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## VISITING THE SAINTS.

On Sunday, March 27th, I left St George for the purpose of visiting the settlements of the Saints lying far to the northward, and after traveling five miles I reached the quiet little town of Santa Clara, pleasantly situated on the left bank of the stream after which the settlement is named. This is the oldest settlement of the Saints on this side of the Rim of the Basin. It was first located as a missionary station by Jacob Hamblin and others in 1854, and now has a population of 219 souls or thirty-eight families, all Swiss except four families. The present Bishop is John G. Hafen. Santa Clara is a prosperous little town, but the facilities of the same are very limited. Almost every foot of available land is cultivated for all it is worth, and there is really no chance for the town to grow. Consequently, the young people, as a rule, when they marry and begin to raise families of their own, have to leave the old homesteads and seek places for themselves elsewhere to dwell.

On Monday, the 28th, after meeting with the old settlers of Santa Clara, I set out for Gunlock, about eighteen miles distant, but being unacquainted with the road I went up the Jackson Wash and at length found myself in a forest of cedars near the top of the mountains. Discovering my mistake I beat a hasty retreat and struck the Santa Clara stream, about sundown, when the clouds, which all day had indicated an approaching storm, began to send forth a heavy rain, exposed to which and shrouded in utter darkness I traveled nine or ten miles to Gunlock, where I arrived about nine o'clock at night, having crossed the creek forty-six times since leaving the settlement of Santa Clara, and having tested the strength of my light vehicle by leaping it over the magnificent boulders and rocky ledges with which the creek bed abounds. After coming over such a road as this in a dark night, and reaching my destination without accident, I felt truly thankful to the Lord for His protection, and I think I shall not for a long time after this experience feel inclined to complain of the condition of the roads in Northern Utah.

Notwithstanding the late hour of my arrival the people of Gunlock turned out for the meeting appointed and in for a good time. Gunlock ward embraces

the village of Gunlock and a ranch on Magotso Creek, six miles north. The village consists of a string of houses nestling in the midst of thrifty orchards and is situated on the west side of the Santa Clara, at a point where the narrow gorge, through which that stream passes from its source in the Pine Valley mountains, to the Rio Virgen, widens out to the width of nearly a quarter of a mile. The place is about twenty-three miles northwest of St. George, twenty-two miles from Pine Valley and twenty-two and a half miles from Hamblin in the Mountain Meadows. The strength of the ward is represented in thirteen families or eighty-five souls, presided over by Bishop Franklin O. Holt, who acts with Wm. E. Jones and James S. P. Bowler as counselors. The very limited amount of land at this point, 118 acres, is rich and productive and notwithstanding its isolated location, the inhabitants seem to be pleased with their little oasis in the desert.

Leaving Gunlock on the morning of Thursday, March 29th, we followed the Santa Clara for a distance of about two miles, then passed over a mountain ridge locally known as White hill and thence down to and across the Magotso, a small stream rising in the Mountain Meadows and putting into the Santa Clara above Gunlock, thence up a long steep rocky dugway at the upper end of which the traveler finds himself on a stretch of elevated tableland overlooking the Dixie country southward, thence the road crosses the bench and follows washes in their windings between the mountains until Cane Springs is reached, from which an opening in the mountains westward affords easy access to the mountain meadows which consists of a narrow valley extending north and south for a distance of about seven miles with an average width of nearly a mile. The Rim of the Basin divides the valley into a northern and southern section, and in the extreme north end stands the village of Hamblin, thus named for the late Indian interpreter and missionary, Jacob Hamblin, who is widely and very favorably known throughout this entire southern country. Most of the land in the Mountain Meadows lying south of the Rim is owned by Harrison J. Burgess, whose ranch house stands near the spot where the Arkansas company of emigrants met their sad fate in the fall of 1857. The little place known as

Hamblin has at present five families, which together with three families at Holt's ranch constitute a branch of the Piute ward.

After stopping over night at Hamblin, with Elder James Canfield, an aged veteran, I continued my journey five miles down Spring Creek and through a canyon in a northwesterly direction to Holt's ranch, where I obtained some historical information from Brother James Holt, now 88 years of age. Thence I traveled over the extreme south end of the great Escalante desert in a blinding snow storm, to the mouth of Shoal Creek Canyon, going up which I soon reached the pleasant little village of Hebron, where I was given a hearty welcome in the hospitable home of Bishop Thomas S. Terry, and preached to the people in the evening.

The following day was spent in obtaining historical information and holding another meeting with the people of Hebron, and towards evening I drove five and a half miles in a westerly direction to Bishop Terry's ranch, where I spent the night.

The Hebron ward embraces the town of Hebron, Terry's ranch, Barnum's place or Shoal Creek, two miles below Hebron; a ranch in Little Pine valley, north of, and a few scattered settlers on Spring Creek, southeast of Hebron, all in Washington County, Utah; also the Clover Valley branch and Green Edwin, in Lincoln County, Nevada. The whole ward consists of twenty-six families, or 149 souls.

The town of Hebron is pleasantly located on Shoal Creek, in a little valley bordered on the south by a mountain chain which here forms the river of the Basin. The altitude of the place is 5,475 feet above the level of the sea; all kinds of small grain is raised, but it is rather too cold for fruit, except the smaller, hardier kinds. The principal industry of the people is stockraising, the facilities for pasturage in the surrounding mountains and on the desert northward being excellent. In fact the place was first located in 1862 as a herd ground for the stock from St. George and other Dixie settlements, and the late John Pulsipher, whose personal notes furnishes a full and accurate history of the place writes that on the 28th of August, 1868, when Apostle Erastus Snow and others visited the place, a townsite