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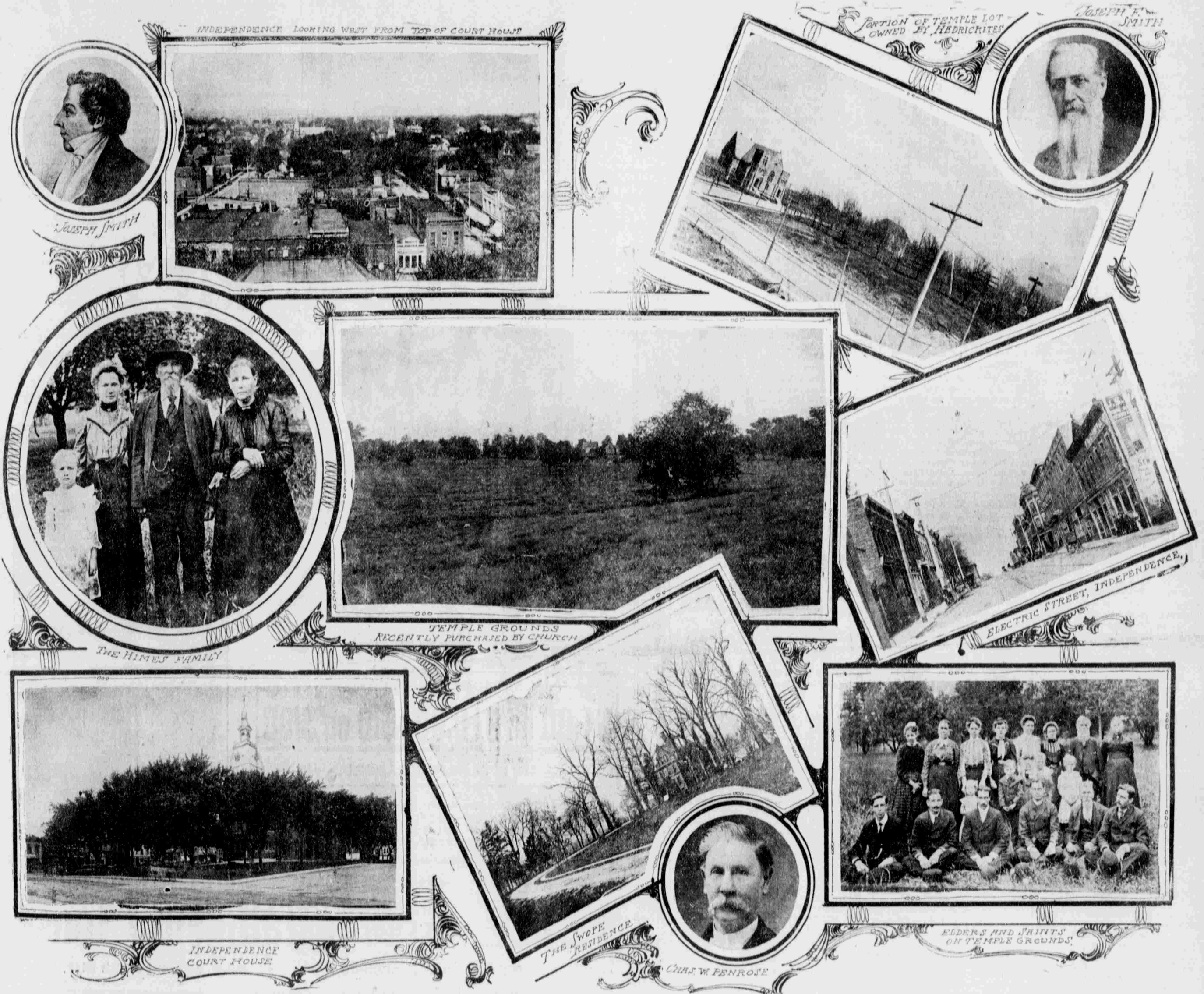
PART TWO.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1904. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR.

The Redemption of Zion in Jackson County, Missouri.

BY CHARLES W. PENROSE,
Editor-in-Chief
Of the Deseret News.



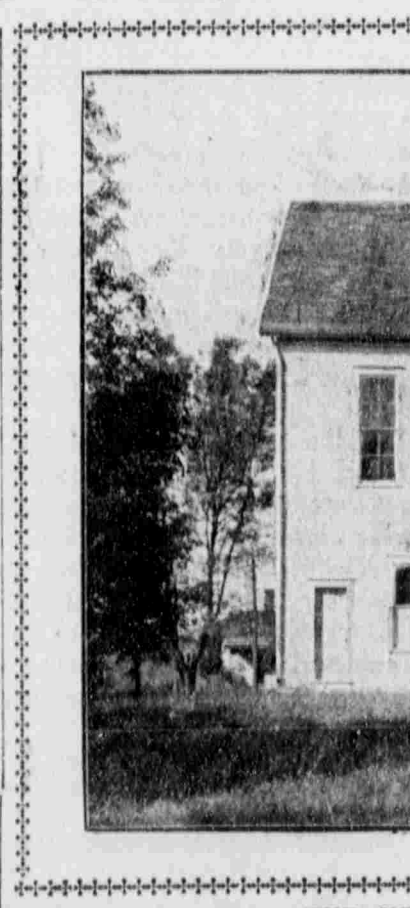
HISTORIC SCENES AND INTERESTING CHARACTERS ASSOCIATED WITH INDEPENDENCE.

THE recent purchase by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints of nearly 28 acres of its former property at Independence, Jackson county, Mo., has awakened new interest as to that historic place, recalled important events that occurred nearly 70 years ago, and revived prophetic impressions about the building up of Zion in the latter days. During a visit to St. Louis to attend the Peace Parliament at the world's fair, the writer, on his way back to the mountains, spent a few hours at Independence, looking over the city and its surroundings, the "Temple lot," the grounds purchased and some of the chief points of interest in that neighborhood. The quiet and pleasant little town is easily reached by electric car lines from Kansas City, and few "Mormon" tourists passing that way fail to make a pilgrimage to the spot which is dear to the heart of every true Latter-day Saint. A good view of Independence is given in the cut accompanying this article, and also of one of its principal streets, which are clean, well macadamized and furnish many beautiful driveways. The town has a good sewerage system, an excellent waterworks system, electric light and gas plants, a well equipped fire department, good schoolhouses, fine churches and handsome private residences.

One of the largest of the churches is that built by the "Reorganized" church, to be seen across the street from the piece of ground owned by the Hedrickites, a view of which is given above, to the right of the general view of the city. It is a commodious edifice, and when the spire which is designed to surmount it is completed it will present a very handsome appearance. The smaller building within the lines of the Temple

lot is the Hedrickite church, a more complete view of which is presented under the other pictures in the plate above. The view in the center of the cuts on this page shows the chief portion of the Swope property purchased by the Church. The Swope residence is seen immediately below it. These grounds adjoin the small piece belonging to the Hedrickites and which they hold as the site selected by the Prophet Joseph Smith, whereon the Temple was to be erected, and which they regard as sacred, and its possession a holy trust reposed in them by the Lord until He shall manifest to them what disposition is to be made of it. The group on the left of the view of the new purchase contains photographs of the keeper of the grounds, Andrew Himes, his wife Almira A., daughter Lucy M. and granddaughter, Minerva Amanda, (generally called Marie Bell). They are standing on the Temple ground. Brother Himes is president of the Independence branch of the Church and his house is a home for the Elders whenever they visit those parts. The group at the lower right hand corner of the plate is composed of a number of Utah Elders and Independence Saints, also taken on the Temple ground.

The view at the left corner is of the present Court house, which is somewhat obscured by the trees surrounding it. Though built on the site of the old Court house, associated with the persecutions in that vicinity in early times, it does not contain any portion of the former structure, as supposed, but is entirely a modern building; nor are there any of the old "Mormon" houses now standing at Independence. Every relic of that time has been removed. Independence boasts of many fine mercantile and business establishments and a number of live, enterprising and progressive citizens. Its affairs appear to be well conducted, but it lacks the bustle and en-



THE HEDRICKITE CHURCH AT INDEPENDENCE.

ergy and evidences of vim and advancement exhibited in western cities of no greater dimensions. It is, however, a beautiful place for a residence city, is situated high and dry and surrounded by a rolling country, lovely to behold, and claims to be on "the highest point east of the Rocky Mountains."

ITS EARLY SETTLEMENT.
Jackson county was so named in honor of Andrew Jackson, and was first settled by hardy explorers from Kentucky. In 1827 they decided that a county seat should be selected, and they located it on the highest hill in the state of Missouri and called it Independence. It is said that the first railroad in Missouri was built from Independence to the Missouri river; the rails were of heavy timber and the cars were pulled by horses. It was in June, 1831, that the word of the Lord was given to

Joseph Smith that he and Sidney Rigdon and others who were designated, should take their journey, as soon as preparations could be made, to the land of Missouri, and proceed even to the "borders of the Lamanites." Elders Parley P. Pratt and Oliver Cowdery had previously taken a mission to the Lamanites, as required by revelation given in October, 1830, and had given a report of their labors. They had

preached to the Shawnees and the Delawares and explained to them the history of their forefathers and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. This had stirred up the Indian agents and sectarian missionaries in such a way, that the Elders had to cross the line from the Indian country, and so commenced laboring in Jackson county. Two of the Elders obtained employment at Independence. The Prophet Joseph started from Kirtland, Ohio, on the 18th of June, 1831, in company with Sidney Rigdon, Martin Harris, Edward Partridge, Wm. W. Phelps, Joseph Coe, Algernon S. Gilbert and wife. The Prophet, with Elders Harris, Phelps, Partridge and Coe, arrived at Independence about the middle of July, having traveled on foot from St. Louis. The others followed a few days later. It was in that month that the revelation was received designating that region as "The Land of Zion" and the place for the "City of Zion." The Lord said,

SPORT FOR THE TEMPLE.
"Behold the place which is now called Independence, is the center place, and the spot for the Temple is lying westward, upon a lot which is not far from the courthouse; wherefore it is wisdom that the land should be purchased by the Saints; and also every tract lying westward even unto the line running directly between Jew and Gentile, and also every tract bordering by the prairie, inasmuch as my disciples are enabled to buy lands. Behold this is wisdom, that they may obtain it for an everlasting inheritance."—D. & C., p. 215.
In August, 1831, the Lord further revealed,
"For, behold, verily I say unto you, the Lord willeth that the disciples, and the children of men should open their hearts, even to purchase this whole region of country, as soon as time will permit. Behold here is wisdom. Let them do this lest they receive none inheritance, save it be by the shedding of blood."—D. & C., p. 221.

On Aug. 3, the Prophet Joseph Smith proceeded to dedicate the spot for the Temple, a little west of Independence. There were also present Sidney Rigdon, Edward Partridge, W. W. Phelps, Oliver Cowdery, Martin Harris, and Joseph Coe. On the 9th of August the Prophet Joseph, with 19 of the Elders, left Independence for Kirtland, Ohio, where they arrived on the 27th of that month. There the Prophet received the revelation in which the following sentences are given:

"Behold, the land of Zion, I the Lord holdeth in mine own hands; nevertheless, I, the Lord, render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; wherefore, I the Lord will that you should purchase the land that you may have advantage of the world, that they may not be stirred up unto anger; for Satan putteth it into their hearts to anger against you, and to the shedding of blood; wherefore the land of Zion shall not be obtained but by purchase or by blood; otherwise there is none inheritance for you. And if by purchase, behold you are blessed; and if by blood, as you are foretold to shed blood, in your enemies are upon you, and you shall be scourged from city to city, and from synagogue to synagogue, and but few shall stand to receive an inheritance."—D. & C., p. 225.

Early in April, 1832, Joseph Smith, in company with Newel K. Whitney, Peter Whitmer and Jesse Chase, started on another visit to Missouri. They had been preceded by W. W. Phelps and others who had purchased at Cincinnati a printing press and plant to publish a monthly paper at Independence, called The Evening and Morning Star. Arrangements were made to print 3,000 copies of the Book of Commandments; also for the printing and publication of the hymns that had been selected for that purpose. On May 6th the prophet Joseph left Independence in company with Sidney Rigdon, and Newel K. Whitney on the return journey to Kirt-