

ALONG THE WEBER RIVER.

On the 4th of August I left Salt Lake City for Summit county, for the purpose of gathering there such historical information as may enable me to write a history of the Summit Stake of Zion, and its respective wards. Up to date I have visited Parley's Park, Wanship, Rockport, Peoa, Oakley, Kamas, Hoytville, Coalville and Upton, and today I finish up with Echo and Hennefer. I have held meetings with the Saints in all these settlements, with the exception of Parley's Park, and have had a good and enjoyable time.

The Summit Stake of Zion includes nearly all the Saints residing in Summit county, Utah, and also two wards in Uintah county, Wyo., and one branch at Rock Springs, Sweet Water county, Wyo. The whole Stake consists of fourteen organized wards and one branch, with a total membership of 3937 souls, distributed among 724 families. The largest ward in the Stake is Almy, Wyo., which contains 803 members. The other wards, graded according to size, range as follows: Peoa, 426 members; Kamas, 419; Coalville North, 333; Coalville South, 323; Hennefer, 285; Coalville East, 276; Hoytville, 249; Upton, 159; Parley's Park, 154; Wanship, 126; Evanston, 124; Rockport, 120; Rock Springs (a branch), 108, and Echo, 32.

Coalville, the headquarters of the Stake and also the county seat of Summit county, is pleasantly situated on Chalk creek, near the confluence of that stream with the Weber, and has upwards of one thousand inhabitants, including those residing up in Spring Hollow near the coal mines, and those who live on farms along Chalk Creek and on the Weber, both below and above the town. A large proportion of the population are coal miners, in the employ of the Home Coal Company. About two years ago Coalville was divided into three wards, since which Wm. Hodson has presided over the North, George Beard over the South and Joseph Wright over the East ward as Bishops. Near the center of the town stands the Stake House, a fine structure which already has cost a large sum of money, and is not finished yet, although in use for Stake conferences and other large meetings. Coalville is 43 miles by nearest practical road east northeast of Salt Lake City. Its altitude is about 5550 feet above sea level.

Hoytville ward embraces the scattered settlers living between Coalville and Wanship, the center of the ward (where a new brick meeting house is beautifully situated on a prominence overlooking the valley for a long distance up and down, being three miles south of Coalville. Wm. Sargent is the bishop of this ward, where also one of the few remaining pioneers of 1847 (R. Jackson Reddin) resides.

Wanship ward consists of the village of Wanship and a few scattered settlers residing at different points on the Weber and up Silver Creek. The village of Wanship is beautifully situated in the mouth of Silver Creek canyon, on the west bank of the Weber river. It has the largest ward house of any of the surrounding settlements, and possesses a number of natural facilities.

The great draw back to the settlement, however, of late years, has been the fouling of the water of Silver Creek—once as clear and pure as could be found in the mountains—by the mills and concentrating works at Park City, which are situated on the headwaters of the stream, about fifteen miles southwest. Wanship is thirty-five miles by nearest road from Salt Lake city, and eight miles southwest of Coalville. Elder Andrew Peterson, President of the High Priest's quorum, in the Summit Stake, resides in the Wanship ward.

Rockport, containing twenty-one families, is a thrifty village situated at the mouth of Three Mile canyon, near the west bank of the Weber river, three and a half miles south of Wanship. The Salt Lake meridian line passes right through this place, to which belongs some of the best meadow and farming land on the Weber. John M. Malin is the bishop.

Peoa ward consists chiefly of a string town situated on the east side of the Weber River three and a half miles southeast of Rockport or fifteen miles from Coalville and thirty-eight miles by nearer road from Salt Lake City. Most of the farming land, belonging to this settlement, lies on the bench east of the town while the narrow strip of low lands lying along the river is mostly used for pasture and meadows. Stephen Walker presides here as bishop.

Leaving Peoa to go to Kamas along the left hand road, the traveler follows Fort Creek, (on which Peoa is situated) until the top of the bench is reached, where he at once finds himself in a broad open valley, extending southward for about ten miles, with an average width of nearly three miles. About due east of the point where the top of the bench is reached, is the mouth of the upper Weber canyon nearly two miles distant, and following the course of the Weber from the point where it enters the valley westward, it is seen making a great bend, changing its course from a westerly to a northerly direction, a short distance south of Peoa. Looking southward the town of Kamas is in plain view, but before getting there, we reach a little village called Oakley, clustered around a flouring mill situated on the north bank of the Weber and surrounded by some excellent farming land. Here is a branch of the Church with C. Jensen as presiding Elder who acts under the direction of the Peoa bishopric. This place is two and a half miles southeast of the village of Peoa.

Five miles south of Oakley or seven miles by nearest road southeast of Peoa lies the town of Kamas, on a high bench about midway between the Weber river on the north and the Provo river on the south. This is the famous Rhoades valley, thus named after Father Thomas Rhoades, who became the first settler here by locating a ranch a short distance north-east of where Kamas now stands, as early as 1856. Kamas is 6304 feet above the level of the sea, which accounts for its cool and invigorating summer nights and its uninterrupted sleighing facilities in the winter. The absence of trees in this open valley gives the substantial residences with which it abounds an opportunity to show off to advantage, and the hand of thrift and industry

is visible all around. Samuel F. Atwood, the Bishop of the ward, can congratulate himself upon occupying about as "exalted a position" as most any other Bishop in the Church at the present time. His authority, ecclesiastical head in his ward, extends to the tops of the mountains all around.

Parley's Park ward embraces all the Saints residing in Parley's Park, including the valley of Snyderville and Park City. Snyderville is situated on the headwaters of East Canyon creek, about four miles north of Park City, is the headquarters of the ward. This place nestles pleasantly at the foot of the Wasatch mountains, near the Utah Central railway, twenty-six miles from Salt Lake City. George M. Pace, who lives on Silver Creek about six miles northeast of Snyderville, is the Bishop of Parley's Park ward, and William Archibald, of Snyderville, is his Counselor.

Upton ward consists of the scattered settlers residing on Chalk Creek, east of Coalville. After passing through a canyon in going up the creek, the country opens up a little, leaving narrow strips of meadow and farming land along the main creek and tributaries, which has been claimed and settled upon by our brethren. The centre of the Upton ward, or the point where the school house stands, is about ten miles east of Coalville, but there are ranches and farms occupied by members of the Church, extending ten miles farther out. John Clark presides over the Upton ward as Bishop.

Echo is the smallest ward in the Summit Stake. The statistical report gives the number of families at 12, but Elias Asper, the Bishop of the ward, could only count six families who actually belonged to the Church and who meet regularly for worship in a room of the Bishop's residence. Echo of today is but a small village compared with the Echo City that created such an excitement for a short time when the Union Pacific Railway was being built through here in 1868-9. It was one of those temporary cities peculiar to its day which sprang into existence in the course of a few days and disappeared again as the terminus of the road was moved further westward.

Hennefer is the lowest town on the Weber within the limits of Summit County. It lies four miles northwest of Echo on the west bank of that river, and on the old overland road first traveled by the Utah pioneers of 1847. About two miles below this place the Weber Valley narrows into a real canyon known here as the "Narrows" where such local curiosities as the "Thousand Mile Tree," the "Devil's Slide," the "Devil's Looking Glass," etc., are pointed out to the overland traveler, as he now, in lieu of mule and ox teams—or even hand carts—passes swiftly through at his ease, seated in a stately Pullman railway car.

The Upper Weber Valley, commencing at the head of the "Narrows" and extending in a southerly direction for a distance of about twenty-two miles until it opens out into Rhoades' Valley, has perhaps an average width of nearly three-quarters of a mile. The adjacent mountains on either side are generally low and afford pasture for large flocks of sheep and also some cattle. Small grain is raised very successfully