



## **Growth Summit to Feature Voice from the Past (18 Feb. 09)**

*By Karen Lambert*

One of the earliest Mormon settlers to enter Cache Valley will “come back from the past” to discuss long-term planning with area residents at the Envision Cache Valley Growth Summit next week. A woman dressed as Mary Anne Weston Maughan will discuss the pioneers’ legacy.

“I think she’ll be a good reminder that the early settlers made certain decisions that impact our lives today,” said Christie Oostema, project manager with Envision Utah, “and the choices of course that we make now will influence the lives of future generations.”

Followed by a presentation from Envision Utah, and several speakers including a full-time homemaker, business leader, agricultural educator and others, that message will kick off several months of community planning for Cache Valley.

“This is completely open,” said Tom Jensen, co-chairman of the Envision Cache Valley Steering Committee and a local architect. Jensen added that they’re especially encouraging high school and college students to come. “This is really their valley,” he said. “It’s something they’re going to inherit as five or 10 years from now they’re going to have families and they’ll be interested in how the valley is formed. So we’d like to have their input. They have a different perspective from someone who is 60 or 70 years old.”

In addition from encouraging those from a wide range of ages and perspectives to attend, the organizers also hope to attract residents from both the Utah and Idaho portions of the valley.

Co-Chairman and Franklin County Commissioner Dirk Bowles represents Idaho residents — and hopes he sees some good attendance. However, he said the economy has slowed growth, and as a result people are not as concerned about growth issues. “I think it’s going to be a little harder to get people there,” he said, while acknowledging he’s seen good support from some in his county.

Following the kickoff meeting will be a series of workshops across the valley for what Envision Cache Valley leaders have designed to be a grassroots effort that allows people to direct the community’s future. Organizers hope to get hundreds of Utah and Idaho residents to attend both the kickoff and follow-up meetings. At the workshops, residents will be able to vote for their recommendations using interactive technology and see their own and others’ votes instantly.

If you go ...

**What:** Envision Cache Valley Growth Summit is the public kickoff of Envision Cache Valley. Organizers call it “A fun and informative look at the past with an eye toward the future. An opportunity to learn about the process, get involved and ask questions.”

**When:** 7 p.m. Wednesday Feb. 25

**Where:** Logan Tabernacle, 50 N. Main St.