**For Immediate Release (July 7, 2014)**

**Beehive Archive**
Welcome to the Beehive Archive—your weekly bite-sized look at some of the most pivotal—and peculiar—events in Utah history.  With all of the history and none of the dust, the Beehive Archive is a fun way to catch up on Utah's past.  Beehive Archive is a production of the Utah Humanities Council, provided to local papers as a weekly feature article focusing on Utah history topics drawn from our award-winning radio series, which can be heard each week on KCPW and Utah Public Radio.

**The Journey of Gobo Fango**
**Gobo Fango, an enslaved boy from southern Africa, journeyed to Utah in 1861.**

Born about 1855 near the Cape of Good Hope in what is now the Republic of South Africa, Gobo Fango was shaped by hardship.

While still a small child, Gobo Fango's mother – displaced by constant war and bitter famine – allowed him to be indentured to a white South African family called the Talbots.  Missionaries converted the Talbot Family to Mormonism and soon they were making preparations to join other church members in Utah.  When the Talbots finally set sail for the United States, Gobo Fango was forced to accompany them, due to his indentured status.

Arriving just as the Civil War broke out in 1861, a crowd tried to liberate him in Chicago, but to no avail.  Thus, when the Talbots at last reached Utah and settled in Kaysville, Gobo Fango was still a slave.  There is evidence that he remained so, even after the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution permanently abolished all forms of involuntary servitude across the United States in 1865.

Fango lived in a shed behind the Talbot house, and worked for the family into his teens, when he was sold to the neighboring Whitesides Family.  Fango eventually moved from Kaysville to Grantsville in Tooele County, where he built up his own flock of sheep.  But he did not go freely.  The husband of one of the Whitesides daughters had purchased him from the Davis County branch of the family.

By the 1880s, Fango had moved to Idaho in order to run sheep in the Goose Creek Valley.  Tensions between cattlemen and sheepmen were running high at the time, and Fango was killed in a dispute over grazing rights.  The cattleman charged with his murder was twice acquitted of the crime.  Fango's grave in the Oakley, Idaho, cemetery is marked by a simple inscription: "Gobo Fango, died February 10, 1886, 30 years old."

*Beehive Archive is a production of the Utah Humanities Council.  Sources consulted in the creation of the Beehive Archive and past episodes may be found at www.utahhumanities.org/BeehiveArchive.htm. Brandon Johnson © Utah Humanities Council 2014.*

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