Russell Springs is 125 years old!

Lieut. Julian R. Fitch, in his survey of the Smoky Hill route, reported to David A. Butterfield, Superintendent of the Butterfield Overland Despatch, that on the proposed Butterfield route, fifty miles west of Castle Rock, they found the largest spring on the entire river, situated at Ogallah Creek (later Spring Creek) in a pleasant valley one-half mile north of the Smoky Hill. Here **Eaton Station** was established, named for Col. Isaac Eaton, leader of the survey party, and it was made a "home" or "eating" station on the Butterfield stage route.

In 1866, after the Butterfield Overland Despatch sold out to Ben Holladay, who then sold to Wells Fargo, the name of the station was changed to **Russell's Springs**. The station was abandoned by 1869. Settlers started arriving as early as 1881.

from the St. John County Times, December 23, 1886

The Pioneer Town Site Company held a full meeting at the office of Dr. Hilts in Oakley last Tuesday. The committee on names reported their choice as **Russell Springs,** as the spot had borne that name for many years. They then proceeded to elect officers.... The engineer is on site laying out the lots....

from the St. John County Times, December 30, 1886

There will soon be 220 residence lots and 20 business lots put up and drawn for. Tickets $10 each and no blanks. Every ticket holder will get a lot. This is a rare chance to get a lot in **Russell Springs.** The drawing takes place January 26, 1887.

The new town site company is offering extra inducements to any party that will build a first class hotel in Russell Springs. A fine school house will also be built, and these, with the prospect of a fine park, in which will be placed a beautiful lake from the pure spring water, and the great abundance of building stone near, will make a very desirable place for those who are looking for new openings.