

MORMON PIONEER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA (MPNHA)

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in partnership with

History of Sanpete County namesake explored in Discovery Road

Little is known about Chief Sanpitch, leader of the Sanpits, a band of Ute Indians who were living in the Sanpete Valley at the time Mormon pioneers arrived.

Chief Sanpitch, for whom Sanpete County was named, was the father of Black Hawk and brother of Chiefs Wakara and Arapeen.

In "The Lost Tomahawk" the newest show in the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area's award-winning TV series, Discovery Road, host James Nelson takes the viewer on a journey to find out who Sanpitch was and learn more about his life.

In telling the story of Sanpitch, "The Lost Tomahawk" he traces the journey of the chief's tomahawk, which has been handed down for several generations in a local family. Native American voices also offer insight into Sanpitch, what he fought for, and what he stood for in those long-ago battles.

In the show, a contemporary Ute tribal elder, Forrest S. Cuch, reads words spoken by Sanpitch during treaty negotiations: "Our people adapted to this land over centuries and it is a part of us. We're not willing to break away so quick, these lands are sacred to us. They're who we are, we're earth people. We're native people of the earth with our heart and soul."

"The Lost Tomahawk" is the third Discovery Road show focused on the Native Americans who were the first inhabitants of the heritage area.

"Utah's Blackhawk War—Cultures in Conflict" tells the story of the conflict that broke out as the American Civil War came to a close and the Territory of Utah erupted with violence as Ute Indians and Mormon settlers clashed over the same land.

"Native Americans and Sacred Water" highlights the importance of water in Native American culture and art.



Ute tribe story teller and Viet Nam veteran Larry Cesspooch at the warrior statue at the Bottle Hollow Veteran's Memorial on the Ute Reservation in Fort Duchesne, Utah. Cesspooch draws on his own war experience to comment on the long ago war story of Chief Sanpitch in the Discovery Road show "The Lost Tomahawk."

