

**HISTORY.**—That part of the Snake River Valley now included in the Rigby Ward was first settled in 1883, by William W. Parks, William H. Jones, Peter Allen, William Berry and others. In 1885 a branch organization was effected with Daniel S. Robbins as President and named Rigby, in honor of William F. Rigby, Counselor in the Stake Presidency. The new branch was placed under the jurisdiction of the Louisville Ward, and continued thus until May 22, 1886, when a special meeting was held at Rigby, at which Apostle John W. Taylor and other prominent men were present. On that occasion George A. Cordon was ordained a High Priest and Bishop, and set apart to preside over the Rigby Ward, then organized. Daniel S. Robbins was ordained and set apart as his first and Josiah Call as his second Counselor. This Bishopric still stands unchanged.

In 1886—87, the ward meeting house, a small log building, 18x32 feet, was erected near the townsite. A postoffice was established in 1889.

#### SALEM WARD.

George Henry Burrison Harris, Bishop; David Nielsen, First Counselor; Augustus Weber Rehnapp, Second Counselor.

Salem Ward embraces an area of country containing about thirty square miles, lying on both sides of the North Teton, extending west and north to Henry's Fork of Snake River, east to the Wilford Ward and south to Rexburg. The country is level and productive, and is irrigated from the North Teton and Henry's Fork of Snake River. There are three irrigating canals within the limits of the ward, namely, 1) The Salem Irrigation Canal, 2) The Consolidated Farming Canal, and 3) The Teton Island Canal. From the latter considerable land belonging to Rexburg is watered. The land within the limits of the Salem Ward is all taken up, but can be bought very cheap, as more settlers are wanted.

The ward has a good Sunday school and all other usual ward organizations, and only a few non-Mormons reside there.

The townsite of Salem contains 320 acres and is part of section 5 in township 6 north of range 40 east, Boise meridian. It is situated on the so-called Teton island, three miles north of Rexburg and twenty-five miles southeast of Market Lake, the nearest railway point. Most of the settlers live on their farms and only a few have built on the townsite as yet.

The Teton Island is formed by the forking of the Teton River at a point between the townsites of Teton and Wilford. While the north branch takes a westerly course to Henry's Fork, the south branch takes a south-westerly direction toward the same stream, thus forming a kind of delta, containing about thirty square miles of good and level farming and grazing land. Most of this belongs to the Salem Ward, while the south side of the island is owned by the Rexburg farmers.

**HISTORY.**—Salem first began to be settled and land claimed in the spring of 1883, the first house being built and occupied by John M. Brannon on the southwest quarter of section 10, in

township 6 north of range 40 east. From that time forward the land was very eagerly sought after, and in a short time nearly all was claimed, and the respective owners commenced to build with the intention of becoming permanent settlers.

In July, 1884, Presidents Thomas E. Ricks and William B. Preston selected the townsite and named it Salem, in honor of the ancient Salem mentioned in the Bible, and the people were advised to build on the site as soon as they had proven up on their land.

In February, 1886, a log meeting house was erected on the townsite by donations. Previous to this meetings and Sunday schools had been held in private houses.

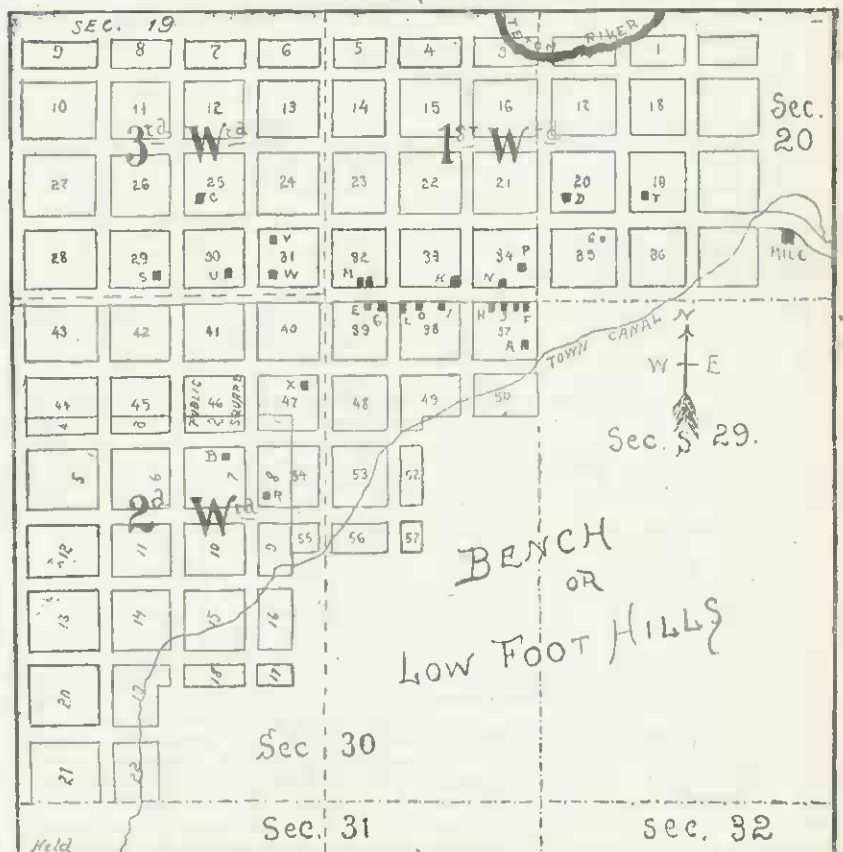
At a quarterly conference held at Rexburg, November 23, 1884, a ward organization was effected at Salem, with George H. B. Harris (who had formerly been a member of the High Council) as Bishop. He acted without Counselors until January 3, 1885, when

James Henry Wilson was ordained a High Priest and set apart to act as his First Counselor, and on February 7th following David Nielsen was set apart as his Second Counselor. At this time there were 61 members of the Church in the ward. May 11, 1890, Counselor Wilson, having removed from the ward, was honorably released from his position, and Augustus W. Belnap was ordained a High Priest and set apart to act as Second Counselor to Bishop Harris, Counselor Nielsen being promoted to the position of First Counselor.

February 7, 1885, the Salem Sunday school was first organized with Arvis C. Dille as superintendent. Subsequently a Relief Society, which is now one of the most prosperous in the Stake, was organized with Martha M. Ward as President.

#### TAYLOR WARD.

William Priest, Bishop; Charles W. Wadsworth, First Counselor. The Taylor Ward consists of thirteen



Plan of Rexburg, Bligham County, Idaho. The townsite embraces parts of Sections 19, 20 and 30 of Township 6 north, Range 40 east, Boise meridian. The full blocks contain ten acres, divided into four lots each. The streets are six rods wide.

#### REFERENCES:

- ..... Section lines of government survey.
- Ward boundary lines.
- A—First Ward Meeting House.
- B—Second Ward Meeting House.
- C—Third Ward Meeting House.
- D—Tithing Office.
- E—Post Office.
- F—Rexburg Co-operative Store—the pioneer store of the town.
- G—Durans Winter & Co., Mercantile House, established in 1885.
- H—Henry Flamm's General Merchandise and Implements.
- I—Paul & Houtz' Store, established in 1883.
- J—Rexburg Press office and Consolidated Implement Co's. offices.
- K—Rexburg House, the first hotel in the

- upper Snake River Valley, Hyrum Rands proprietor.
- L—City Meat Market.
- M—Music Store, W. S. Bramwell, proprietor.
- Watchmaker and Jeweler, C. E. Luthy.
- Blacksmith Shop.
- N—City Blacksmith Shop, J. Brenner, prop.
- O—Livery, Feed & Sale Stables, Paul, Whitney & Lloyd, proprietors.
- P—Residence of Pres. Thos. E. Ricks, sen.
- Q—do. Bishop Thos. E. Ricks, jun.
- R—do. Bishop Casper Steiner.
- S—do. Bishop Timothy J. Winters.
- T—do. Henry Flamm, Esq.
- U—do. Frank S. Bramwell, Esq.
- V—do. Charles I. Durans, Esq.
- W—do. Surveyor A. S. Andersen.
- X—do. Jacob Spori, Esq.