

*Written for this Paper.*  
THROUGH ARIZONA.

MESA, Maricopa County, Arizona, May 14, 1894.

Leaving Thatcher, Graham County, Arizona, on the 3rd inst., I traveled 48 miles to Bowie station, on the Southern Pacific railway. While crossing the so-called "Big Hollow," where the mail coach was robbed a few months ago, a number of men on foot "hove" in sight on the brow of the hill ahead of us. As we had just been conversing about the recent robbery, our first impression was that they were highwaymen, and that we had better prepare for the worst. One young man who was returning from the mines with considerable money about his person instinctively drew out his "fat" pocket book and stuck it into an empty mail sack lying at his feet, remarking while doing so, that the robbers would not be very apt to look for booty in an empty mail sack. A few moments later, as the supposed robbers came nearer, we could see they were Mexicans, marching along in single file, and when they came up even with the coach, sure enough they motioned to the driver to stop; but instead of commanding us to hold up hands, they asked politely for something to eat, as they were hungry, having walked already a long distance. A portion of our lunches were readily handed out, and we continued our journey much relieved, particularly our young friend with the money. On our arrival at the station we learned that on that very day tracklaying had commenced on a branch road which is being built from Bowie station to Solomonville; and that it was expected to have cars running into the latter place by the 1st of July next. This will bring our settlements on the Gila within easy reach of the railroad, Solomonville being within five miles from Layton, the nearest Mormon town.

A railway ride of 67 miles brought me to Benson, where Bishop Peter A. Lofgreen met me with a team and took me to his home on the San Pedro river. The next day (May 4th) we held a special meeting at St. David and attended to the usual labor of gathering historical information.

The St. David ward embraces all the Saints residing on the San Pedro river, numbering 37 families, or 220 souls. Only 14 families reside on the townsite of St. David, while the remainder live in a scattered condition both above and below, the settlement extending north and south about ten miles. The upper part of the settlement is known as Macdonald, thus named in honor of President Alexander F. Macdonald, now of Mexico. For a short time (from 1883 to 1885) an organized ward of that name existed, but owing to the smallness of the membership it was amalgamated with the St. David ward. The village of St. David is situated on rising ground about half a mile east of the San Pedro river, and one mile from the flag station on the railway on the opposite side of that stream. It is seven miles southeast of Benson, and 55 miles southeast from the old Mexican town Tucson, about 37 miles due north of the boundary line between the United States and Mexico, and over one hundred miles by nearest wagon road southwest of Thatcher, the headquarters of the St. Joseph Stake, to which the St. David ward belongs. It

is the southernmost of all the settlements of the Saints in the United States, being situated south of 32° north latitude; the altitude is about 3600 feet. St. David was first settled by Philemon C. Merrill and company in 1877 and organized as a ward in 1882. It was named St. David in honor of Apostle David W. Patton, who was martyred in Missouri in 1838. When the St. Joseph Stake of Zion was organized in 1883, St. David was made the headquarters of the same, but a few years later, when the bulk of the membership was found to be on the Gila river, and President Christopher Layton moved over there, Thatcher, in Graham county, became headquarters. The facilities for large settlements on the San Pedro are limited, through scarcity of water. The river, which flows in a deep channel, is also hard to control. If flowing wells prove a success in this part of the country, which is fondly anticipated, it will open up a bright and prosperous future for St. David. On the 19th of February last, Joseph A. and John K. McRae, and grandsons of the late Bishop Alexander McRae, of Salt Lake City, obtained a beautiful artesian flow which (so far as is known,) was the first of its kind in the Territory of Arizona. The McRaes sank a two-inch pipe and struck the water at a depth of 276 feet; the flow, which increases steadily, is about 24,000 gallons per day. The same parties are now sinking a six-inch pipe near by their first well, and all the people are anxiously awaiting further developments. This pioneer artesian well is about three miles north of the St. David townsite, in a neighborhood known as Marcus—a part of the St. David ward.

The San Pedro river rises in Mexico beyond the Sierra de San Jose, takes a northwesterly course and finally puts into the Gila about one hundred miles northwest of St. David. The valley of the San Pedro—reckoning from the boundary line on the south to a point where it enters a box canyon on the northwest—is about 55 miles long; at the point where St. David is situated it is nearly 18 miles wide, but the lower valley—from the base of the Mesa on the east to the Mesa on the west—is only about three miles wide. The Huachuca mountains on the southwest, the Whitestone ditto on the west, the Dragon range on the east, and the Galluro mountains on the north define the shape and extent of the San Pedro valley. The point on the river where the Mormon Battalion boys had their famous fight with the buffalos is about 30 miles south of St. David; but the command in continuing its historical march toward Tucson passed within two or three miles of where St. David now stands.

From St. David I returned to Benson, where I boarded the train and traveled 133 miles, via Tucson, to Maricopa Station. From there I went by train on the Maricopa and Phoenix railroad, 27 miles to Tempe, on Salt River. This place is 9 miles southeast of Phoenix, the capital of Arizona. From Tempe I traveled by stage 7 miles east to Mesa, the headquarters of the Maricopa Stake of Zion, where Elder George Passey made me comfortable in his hospitable home.

Since my arrival in this part of the country I have been busily engaged writing the history of the Maricopa

Stake of Zion, which comprises five organized wards, with a total membership of 2,446 souls. Of this number 1,219 are Indians, who belong to the Papago ward, and the Southern Mission.

The principal Mormon settlement on Salt River is Mesa, which is situated on a level bench or mesa, that is about 30 feet higher than the river bottom below. Mesa is a regularly laid out town, containing beautiful orchards, lovely vineyards, fine brick residences and a thrifty population. The strength of the Mesa ward is 97 families or 637 souls; but besides these there are quite a number of non-Mormons. The pride of Mesa is the Zenos co-operative mercantile institution, which was run very successfully for many years by Elder George Passey. It has always paid its shareholders a good dividend, and been a great help to the Saints in this locality. Mesa was first settled in 1877, principally by Saints from Bear Lake County, Idaho.

Lehi ward is situated about 3 miles northeast of Mesa; it comprises 29 families, or 193 souls, of Saints who live scattered on their respective homesteads. Thos. E. Jones is the Bishop; and Elders Edward E. Jones and Thos. P. Biggs are his Counselors. This is the oldest settlement of the Saints on Salt River; it was founded by Dan W. Jones and company in 1878. Some of the first settlers still live here, among whom Elder Henry C. Rogers, first Counselor in the Stake Presidency.

Papago ward lies immediately north of the Lehi ward; it comprises at present 590 Indians, mostly Pimas, and 4 families, or 26 souls, of white people, among whom George F. Tiffany, the Bishop. His only Counselor is Incarnatio Valenzuela, one of the most intelligent Indians that I have ever met. He speaks Spanish fluently, besides the Papago and Maricopa languages; he also understands English, but does not like to speak it. Besides the Indians belonging to the ward directly, there are 629 baptized Indians who roam over the desert on the south. Elder Henry C. Rogers has immediate charge of these and visits them, in connection with Elder Valenzuela, as often as circumstances will permit. Sunday schools and meetings are held regularly in the Papago ward school house, which was built a few years ago on the corner of a school section one mile north of the Lehi ward house. The Indians farm and raise stock; some of them live in pretty good houses, and are learning many of the more civilized habits and ways of their white Mormon neighbors, who have been their friends from the beginning.

Alma ward embraces a tract of country lying immediately west of Mesa; it contains 43 families, or 261 souls, and is presided over by Bishop Alexander Hunsaker, whose Counselors are Joseph A. Stewart and Amos Hawkes. The Alma meeting house, a fine little brick building, and the best meeting house in the Stake, is situated about 1½ miles southwest of Mesa. Alma is an outgrowth of Mesa. The first settlers came here in January, 1881, and the ward was first organized June 15, 1884.

West of Alma is the Nephi ward, containing 17 families of Saints, or 110 souls. Samuel Openshaw is Bishop, with B. Forland Johnson and Noah Brimhall as Counselors; Daniel F. Johnson is ward clerk. The Nephi ward embraces a tract of country one mile wide and ex-