

Hustling Richfield, the Queen of Southern Utah.



Photos by Whyte, Richfield.

BEFORE 1864 the site now occupied by Richfield was a barren waste covered with a growth of sage brush and greasewood. Scattered here and there might be seen groups of the native cotton-wood tree. A stranger looking over the valley might wonder at the peculiar reddish glow that seemed to emanate from the ground, but should he go nearer, he would find that it was caused by the soil which is of a dull brick color.

Early Settlers.
In 1864 a company of about seven men, taken mostly from Sanpete county, was sent down by President Brigham Young, under the direction of Apostle Orson Hyde, to settle up this part of the valley. Their names will

ever hold an honored place in the history of Richfield. Bishop Nelson Hegins was the presiding Elder and the leading spirit. The others were Andrew Paulson, Mr. Glen George Oglevie, Hans O. Hansen, C. O. Hansen, Albert Lewis, Judge Smith, and August Nielson. All the hardships and struggles incident to the settling up of a new country were endured by these sturdy pioneers.

First Buildings.
After two years of strenuous work they succeeded in making a few dug-outs and hand-made adobe houses. Albert Lewis built the first house, which was constructed of cedar posts, willows and mud. They had also been successful in breaking up some land and

raising the crops necessary for their sustenance. Their grists were taken to Manti, about 42 miles north, which contained the nearest flour mill; and then only in companies, because of the danger resulting from Indian attacks. Other families came as they were called by the authorities, or desired to make their homes in the fertile valley of the Sevier.

Indian Troubles.
In '65 the Indians became troublesome, killing several persons and driving off the cattle. Towards the latter part of '65, the settlers were forced to build a rock wall eight feet high around the block where the tabernacle now stands. Twenty-five men were detailed to guard the stock and fort against Indian depredations during the day; at night the stock were driven within the enclosure, and 16 men set on guard.

The Town Clock.
Everybody didn't have a timepiece in those days. There was a clock, however, in the old rich school house; as it struck the hour, the time was made known to the people in the fort by a man striking on a bass drum.

The First Canal.
Notwithstanding the dangers resulting from Indian raids, a canal was surveyed by N. M. Peterson with an improvised level, which he had invented, consisting of a tin pipe and two bottles partly filled with water. The ditch was completed in 1865. They had no implements, such as are now used, for making waterways, but the canal was dug entirely by hand.

Settlers Recalled.
In the spring of '66, the Indians became so bad that the Church authorities called the Richfield pioneers to return north into Sanpete county.

The Final Settlement.
In the spring of '69, a call was again sent out to re-settle Sevier valley.

There was a ready and willing response, and by '74 the town numbered about one hundred families. A public school was again established, and there was one store, owned by Wm. Anderson. The stock in trade consisted of probably one can of coal oil, a belt of calico, a little tea and coffee, and some sugar and salt. The young lady who wanted a new dress might consider herself very fortunate and handsomely tricked out if she could secure a few yards of flowered calico to make it from.

Public Buildings.
A co-op store was also organized by Joseph A. Young, but it soon afterwards failed. The leading men then got together and established the Richfield Co-operative Mercantile Institution. This house continued in business until '97, when the Z. C. M. I. took control. In '99 it was purchased by Thomas Ogden & Sons.

The Workingmen's Store was organized in the late 70's and continued in business until 1900. As the population increased, and the resources of the town were developed, other business houses sprang into existence, among the foremost being the J. M. Peterson and Co.'s big department store on South Main, and later the Model Mercantile Co., and The Regulator Co.

The first bank was established in 1883 by Jas. M. Peterson with a capital stock of \$5,000. It is today one of the strongest banks in the state, doing an extensive business, not only in southern Utah, but throughout the entire country. Mr. James M. Peterson, son of N. M. Peterson, an enterprising young man of unusual business ability, is its president.

In 1899 the Richfield Commercial bank was established with a capital stock of \$25,000, which was increased in 1904 to \$50,000. Under the able management of Guy Lewis, it has also

grown to be one of the strong institutions of the state.

Numbered among the enterprising business houses are the John Christensen Hardware Co., Jensen & Young Hardware Co., The People's Equitable Store, O. P. Borg & Sons' harness and saddle store, Soren Chris. Jensen and Jos. S. Horne & Co., furniture dealers, The Noll Drug Co., and the Pioneer Drug Co. The Richfield Implement Co. and branches of the Consolidated Wagon and Machine Co. and the Studebaker Co.

At the present time Richfield contains two banks, six general merchandise department stores, four implement houses, three hardware stores, two furniture stores, one men's and boy's clothing store, two drug stores, two saloons, one harness dealer, three meat and grocery markets, two bakeries, one restaurant, two confectioneries, three shoe shops, one tailor, three millinery stores, two photographers, three barber shops, two jewelry stores, one undertaker's parlor, two newspapers, two first-class hotels, two livery and feed stables, one creamery, one grain elevator, one electric plant, one roller mill, two planing mills, two lumber companies, four blacksmiths, one marble works, one opera house, and one dancing pavilion.

In 1893 a commodious modern brick schoolhouse was erected. It will accommodate about 500 pupils, they are now employing 11 teachers, Frank K. Seeguller being principal.

The beautiful stone tabernacle was commenced in 1888 and completed in '98. The cost of this building was about \$50,000, raised from voluntary contributions. The building caught fire in October, '97, and was entirely destroyed except the stone walls and they were much damaged. Contributions were immediately taken up, the people responding generously to the call, and the present new structure was erected on the old walls.

Like the Latter-day Saints the world over, the Richfield people like amusements. In the early days they had theaters, dances, concerts, etc., in the meetinghouse, but today it owns an opera house and a dancing pavilion. Richfield is now in the Tri-State Theatrical circuit. The court house was erected in '92 and is built of brick. It contains well equipped offices for all of the county officials, and is modern in every respect.

Water Supply.
Up until 1903 the city received its

water supply from wells and a large spring northwest of the town; but in 1902 Richfield was bonded for \$14,000 and special tax levied. With this money a water system was installed which furnishes the city with an abundant supply of as pure and fresh water as can be found in Utah. The total cost of the water works system was \$30,000.

Electric Light.
In 1904 an electric plant, operated by steam power, was installed by Thomas Brown, which furnishes the city with



RESIDENCE OF CHAS. LAMMERSDORF.



JAS. M. PETERSON'S BANK