LIFE ALONG THE GRADE:
THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE
CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS,
BOX ELDER COUNTY, UTAH

Kenneth P. Cannon
Jonathan M. Peart
Houston Martin
USU Archeological Services, Inc.
Molly Boeka Cannon
Museum of Anthropology, Utah State University
Chris Dunker
Dunker Imaging

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Environment and Working Conditions
Wherever we put them, we found them good... and they worked into our favor to such an extent that if we found we were in a hurry for a job of work, it was better to put Chinese on at once.

-Central Pacific Railroad contractor Charles Crocker
Previous Research
Methods
Bovine

- Served as a Section Station from 1869 to about 1905.
- In 1869 the facilities included a section house, train car body, Chinese bunk and cook house.
- 1870 census documents 2 white foreman and 17 Chinese workers were in residence.
Ombey

• Served as a Section Station from 1878 to about 1910.
• Also had a wye constructed in 1900 to turn the newer heavier locomotives.
• 1881 records indicate the presence of a section house, tool house, Chinese bunk and cook house.
Terrace

- Served as CPRR maintenance and repair headquarters for the Salt Lake Division from 1869-ca. 1910.
- Extensive facilities existed to service the railroad, but also to support a community that at its height may have included 1,000 residents.
- After completion of the Lucine Cutoff and the movement of the maintenance shops to Carlin, Nevada the town faded.
- 1870 census documented 22 Chinese men aged 14-55 and 1 28-yr old Chinese women.