which had ceased to exist. In other words, the city of today is a different city than that originally founded. This means that 738 of the 825, or 89%, of the towns founded in Nevada have become ghost towns to date.

The true existence of others is also questionable. In attempting to confirm these 134 entities, I have not been able to locate some in the locations given on either government or commercially produced maps. Others which I have been able to locate show no signs of life or habitation and have, in fact, become ghost towns, although they continue to be listed as viable communities. On the other hand, I have visited towns which obviously appear to be ghost towns, with stores abandoned just as they were left, their remaining stock covered in years of dust. Yet, there is also evidence of human activity, such as mining operations. Real estate signs indicate that some buildings are available for purchase and one road leading to the town has been improved. Although this town is listed as a living town, no one appeared or responded to my presence.

Finally, the sites of some towns and settlements have been incorporated in others, especially in the metropolitan areas of Carson City, Reno-Sparks and Las Vegas³¹⁾. While some of these have always been viable cities, others have died and been re-developed within the larger borders of the modern cities.

Historical Municipalities in Nevada

ALAMO	Amador	Archer	ATLANTA
Andven	*AMARGOSA	Argentina	Atwood
Afton	American City	Arrowhead	Auburn
Alabama	Ancram	Artesia	Aura
Alazon	Antelope	ARTHUR	Aurora
Alder	Antelope Springs(Nye Co.)	Ashmeadows	Aurum
Alkalai	Antelope Springs	ASH SPRINGS	*AUSTIN
Alpha	(White Pine Co.)	Ashton	Babylon
Alunite	Arabia	Athens	Bailey

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BAKER	Buck Station	Cherry Creek	Darrough Hot Springs
Bannock	Buckhorn	Chloride	*DAYTON
Barclay	Buckingham Camp	Clan Alpine	Deadhorse Well
Barcelona	Bucklands	Clarkdale	Decoy
Barnes	Buckskin(Douglas Co.)	Claytons	Death Valley Junction
Barrett	Buckskin(Humbolt Co.)	Clear Creek	*DEETH
BASALT	Buckskin(Lyon Co.)	Clear Creek Station	Deep Well Station
Battle Creek	Buel	Cleave Creek	Deep Wells
*BATTLE MOUNTAIN	Buena Vista	Cleveland Ranch	Delamar
Bauvard	Buffalo Meadows	Clifford	Delano
Baxter Spring	Bull Run	Clifton(Lander Co.)	Delker
*BEATTY	Bull Springs Station	Clinton(Lyon Co.)	Delmar
Bellerville	Bullfrog	Clinton	DENIO
Bellhelen	Bullion	Clover Valley	Desert Station
Belmont	Bullionville	Cloverdale	Desert Well Station
Belmont Mill	Bunker Hill	Cluro	Devil 's Gate
*BELOWAWE	Burner	Coal Canyon	Diamond City
Benton	Burro	*COLEDALE	Diamondfield
Berlin	Butte Station	Cobre	Diamond Springs
Bernice	Butterfield Spring	Cocomongo	Dillon
Betty O'Neal	Buzanes Camp	Cold Creek	Dinner Station
Birch	Cactus Springs	Cold Springs	Divide
Black Horse	*CALIENTE	Colony	Dixie
Black Spring	Callville	Columbia(Elko Co.)	DIXIE VALLEY
Blackburn	Cambridge	Columbia(Eureka Co.)	Dolly Varden
Blaine	Camp McGarry	Columbus	Double Spring
Blair	Camp Winfield Scott	Como	Douglass
Blakes Camp	Candelaria	Connors Station	Downeyville
BLUE DIAMOND	Cane Springs	Contact	Dry Creek Station
Blue Eagle Spring	Canyon	Copper Basin	*DUCKWATER
Blue Jacket	Canyon	Copper Canyon	Duck Creek
Bodie	Canyon City	Coperfield	Duluth
Bolivia	CARLIN	Cornucopia	Dutch Flat
BOULDER CITY	*CARP	Cortez	Dutch Creek
Bonanza	Carrara	Corwin	Dun Glen
Bonnie Claire1	Carroll	Coryville	DYER
Bootstrap	Carson Sink	COTTONWOOD COVE	Eagle Valley
Botwick	CARSON CITY	Craig Station	Eagerville
Bovard	Carter 's Station	Crescent	Eagleville
Bowlerville	CARVERS	Crescent	Eastgate Station
Box Springs(Nye Co.)	Caselton	Crow Spring	East Manhattan
Box Springs(Eureka Co.)	Catons	Crystal Peak	Eberhardt
Breyfogle	Cave Creek	Crystal Springs	Eden
Bridges	Cedar	Cuprite	Edgemont
Bristol	Cedar Spring	*CURRANT	Egan Canyon
Broadway	Central	*CURRIE	Eight Miles Station
Broken Hills	Centerville	Currie Well	El Dorado Canyon
Brooklyn	Central City	Curry 's Warm Springs	*ELGIN
Browns Camp	*CHARLSTON	Curtis	Elk Mountain
Bruno City	CHARLESTON PARK	Danville	ELKO

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Elbow	Gold Acres	Helene	Jett
Ellendale	Goldbanks	HENDERSON	JIGGS
Ellsworth	Gold Bar	Hercules	JINGO
ELY	Gold Butte	Hicks District	Johnnie
EMPIRE	Gold Center	Hicks Hot Springs	Johnson Mine
Etna	Gold Center	Hicks Station	Johntown
Evans	Gold Crater	Highland	Joy
*EUREKA	Gold Creek	HIKO	Juan
Fairbanks Ranch	Golden	Hill	Jumbo(Humbolt Co.)
Fairview	Golden Arrow	Hilltop	Jumbo(Washoe Co.)
Falcon	Gold Flat	Hinds Hot Springs	Junction
FALLON	*GOLDFIELD	Hogum	Junction City
Farrell	Gold Hil(Nye Co.)	Holbrook	Junction House
Fay	Gold Hil(Storey Co.)	Honey Lake Smiths	Jungo
Ferber	Gold Hitt	Horseshoe	Kaolin
Ferguson Springs	Gold Mountain	Hot Creek	Kawich
FERNLEY	*GOLD POINT	Hot Springs(Eureka Co.)	Kennedy
Fish Lake	Golden Arrow	Hot Springs(Lander Co.)	Keystone(Nye Co.)
Fivemile House	Goldyke	Hubbard	Keystone(Eureka Co.)
Fletcher	Gold Run	Huffakers	Key West
Fort Churchill	Gold Park	Humbolt City	Kimberly
Fort Haleck	Goldville	Humbolt House	Kingsley
Fort McDermitt	Good Hope	Hunter	Kingston(Clark Co.)
Fort Piute	Gold Reef	Hunter 's Station	Kingston(Lander Co.)
Fort Ruby	Goldsprings	Idlewild	Klondike
Franktown	Goodwin	Illipah	Knickerbocker
Frasier Wells	Granite(Mineral Co.)	Ione	LAGES
Frenchman	Granite(Nye Co.)	IMLAY	Lake 's Crossing
Freyberg	Grand Gulch	INCLINE VILLAGE	Lancaster
Fridays	Grant City	INDIAN SPRINGS	*LAMOILLE
Frisbie	Grantsville	IONE	Llamoile
*GABBS	Grass Valley	Ivada	Kancaster
Galena(Lander Co.)	Gravelly Ford	Ivanhoe	Lane City
Galena(Lincoln Co.)	Green Springs	Ivapah	Lander
Galena(Washoe Co.)	Gregory 's Mill	*JACK CREEK	La Plata
GARDNERVILLE	Groom	JACKPOT	Laudville
Garfield	Grubbs Well	Jackrabbit	Laurel
Geneva(Eureka Co.)	Guadalajara	Jackson Mining District	LAS VEGAS
Geneva(Lander Co.)	Gweehan	Jacksonville	LAUGHLIN
GENOA	Halfway House	Jacobs Wel(Pershing Co.)	Leadfield
Georges Canyon	*HALLECK	Jacobs Well	Leadville(Humbolt Co.)
Gerald	Hamilton	(White Pine Co.)	Leadville(Nye Co.)
GERLACH	Hannapah	Jacobsville	Leadville(White Pine Co.)
Getchell Mine	Hardin City	Jamestown	Learville
Gilbert	Harriman	Jamison 's Station	Ledlie
Glenbrook	Harrison Pass	*JARBIDGE	LEE(Elko Co.)
GLENDALE	Hart	JEAN	Lee(Nye Co.)
Glenn Hamilton	*HAWTHORNE	Jefferson	Leete
Glencoe	Hay Ranch	Jersey City	Leeland
GOLCONDA	Helena	Jessup	Lewis

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Lexington Canyon	MINDEN	Ophir Canyon	Potosi
Liberty	Mineral	OREANA	Potts
Lida	Minimums	Oreana Station	*PRESTON
Lime	Minerva	Orienta	Prince Royal
Lime Mountain	Monarch	Original	Pritchards Station
Lockes	Monte Cristo	Orizaba	Proctor
Lodi	Montezuma	Oro City	PRONTO
Logan City	Montezuma	OROVADA	Prospect
Logan Station	*MONTELLO	OVERTON	Pueblo(Humbolt Co.)
LOGANDALE	Moores Creek Station	Osceola(Lincoln Co.)	Pueblo(Nye Co.)
Lone Mountain	Moores Station	Osceola(White Pine Co.)	Pyramid City
Longstreet	Morey	OWYHEE	Quartz Mountain
Lower Town	Mosiers	Packard	Quartz Mountain 2
LOVELOCK	Mottsville	Pactolus	Queen City
Lousetown	Mound House	PAHRUMP	Rabbithole Springs
Lucky Boy	Mound Springs	Palisade	RACHEL
Ludwig	Mount Airy	Palmetto	Rains
*LUND	Mount Hope	Pamlico	Ralston
*LUNNING	*MOUNTAIN CITY	PANACA	Ramsey
Magnolia House	Mountain House	Panama	Ravenswood
MAJORS PLACE	Mountain Spring	Paradise Peak	Rawhide
*MANHATTAN	Mountain View	*PARADISE VALLEY	Ray
Manse Ranch	Mud Springs(Elko Co.)	Paradise Well	Reagan
Manvel	Mud Springs(Lander Co.)	Park Canyon	Rebel Creek
Marietta	Mud Springs Station	Parker Station	Red Bute
Marysville	Muncy	PATRICK	Reed 's Station
Mason	National	Patsville	Reipetown
Mazuma	*NELSON	Peavine	**RENO
McCann Station	Nevada Station	Penelas	Reveille
McCoy	Nevin	Petersgold	Reveille Mill
MCDERMITT	New Pass(Eureka Co.)	Phillipsburg	Rhodes
*MCGILL	New Pass(Lander Co.)	Phonolite	Rhyolite
Meikeljon	New Pass Station	Picotillo	**Rio Tinto
Mellan	Newark	Piermont	Roberts Creek Station
MERCURY	Nightengail	Pigeon Spring	Rochester
MESQUITE	Nicloc	Pine	Rockland
Metropolis	NIXON	Pine Creek	Romano
Mettalic City	Nordyke	Pine Grove DC	Rosebud
Mexican Camp	*NORTH FORK	Pine Grove LC	Rose' s Well
Microna	NORTH LAS VEGAS	Pinto(Eureka Co.)	*ROUND MOUNTAIN
Midas	North Manhattan	Pinto(White Pine Co.)	Round Spring
MIDDLEGATE	Northumberland	Pinto Creek Station	Roland
Midway	*NYALA	*PIOCHE	Royston
Millet	OASIS	Pionee	Ruby City
Mill Canyon	Oak	Pittsburgh	Ruby Hill(Eureka Co.)
MILL CITY	Oak Springs	Placerites	Ruby Hill(White Pine Co.)
Mill Station	Olinghouse	Platina	RUBY VALLEY
Millers	Omco	Poker Brown	Ruby Valley Station
MINA	Ophir(Nye Co.)	Pogues Station	*RUTH
Milton	Ophir(Washoe Co.)	Potomac	Rye Patch(Nye Co.)

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Rye Patch(Pershing Co.)	Smith Creek Station	Sylvania	Van Sickles
Safford	Hod House	Tacoma	Vanderbil(Clark Co.)
Saint Clair	Sodville	Taft	Vanderbil(Eureka Co.)
Saint Joseph	South Bullfrog	Talapoosa	Varyville
St. Mary 's	South Fork	Timberlane Canyon	Vaughns
St. Thomas	Spanish Spring	Tates station	Ventosa
Salt Wells	**SPARKS	Taylor	VERDI
Sandy	Spring City	Taylor	Vernon
San Antonio	SPRING CREEK	Tecoma	Veteran
San Carlos	Springdale	Telluride	Vicksburg
Sand Springs	Springfield	Tempiute	Victor
Sandy	Spring Valley(Eureka Co.)	Tenabo	*VIRGINIA CITY
San Juan	Spring Valley(Eureka Co.)	Terrill	Wabuska
San Pedro	SPRING VALLEY	Thompson	WADSWORTH
Santa Clara	(Pershing Co.)	Thorne	Wagner
Sawmill	Spring Valley Station	*TIPPETT	Wahmonie
Schellbornert	Springville	Toano	WALKER LAKE
SCHURZ	Spruce Mountain	Tobar	Walker River Station
Scossa	St. Thomas	Tokop	Walters
SCOTTY 'S JUNCTION	Star City	Tolicha	Ward
*SEARCHLIGHT	Stargo	Tonkin	Wardel
Seligman	Starr	Tonogold	Warm Creek
Seven Troughs	STATELINE	*TONOPAH	*WARM SPRINGS
Shady Run	STEAMBOAT	TOPAZ LAKE	Washington(Nye Co.)
Shafter	Steptoe City	Torreytown	Washington(Storey Co.)
Shamrock	STILLWATER	Toyah	Washoe
Steven 's Station	Stirling	Transvaal	Wedekind
Sherman	Stocton Well	Trapmans Camp	Wheelers
Sheridan	Stofiel	Treasure City	Weepah
Shermantown	Stone House	Trenton	*WELLINGTON
Sherwood	Stonewall	Trinity	WELLS
Shookum	Strawberry	Troy	Whisky Spring
Shoshone	Sulfide	Tulasco	West Point
Siegel	SULPHUR	Tule Canyon	WEST WENDOVER
Silver Bow	Sulfur Springs Station	Tungsten	White
Silver City	Summit	Tungsten Mines	White Caps
Silver Creek	Summit Camp	Tungstonia	White Cloud City
Silver Glance	Summit Station(Nye Co.)	Tunnel	White Horse
Silver Hill	Summit Station(Lyon Co.)	*TUSCARORA	White Plain
Silverhorn	Sumo	Twins Springs	White Rock
*SILVER PEAK	Sunnyside	Tybo	White Rock Spring
SILVER SPRINGS	Sunset	Union(Eureka Co.)	Wildcat Station
Silver Zone	SUN VALLEY	Union(Nye Co.)	Wiley 's Station
Silverton	SUNNYSIDE	*UNIONVILLE	WILKINS
Simon	SUTCLIFFE	URSINE	Willard
Simpson Park(Eureka Co.)	Sutro	Uvada	Willards
Simpson Park(Lander Co.)	Swales Mountain	Valley Pass	Willow Creek
Six Mile Canyon	Swansea	Valley View	(Humbolt Co.)
SLOAN	Swift 's Station	VALMY	Willow Creek(Nye Co.)
Smith 's Station	Sweetwater	Van Ness	Willow Point

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Willow Springs Wilsons Camp	WINNEMUCCA Wonder	Wordfords Yankee Blade	YERINGTON Yelland
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Contemporary municipalities are in CAPITALS.

Cities marked with an asterisk(*)once became ghost towns and were later revived or reborn.

Cities with a double asterisk(**)are bed towns for the Carson City, Las Vegas or Reno-Sparks metropolitan areas or have developed in recent years as resorts and do not effect the depopulation curve of the 1880-1920 era.

Other smaller, unregistered or extremely short-lived communities are not included in this table.

A more interesting point is that the birth and death of many Nevada cities and towns is accompanied by the roller coaster-like population described above. While it is beyond the scope of the present paper to discuss the reasons for this pattern, it should be pointed out that the trend continues to this day. The population development of all three of Nevada 's metropolitan areas of Carson City, Reno-Sparks and Las Vegas over the past ten years must be seen to be comprehended. Tens of thousands of acres of desert have become corporate hubs to multinational companies, not to mention the new homes, shopping and recreation facilities needed to support them. Each of these areas are growing so fast that statistics cannot keep up with the growth. It will be very interesting to see the results of the next census in 2010. There are those who predict, however, that many of the reasons for the current growth boom may disappear in the near future, causing yet another period of bust. But for Nevadans, their entire history has been either one of boom or bust.

In this paper I have shown that, unlike its neighbors, Nevada had a difficult time in establishing itself. Still, it was able to become a state early in the western development period. After gaining statehood, Nevada experienced a great boom in population. However, this boom quickly changed to bust, creating hundreds of ghost towns in place of thriving metropolises. Moreover, this trend continues in the 21st century as certain areas are following a trend toward a boom economy, while others are indeed going bust as Nevada continues its dual path of both development and un-development.

Notes

- 1) This expansion was a result of the Treaty of Paris of 1783 ending the War of Revolution from Britain.
- 2) See my paper on countries with interests in the Oregon Country entitled " The Oregon Country " in Volume 25 (1992) of this Bulletin.
- 3) Arizona and New Mexico were developed as a single unit by Coronado after a preliminary expedition in 1539 by Marcos de Niza. Following Coronado (1540), missions were established at many of the Native American population centers by Father Kino from about 1690 in locations such as Tubac and Tuscon which were later fortified and became military presidios with accompanying towns.
- 4) Previous groups had traveled from the East Coast of the United States to California by ship around the southern tip of South America, a journey which was both expensive and long, taking about one year in the 1840s.
- 5) 41 of the 87 members of the party died in a blizzard in November of 1846 just 160 kilometers from their New Helvitia goal.

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- 6) This event resulted in a war between Mexico and the United States after which Mexico ceded its northern territories from Texas to California to the United States.
- 7) The word Paiute means “ true Ute ” in the Paiute language.
- 8) For more information, please see Native American Tribal Lands and Reservations at http://www.epa.gov/region09/air/maps/nv_tribe.html.
- 9) For more information, see Cook, Noble David. *Born to Die*
- 10) Note that this date contrasts with the 1775 establishment of El Dorado below. See Nelson Nevada at <http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/nv/nelson.html>.
- 11) The Buenaventura River was rumored to be the western component of the Northwest Passage, a passage which would connect the eastern part of the North American continent via the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri rivers with the Pacific Ocean. This route was desired so that direct commerce between Western Europe and the Orient could be developed. The Buenaventura was rumored to flow from several possible Rocky Mountain locations and flow into the Pacific in as many different places. There is speculation that the Native Americans may have accurately described actual western rivers such as the Columbia of the Oregon Country, the Sacramento which flows into San Francisco Bay and the Colorado which flows into the Gulf of California, and Europeans presumed that these rivers were the terminus of the Buenaventura. In 1776, Silvestre Velez de Escalante, mentioned above, discovered the Green River in northern Utah and followed it to Nevada believing that the river was the Buenaventura as he was told that it flowed into the Pacific, a fact he failed to confirm. In fact, the Green flows into the Colorado River which forms the southeastern border of Nevada and Arizona and subsequently flows into the Gulf of California which is part of the Pacific Ocean. Even though this truth exists, the Buenaventura is generally considered to be a fictional river and although it was responsible for bringing the earliest groups of Europeans into Nevada, such as the Escalante party, none of these people contributed to the Nevada population.
- 12) Highway 6 cuts through Nevada from the central western border of California, directly east through Tonopah, and then northeast to Ely before heading directly east to enter Utah. The highway follows essentially the trail of Jedediah Smith.
- 13) Smith was a fur trader and Nevada had few areas where fur trapping was possible.
- 14) By this time, the Santa Fe Trail had been established for trade between Santa Fe and St. Louis, Missouri on the Mississippi River making Santa Fe the westernmost city (even though it was in Mexico and not the US) connected to American markets.
- 15) 1843 was also the first year for the Oregon Trail when Marcus Whitman escorted the first group of 1,000 pioneers from Independence Missouri to Fort Vancouver in the Oregon Country. While the two expeditions were traveling at the same time, Whitman followed Fremont's 1841-2 route, while Fremont took a more southerly route along what was to become the Kansas-Nebraska border and the Wyoming-Colorado border.
- 16) Fort Hall was a fur trading post which had become the traditional site of the annual fur rendezvous.
- 17) Fort Boise was a British fur trading post at the time, operating out of Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River.
- 18) See my paper on page 27 in Volume 28 (1995) of this Bulletin entitled Oregon Fever - From Territory to Statehood.
- 19) Meriwether Lewis and William Clark founded a Fort Clatsop on the Pacific coast of Oregon in December 24, 1805. However, the fort was abandoned on March 23, 1806.
- 20) PBS reports that Lewis and Clark mentioned in 1804 that “ The Chinooks were accustomed to white traders. ”

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For further details see www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/native/chi.html.

- 21) In fact, this is even before the first whites are reported to have entered Nevada in 1776 according to William Rowley as described above. The original name of the town was El Dorado, which in Spanish refers to the Golden King of Colombia whose kingdom is said to have provided gold for much of the Aztec, Mayan and Incan cultures. In fact, the site had been previously mined by the Native Americans and abandoned after most of the gold had been removed. Subsequently, the canyon leading out of Nelson was also named Eldorado Canyon.
- 22) Other submerged ghost towns include Callville, El Dorado Canyon, Junction City, Honey Lake, St. Thomas, and Smiths.
- 23) The original spelling of Las Vegas was changed to Los Vegas in order to differentiate it from Las Vegas, New Mexico, an important town on the Old Spanish Trail. The masculine article “ Los ” was intentionally used as the name of the post office and subsequently applied to the settlement itself.
- 24) Paher states that this discovery was made by westbound emigrants in 1849. See *Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*, p. 63.
- 25) The original name of Dayton in 1849 was Chinatown due to the large number of Chinese who had gathered to “ assist ” miners. During the first several years of its existence, Dayton was a seasonal mining camp, and its first permanent building was not built until 1857. Therefore, Dayton is not usually considered to be the oldest mining town.
- 26) Carson City also became home to one of three mints in the United States. The others are located in San Francisco, which processed California ’s Mother Lode gold into coin currency, and Denver, which processed gold taken from Colorado ’s Pike ’s Peak Gold Rush. Carson City became home to silver coin production.
- 27) The transcontinental railroad was completed the following year (1869) when the Central Pacific construction crew from San Francisco (California) connected their line with the Union Pacific construction crew from Omaha (Nebraska) at Promontory Point (Utah). The Central Pacific construction started earlier than the Union Pacific construction in order to be able to ship silver and gold from Nevada ’s mines to San Francisco where it could be transported to the East Coast. The importance of Reno as a transportation hub continued until the end of the 19th century when the Comstock Lode ended.
- 28) Potosi even boasted its own handwritten newspaper published by Jay. A. Talbott called East of the Nevadas: The Miners Voice from the Colorado, which was published from February 19, 1861. The mine ceased operations in 1863, and reopened again in 1870, when the name of the town was changed to Crystal City. This venture was also short lived.
- 29) It is predicted by some that the second half of the naughties will begin a new population trend based on changes in the economic conditions of neighboring California and a general decrease in the baby-boomer generation population. Others disagree, however, sighting new immigration from nearby Mexico which may continue to feed the current double digit growth of the first half of the decade.
- 30) This is calculated from the establishment of Genoa in 1850.
- 31) Included in the metropolitan area and immediate vicinities of Carson City are, Gregory ’s Mill, Empire City, Curry ’s Warm Springs, Cedar Creek Station, Genoa, Van Sickles, Mottsville and Sheridan, in the Reno-Sparks area are the former towns of Wedekind, Auburn, Lake ’s Crossing, Glendale, Hunter ’s Station, Galena and Junction House, and in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Area are Alunite, Goodsprings, Jean and Las Vegas Ranch.

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