

DEATH OF JAS. D. HIRST.

James David Hirst died at Paradise, Cache County, Utah, of general debility, on Thursday, May 23rd, 1890. Deceased was born at Leicester, England, January 2nd, 1833, and embraced the gospel in his native town March 19th, 1848. During his seventeenth year was ordained a Priest and accompanied the Elders evenings and on the Sabbath preaching the gospel in the town and county in which he was born. On the first Sunday in June, 1855, was ordained an Elder and appointed to labor in the Leicestershire Conference. January, 1857, was called to travel in the Derbyshire Conference. When the Elders were called home during the Echo Canyon troubles Brother Hirst determined to gather to Zion with them, but on his arrival in Liverpool President Asa Calkins called him to labor in the Sheffield Conference. At a General Conference held in Birmingham, 1859, Brother Hirst was appointed to the Warwickshire Conference. The same year he was moved to the Birmingham Conference, and on the 12th day of April, 1860, succeeded Elder Charles C. Shaw as president of the Lincolnshire Conference. Emigrated to Zion April 22nd, 1861; settled in Ogden in September of the same year. Married Harriet Tarry October 18, 1861; moved to Paradise in the year 1863, and was an active worker in the ministry all his days, being president of the Teachers for fifteen years. Called on a mission to England, 1883, was president of the Nottingham Conference, doing a good work, his health broke down and he was released to come home, was acting Bishop of Paradise for three years. At the last fall conference held in Logan he was called as a home missionary. During the severe winter he took a cold from which he never recovered. His funeral took place at 10 a. m. on Sunday May 25th.

Brother Hirst was a just and upright man, outspoken yet tender in his associations. He loved God and His work better than all earthly things. Only a few days before his death he called his family around him and bore a powerful testimony of the work of God and the divine mission of Joseph Smith. He was a man who scattered sunshine everywhere he went, being jovial, contented and happy himself, he tried to make others the same.

Respectfully,

CHARLES C. SHAW.
HYRUM CITY, Cache County,
U. T., June 25.

THE POTTS TRAGEDY.

The fact that Mr. and Mrs. Potts were residents of this city some years ago, and the further fact that their victim, Miles Fawcett, had relatives here, is sufficient justification for presenting additional particulars of their crime and its discovery, which have come to hand since our last article in reference to the matter.

Wednesday, June 26, Mr. Robert

Aveson, an employe of this office and the murdered man's nephew, met and conversed with Mr. Jesse English, who was a resident of Carlin, Nevada, at the time of the murder, and until after the remains were discovered. Mr. English was personally acquainted with all of the parties connected with the tragedy, and was familiar with the circumstances attending it.

As has been previously stated, the murder was committed on New Year's night, January 1st, 1888. On the evening of that day a dance was held in Carlin. While it was in progress Mr. Potts was observed to drive past the building in which it was being conducted, in Miles Fawcett's sleigh, and with his horses. Later in the night Potts was seen to return to the settlement driving Fawcett's horses, which were attached to a new wagon belonging to the murdered man. The supposition is that Potts went to Fawcett's ranch in the sleigh, which he left there, and brought back the new wagon. The latter was seen next day on Potts' premises. The horses were placed in charge of a neighbor. Two or three days later inquiries began to be made as to Fawcett's whereabouts when the Pottses offered the explanation, as before stated, that he had suddenly been called east and had given them a bill of sale of all his property.

This explanation did not satisfy the people of Carlin. It was believed that there had been foul play, and a party was organized and engaged in a search for Fawcett's body, as it was suspected he had been murdered by the Potts. His ranch was visited and inspected and the road leading to it searched, but the snow was deep and no clue could be found. Thus the matter rested until the following September, when the Potts family removed to Rock Springs, Wyoming. Some time after their removal a family named Brewer rented the house which they had occupied. About this time a rumor spread through the neighborhood to the effect that the house was "haunted." Mrs. Brewer had been a correspondent of the *Free Press*, published at Elko, and on January 5, 1889, over the signature of "Busy Bee," her usual *nom de plume*, she wrote the following communication to that paper:

"CARLIN, Jan. 5, 1889.

"I have been intending to write to you for several weeks, but you know when one moves to a new place one naturally is kept very busy for a while. And in addition to other matters of interest it is a little exohing when one has the good luck to move into a veritable haunted house. Not many persons have such a thing to happen to them these days. So far the ghost hasn't scared any of us, but he is here just the same. Sometimes he taps on the headboard of the bed; other times he stalks across the kitchen floor, and anon he hammers away at the door, but nobody's there. But the gayest capers of all are cut up in the cellar. There he holds high revels, and upsets the pickles and carries on generally."

It is asserted as absolute truth that the Brewer family frequently heard

unaccountable noises in different parts of the house, particularly in the cellar, and that these strange sounds led to the investigation which resulted in the discovery of Fawcett's remains. Mr. Brewer in company with a railroad conductor named Lewis, took an iron rod, went into the cellar and began a thorough scrutiny of it. While probing around with the rod a soft place was discovered. On the removal of some of the earth human remains were disclosed. The body had been cut to pieces. The head was charred and fleshless, and had been cut up and partially burnt. The legs, arms, and body were in small fragments. The clothing of the murdered man showed evidence of having been partially burnt up; one of the pockets of the pantaloons was intact and contained a pocket-knife, which was recognized as the property of Miles Fawcett.

This discovery occurred Jan. 19, 1889, and greatly strengthened the suspicions which had been hitherto entertained. The Potts family were known to be in Rock Springs, Wyoming and a telegram was sent for their arrest. When the Nevada officers reached Rock Springs, and took the accused couple into custody, Mr. Potts exclaimed, when told of the discovery of the human remains in the cellar, "Why that is old man Fawcett's body," proving conclusively that he and his wife were at least familiar with the disappearance of the murdered man. This evidence is regarded as the strongest link in the chain of proof which led to their conviction. Their statement that Miles Fawcett committed suicide in their house, while somewhat ingenious, was received with incredulity.

The *Elko Free Press* of the 21st inst. contains an account of the crime, the trial and the execution, from which it would appear that Mrs. Potts was a woman of wonderful nerve and self-control. When the verdict of conviction was rendered she seemed the coolest person in the room, and when the sentence of death was pronounced she displayed no emotion. Once or twice while in prison awaiting execution she shed tears, but with these exceptions she showed an unmoved outward appearance. Her husband exhibited considerable firmness, though not so much as did she.

Francis W. Fawcett, of Newington Junction, Connecticut, under date of February 13th, 1890, writes to Mr. Robert Aveson, of this city, as follows:

"My brother Miles has not written to me for nearly four years now, and I am afraid something has happened to him. I can gain no clue to his whereabouts; I have tried every effort in my power or that writing could do, but to no effect so far."

Other relatives of the murdered man have felt great anxiety respecting his whereabouts.

Mr. Jesse English, when shown a photograph of Miles Fawcett, which is in the possession of Mr. Aveson, recognized it instantly, the subject having been for a length of time a personal acquaintance of his.

Residents of the Fifteenth Ward