Darren Parry, A Modern Shoshone Leader

Source: *Two parts of a podcast given by Darren Parry, the former chairman of the Northwest Band Tribal Council of the Shoshone Nation and the great-grandson of Sagwitch, Shoshone Chief. The Shoshone occupied the land in Northern Utah on the border of Utah and Idaho. Found at* https://byustudies.byu.edu/article/voice-from-the-dust-a-shoshone-perspective-on-the-bear-river-massacre/#footnote-010

"In the summer of 1847, Sagwitch received word that a group of white settlers was making its way through Wyoming toward the Salt Lake Valley. On July 31, 1847, Sagwitch and other men greeted Brigham Young and the first group of pioneers. Sagwitch did not meet with the prophet that day because of Young's illness but instead met with Heber C. Kimball. At the conclusion of their meeting, Heber C. Kimball said, "The land belongs to our father in heaven, and we calculate to plow and plant it; and no man shall have the power to sell his inheritance for he can not remove it; it belongs to the Lord." Within months, disputes arose between the pioneers and the Shoshone over the land and the payment of rent. Chief Sagwitch's life was about to get complicated…."

"Our conversion into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is now the story [of the Northwest Band of Shoshone]. It serves as a backdrop of who we are today and how that differentiates us from other tribes. Accepting an organized religion taught us principles of hard work and success. We were taught to farm, work hard, pay our taxes, and contribute to society. It made us better equipped to handle a changing world… The vast majority of us live along the Wasatch Front. We are your neighbors. We are active participants in our communities."