

comes from being some 40 miles from the timber belt, which is supplied from Mancos regions. The water question is fairly good now, as I understand they have a high line ditch completed which will afford plenty of water for present needs. Should emigrants come in they have a very fine reservoir site which can easily be put into shape for use, with the aid of new comers, and then they can water every acre of their nine mile claim. Jackson ward can furnish homes for at least 20 or 30 families.

Fourteen miles across country, a little west of south, we come to Fruitland, or Beconham, New Mexico, situated on the south bank of the San Juan river, about 90 miles east of Bluff. Fruitland is a fine place and mixed farming; a good many outsiders are wanting to sell out and will do so very cheap; some of the brethren who live here are more than willing to divide up their claims with new comers, for they are quite weak here numerically. There is lots of good fruit land here, and when I say fruit land, it is good for all purposes that land is farmed for in like climates, but fruit is preeminently the crop in this country for cash profit. The unappropriated land lies under a new ditch lately finished, and runs quite a distance above the little town. What the rates are for water I am not advised. Bishop Luther C. Beconham presides here—a good; kind, fatherly bishop, looking earnestly after the welfare of his little flock. Fruitland can furnish homes for 40 families; rather I mean can furnish first class places where elegant homes can be built up in a few years. The question of lumber same as at Jackson; all this region of country is fairly alive with coal mines.

We will take up our journey and travel westerly down the San Juan river some 60 miles and we come to Elde William Hyde's old trading post. Our road from Fruitland has not led us very near the river but back some 12 or 15 miles perhaps, across dry, rolling country. But from here to Bluff we will be near the river all the time. From this point to Bluff is called 30 miles, interspersed with large tracts of bottom land, and some of the finest bench land, where from 100 to 1000 acres of choice land is lying waiting for the pioneer. The drawback here, and the only one, is the water question—plenty of water in the San Juan river, but it will take lots of capital and first class engineering to take it out and control it; when it is done and proven a success San Juan county will forge to the front as one of the richest counties in Utah.

At McElmo, some eight miles from Hyde's trading post, there is found, and unclaimed so far as known, a very fine body of good land situated in the mouth of McElmo wash; there are several hundred acres of this land, and free water for it that comes from miles east, the drainage of all the land in Montezema valley that is watered from the canals out of the Dolores river spoken of in this article. I think some fifteen families could make homes in this last mentioned place; no better location probably could be found for fruit on this river.

Twenty odd miles now west and down the river bring us to Bluff, where we find the strongest ward in the Stake, presided over in a very efficient manner by Bishop Jens Neilson and his very worthy counselors. Keemen Jones

and L. H. Redd, Jr. We have not much to offer from here by way of land and water unless a company should come sufficiently strong to handle the water question. Land is in abundance unappropriated lying out doors all round us, but water for it is the question. Bluff ditch carries water for some 300 acres of land which is all claimed; but had we sufficient help to enlarge and extend the ditch a few miles west, it would bring us in a large tract of very fine fruit land. The land is not appropriated, unless it be by some placer gold claims; but shouldn't wonder if some "smart Alec", a shrewd business, financial man, seeing this article, would go straightway and stake off the country for ten miles below Bluff, to be ready to take in the weary pilgrim when he shall put in an appearance.

Our fruit crop prospect was never better, but fears are entertained that it may suffer from drought soon, as it has not had but one slight watering since last fall—no rain to speak of during the winter. We were very late getting the water into our ditch this spring and before we had watered round, the river through a cold spell went down and left our ditch dry. We will have it in soon, I hope, and not have our fruit injured. Cattle are not doing well on account of drought. I have never seen our range so dry this early in the season, and the range is overstocked; sheep are coming in and it looks rather blue for the cattle man. We look for better times soon and in the mean time we aim to keep to work and help mend the times by being more economical and make or produce as nearly as possible all that we consume; to get out of debt and keep out, and cease our greed and covetousness, that the Lord may bless us.

F. A. HAMMOND.

A SISTER OF THE PROPHET.

The following is from the *Carthage, Ills., Republican* of May 16, and will be of more than passing interest to the Latter-day Saints, as it relates to the only surviving sister of the Prophet Joseph Smith and to incidents which are deeply impressed in the history of the Mormon people:

A representative of the *Republican* recently paid a visit to the home of Fred Salisbury, residing some four miles northeast of Fountain Green, and was cordially received by that gentleman and family, as well as by his venerable and noted mother, Mrs. Catherine Salisbury, who is a sister of the Prophet Joseph Smith. On the 27th day of June next will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the massacre of Hyrum and Joseph Smith in the old stone jail at Carthage. The silver-crowned patriarch who will be 88 years old in July, bears a striking resemblance to her nephew, the present Joseph Smith, son of the Prophet, and president of the [Reorganized] Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, at Lamoni, Ia. Some resemblance to the martyred Prophet, as shown in some of the photographs of him, may be noted in the features of this venerable lady, but very little.

Mrs. Salisbury, as well as her son, was ready to answer any questions relating to their noted relatives or the early reminiscences of Mormonism in Hancock county.

"We have been interviewed by

authors and newspaper writers," said Mrs. Salisbury, "but we have not always received justice in histories or published stories. All we ask is a fair representation."

Mrs. Salisbury also stated that her brother's life and acts had been most cruelly misrepresented. She loaned the writer a book written a number of years ago by Mrs. Lucy Smith, mother of Joseph, which she says is the most authentic account of the Smith family ever published.

Mrs. Salisbury resided with her husband at Plymouth, in this county, during the Mormon ascendancy. She with her parents and brothers and sisters, save Joseph and Hyrum, first located near the present site of Bardolph, McDonough county, at the time the Mormons were driven out of Missouri. The major portion of the Mormons remained in Quincy two or three weeks after leaving Missouri until Joseph and Hyrum were liberated from jail. They then followed their leaders to Nauvoo, where the "New Zion" was built upon these beautiful hills.

"I heard Brother Joseph's last sermon, delivered to a great audience in Nauvoo," said Mrs. Salisbury, and a look of tender sadness lighted up those dimming eyes as she spoke. "In that sermon," continued the venerable lady, "Brother Joseph said that there was seated on the speaker's stand beside him those who were conspiring to take his life, and who would be responsible for his death."

Among the valuable relics exhibited to the visitor was a portrait of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, standing facing each other, dressed in the peculiar costumes worn by them as Prophets of the Church. "That is the position they assumed the last time I ever saw my brothers," said Mrs. Salisbury. "I left them on the Saturday (June 22, 1844,) before the Thursday that they were murdered at Carthage. Brother Joseph shook my hand, saying, 'Sister Catherine, as soon as this trouble blows over I will come down to Plymouth and make you a visit.' Brother Hyrum simply said 'Good-bye' in an impressive manner. I never saw them again in life. They were both very kind to me, and whenever there was a Church celebration or any big doings at Nauvoo they would always send for me."

Mr. Fred Salisbury had no hesitation in saying that the bodies of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, while hurried secretly and at night soon after the massacre, lie in the exact spot where they were then buried, viz: in the family burying ground a short distance in the rear of the old mansion house. The bodies were deposited in a brick vault. "When Aunt Emma Smith,—Joseph's widow, later Mrs. C. L. Bidamon—died in 1875, I think, five of us boys, Fred, Solomon, Don and Alvin Salisbury and Don Milkin, all her nephews, acted as pall bearers at her funeral. We buried Aunt Emma by the side of the Prophet. Of course there can be nothing left of the bodies of Joseph and Hyrum but dust. I am satisfied that the Prophets were buried there, and that their bodies have never been disturbed."

"The reason why the burial was secret," said Mrs. Salisbury, "was from the fact that a large sum of money