

"Mormon" families and embraces a tract of country containing about seventy square miles, most of which is good prairie land. This can be irrigated by water conveyed from Snake River through the Eagle Rock and Willow Creek Canal. As only a few settlers so far have located here, there is room for hundreds of families. There is some government land left that can be entered, and that which has already been entered and proven up on, can be bought very cheap.

The centre of the ward, or the point where the meeting-house is located, is in section 30, township 1 north of range 33 east, Boise meridian. It is about eight miles south of Eagle Rock, nine miles northeast of Basalt and 45 miles by way of Eagle Rock and Market Lake, or 42 miles by way of Big Buttes ferry, southwest of Rexburg. In this ward, lying between two channels of Sand Creek, is a long row of sand hills, which are continually traveling northward with the wind, leaving small sand knolls in its wake. These finally become stationary through being overgrown with vegetation, while the bulk of the sand masses is slowly making its way further north, and will, perhaps, eventually be arrested in its march by the river and carried by it in the opposite direction toward the Pacific.

**HISTORY.**—The first "Mormon" settlers in that district of country now included in the Taylor Ward were John Priest, Abiah Wadsworth, jun., and William Priest who entered lands in May, 1885, and that same fall built houses on their respective quarter sections. Two non-Mormon families settled there about the same time. May 26, 1885, a canal was located to convey the water from Sand Creek on to the lands claimed and completed the same year, but on account of low water in the creek the settlers have suffered for lack of the same, and crops have consequently failed every year so far. Still the people have stuck to their claims with commendable enterprise and this spring (1890) there is prospects for an abundant supply through the Eagle Rock and Willow Creek Canal, which is being extended as far south as Taylor, and by the Idaho Canal Company which has constructed their main canal through the ward.

At a special meeting held at the house of A. Wadsworth on Lower Sand Creek May 23, 1886, at which Apostle John W. Taylor and other prominent men were present, the few Saints who had settled in that region of country were organized into a branch of the Church with John Priest as presiding Priest. The branch was named Taylor, in honor of Apostle John W. Taylor, and attached to the Iona Ward. From that time meetings and Sabbath schools were held regularly. Abiah Wadsworth, jun., was the first superintendent of Sunday Schools.

At a Priesthood meeting held at Eagle Rock May 28, 1887, the Taylor branch was attached to the Eagle Rock Ward, and on August 14, 1887, Abiah Wadsworth, jun., was appointed to preside over the branch, Elder John Priest having removed to Eagle Rock. Elder Wadsworth presided until the ward organization was effected.

At a special meeting, held in the Taylor Branch Aug. 12, 1888, William

Priest was accepted by the people as the future Bishop of the contemplated ward, and he was ordained and set apart to his position at the quarterly conference held at Louisville August 19th following. December 15, 1888, Charles W. Wadsworth was ordained a High Priest and set apart to act as First Counselor to Bishop Priest. No Second Counselor has as yet been chosen. The Taylor Ward meeting-house, a sawed log building, 16x26 feet, was erected by donations in the fall of 1887, at a cost of \$229. Previous to this the people met in private houses, the different families opening their houses in turn for that purpose.

The first birth which took place in that district of country now included in the Taylor Ward was that of Sarah E. Priest, a daughter of William Priest and Joan Simpson. The child was born March 21, 1886. She was named and blessed March 21, 1886, and her blessing is the first recorded in the ward record.

The first death occurred April 8, 1887, in the demise of Ellen Wadsworth, an infant.

#### TETON WARD.

John Donaldson, Bishop; Jesse M. Baker First Counselor; N. P. Hansen, Second Counselor.

The Teton Ward embraces a large tract of country lying northeast of Rexburg. The Teton townsit, which is one of the most desirable locations for a settlement in the Snake River Valley, is on the south bank of the Teton River from which it derives its name. It contains 320 acres of land comprising the south half of section 31 in township 7 north of range 41 east, Boise meridian, and is nine miles northeast of Rexburg and 31 miles northeast of Market Lake, the nearest railway station. Surrounding the townsit is some of the finest farming lands in the west. It is level as a floor, very productive, and extends west and south up to the foot hills toward the Teton Basin. More than half of the settlers live on the townsit, while the remainder reside in a scattered condition on their farms along the Teton River and Moody Creek. Water for irrigating purposes is brought upon the farming lands through the Teton Canal, which taps the river about two miles above the townsit. Another large canal is now in course of construction which will convey the water of a tributary of the Teton River upon the lands. The head of this canal is about ten miles east of the Teton townsit.

Nearly all the inhabitants of the Teton Ward are young and middle-aged people, who have come from the older settlements in Cache County, Utah. There are complete organizations of a Sunday school, Relief Society, Y. M. M. I. A., Y. L. M. I. A. and Primary Association. Only a few non-"Mormon" settlers reside here—hardly enough to comprise a board of school trustees.

**HISTORY.**—That part of the Snake River Valley now included in the Teton Ward, was first settled by a party of emigrants from Mendon, Cache County, Utah, consisting of Francis and Joseph Graham, Fred. and John Gardner, and Jonathan and Charles W. Bird, who arrived on the present site of Teton in

April, 1882. In the autumn of the same year other settlers arrived, among whom were John Donaldson, the present Bishop of the ward. During the winter of 1882-83 Henry Sorensen was appointed to preside in the meetings, which were held regularly every Sunday.

May 1, 1883, the Teton Canal was surveyed by Andrew S. Anderson, and the townsit named and located by Bishop Thomas E. Ricks. The first house was erected on the townsit by Joseph P. Jones, May 31, 1883.

At the first ward conference held at Rexburg, October 27th, 1883, John Donaldson was appointed presiding Priest of the Teton Branch which was then regularly organized as a part of the Bannock Ward. Elder Donaldson acted in that capacity until the branch was organized into a ward.

December 30, 1883, the first Sunday school organization was effected at Teton with Henry Sorensen as superintendent and fifteen members.

June 10, 1884, the Teton Branch was organized into a ward with John Donaldson as Bishop. On the same occasion Joseph P. Jones was ordained and set apart as his First Counselor. At a quarterly conference held at Rexburg August 17, 1884, Jesse M. Baker was ordained and set apart to act as Second Counselor to Bishop Donaldson. Apostles Wilford Woodruff and Heber J. Grant and President Thomas E. Ricks were present and officiated.

August 29, 1884, the Y. L. M. I. A. was organized with Emma Bird as President.

November 10, 1884, a Y. M. M. I. A. was organized by the Stake President, with Simon P. Baker as President.

November 19, 1884, the first Relief Society was organized at Teton.

Counselor Jones resigned, and Niels P. Hansen was appointed Second Counselor to Bishop Donaldson in 1889, Jesse M. Baker being promoted to the position of First Counselor.

#### WILLARD WARD.

George Davis, Bishop; Reuben Belnap, First Counselor; John E. Pincock, second Counselor.

Willford Ward embraces a beautiful tract of country lying between Henry's Fork and the Teton River, and extends far to the north. The townsit consists of a mile square and comprises the west half of section 19, range 41 east, and the east half of section 24, range 40 east, in township 7 north, Boise meridian. It is situated about a mile north of the Teton River, ten miles by road northeast of Rexburg, and thirty-two miles by road northeast of Market Lake, the nearest railway station. The town of Teton lies on the opposite side of the river south (see map on page 130), but there being no bridge built as yet over that stream, there is no direct communication between the two towns in times of high water. Willford, like the other settlements of the Bannock Stake, has a Sunday school, a Relief Society, a Y. M. M. I. A. (first organized Nov. 11, 1884, with Joseph Brower as President), a Y. L. M. I. A. and a Primary Association.

**HISTORY.**—Willford was first settled May 20, 1883, by H. P. Hennegar, James H. Pincock and John H. Garner. It was located and named by President William B. Preston and