

# THE DESERT WEEKLY

PIONEER PUBLICATION

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

ESTABLISHED

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

JUNE 1850.

NO. 8.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1893.

VOL. XLVI.

## THE WEBER STAKE.

On the 14th of January, 1893, I commenced my travels for the year in the interest of Church history by performing a journey with horse and buggy from "Rosenberg Villa," south of Salt Lake City, to Ogden, a distance of forty-two miles. My field of labor on this trip is the Weber Stake of Zion. On Sunday and Monday, the 15th and 16th, I attended the regular quarterly conference of the Weber Stake of Zion held in the old historic building known as the Ogden Tabernacle. This noble, yet very unpretentious edifice, has resounded with the voice of inspiration and the sweet music of the songs of Zion almost every Sabbath day and on many other occasions besides, since the year 1857, when it was first erected. The building measures 100 feet from east to west and fifty feet from north to south, and it will comfortably seat 2000 people. A few years ago a change was made in the interior arrangement of the house by which the stand in the west end was lowered and a convenient place prepared for the singers immediately behind the seats occupied by the Priesthood.

On the 16th inst. I commenced my historical labors in the interest of the Weber Stake in the comfortable office of Elder Joseph Stanford, the Stake historian who for many years past has been indefatigable in gathering together historical data pertaining to this part of the country. With his assistance I expect to make as good and complete a history of the Saints on the Weber as has ever been written of any of the Stakes of Zion hitherto.

The Weber Stake consists of 23 organized Bishop's wards, with a total membership of 12,014, or 2,335 families. This total embraces 1 Apostle, 5 Patriarchs, 607 Seventies, 231 High Priests, 839 Elders, 84 Priests, 189 Teachers, 457 Deacons, 6,117 lay members and 3,484 children under eight years. Lewis W. Shurtliff, formerly Bishop of Plain City, is President of the Stake. Charles F. Middleton, a man who has kept a daily journal since he was a boy, and who has had more or less to do with the organization of every ward in the Stake, acts as First Counselor to President Shurtliff. Nils C. Flygare, extensively known among the Scandinavian Saints from his labors in and presidency of the Scandinavian mission, is the second counselor to the Stake presidency. The High Council at present is com-

posed of the following members: Richard Ballantyne, Francis A. Brown, Austin C. Brown, James M. Brown, Joseph Stanford, Joseph Parry, Orson Badger, Miles H. Jones, Joseph Hall, James Owen, Thomas Doxey, Ephraim Tillotson. The presidency of the High Priests' quorum consists of Lorin Farr, who was the first president of the Weber Stake, and Francis A. Brown and Miles H. Jones. There are nine quorums of Elders in the Stake.

Of the twenty-three wards of which the Stake is composed five are in Ogden City, and fifteen, namely, Mount Fort, Lynne, Marriotts, Slaterville, Harrisville, Far West, North Ogden, Pleasant View, Plain City, Wilson, West Weber, Kaneshville, Hooper, Riverdale and Uintah comprise together one of the most fertile and productive farming districts in the Rocky Mountains, and the farthest of them are within a distance of ten miles of Ogden. The three remaining wards—namely Huntsville, Eden and Liberty—are situated in Ogden valley, lying immediately east of Ogden, and within easy reach of that city by means of one of the best canyon roads made in the west. This road leads through one of the most romantic and picturesque canyons in the Wasatch range of mountains. The distance from Ogden to Huntsville, the largest settlement in Ogden valley, is thirteen miles.

The boundaries of the Weber Stake of Zion are co-extensive with those of Weber county, which is one of the most populous and wealthy counties in Utah. Nearly everything produced on the farm, ranch, and in the orchard finds a ready market at Ogden, which city a great number of the wide-awake and progressive business men in this section of country look upon as the great "hub," around which everything else in the Territory (Salt Lake City not excepted) "revolves" in humble obedience. And sure enough everything in Ogden partakes of a cosmopolitan air; it possesses perhaps everything in the shape of natural advantages and modern improvements that the capital of Utah can boast of including even hot springs (in the vicinity). Its electric railway system, its waterworks, its magnificent business buildings, its well stocked stores, fine residences, extensive parks, etc., are enough to make the Ogden proud of his name, while Ogden is also the greatest rail-

way center in Utah, it is far behind Salt Lake City in its journalistic enterprises. The *Standard* (Republican) and the *Post* (Liberal or Democratic) both daily papers, are the only newspapers published in Weber county so far as I have learned yet, and the number of "ems" in each of these have been considerably cut down since the last election.

Politically the county would, I think, be somewhat evenly divided between the two great national parties, if the Liberal faction was ruled out of existence, which undoubtedly will be the case ere another campaign will be opened in our fair Territory.

If we include the mountaineer Good-year Weber county was settled by white men in 1841 and by the Mormons, in the persons of James Brown and family, in 1848, one year after the founding of Salt Lake City, by President Brigham Young and the brave band of Pioneers who accompanied him. The first ecclesiastical organization in that district of country now included in Weber county dates back to March, 1850, when the now aged Pioneer Lorin Farr was appointed by the authorities of the Church to preside over the "Saints on the Weber;" and the first Stake organization was effected January 26th, 1851, with Lorin Farr as president, and Charles R. Dana and David B. Dille as his counselors. On the same occasion James Lake, Geo. Pitkin, Sen., Samuel Malory, David Birch, Joseph Grover, William Earle, David Moore, Edward Bunker, Phillip Garner, Samuel Stickney, Horace L. Rawson, and Joseph L. Fish were appointed members of the High Council. It is quite an undertaking to trace all the changes that have occurred in that organization alone between the years 1851 and 1893.

This afternoon I start for Ogden valley, to fill appointments, and between now and the 10th of February next I expect to visit every ward in the Weber Stake.

ANDREW JENSON.

OGDEN, Utah, January 31st, 1893.

Egypt's young khedive is likely to find that the reduction of a swollen head to its normal size is sometimes a painful process for the patient.—*Pittsburg Dispatch*.

Yes; it is sometimes accompanied with loss of life and always with loss of consequence.