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HISTORICAL LABORS.

Since leaving Panacca, in Nevada, a few weeks ago, to continue my historical labors in the St. George, Parowan and Beaver Stakes of Zion, my time has been so thoroughly occupied that I have neglected my correspondence to the NEWS. But having a disposition to treat all the settlements of the Saints alike I will, if agreeable to you and the readers of your valuable paper, resume my narrative now, after my return home, and give a brief outline of the settlements not previously mentioned in my communications.

On the 6th of April last—on the day that the tens of thousands of the Saints at headquarters were celebrating in grand style the laying of the capstone of the Salt Lake Temple—I was wending my way over lofty mountains and dreary deserts for a distance of forty two miles from Panacca, Nevada, to Hebron, Washington county, Utah, with a young man (Frank Terry) as guide. We traveled part of the way in snow and mud, and other parts over rocks and sand, but got through without accident. On the very hour when the festivities were going on in the city, we were nooning in a grove of tall cedars on the rim of the basin west of Hebron, and desiring to participate of the good spirit attending the laying of the capstone although 350 miles away, I sought the Lord in humble prayer in my place of romantic solitude, in response to which I received sufficient inspiration to gladden my heart, and cause me to praise the Lord that I was His servant, entrusted with a work to perform, by which His name may be glorified in ages to come.

Having partaken once more of the hospitality of Bishop Thomas S. Terry, of Hebron, I continued my journey on the 7th of April and traveled 21 miles, via Holt's ranch and Hamblin to Pinto where I held a meeting with the people in the evening, and the next morning obtained my historical information.

Pinto Ward embraces the town of Pinto and the village of Hamblin, the latter situated in the Mountain Meadows; also three families at Holt's Ranch, the whole strength of the ward is represented in twenty-two families, or one hundred and thirty-six souls, over which Robert Knell presides as Bishop. There are no non-Mormons in Pinto. The ward is fully organized, has a good Sunday school,

a Y. M. M. I. A., a Y. L. M. I. A., a Relief Society and a Primary association.

The town of Pinto is situated in a narrow valley on the east side of Pinto Creek, in the northeast quarter of Section 34, Township 37 south of Range 15 west, in Washington county, Utah. The main street of the town follows the course of the creek and valley both running in a northwesterly direction. The valley is only about half a mile wide where the town is situated, and a short distance below the settlement it narrows in to a mere canyon, through which the creek winds its way for a distance of nine miles, when the great desert is reached, on the broad face of which the small stream soon loses itself by evaporation or by sinking into the loose ground. From the headquarters of the creek in the Pine Valley Mountains to its sink the distance is nearly sixteen miles. The altitude of Pinto is about 5000 feet above the level of the sea; and the surrounding mountains, particularly on the south, are quite lofty. Immediately above the town is a beautiful meadow, which (together with the farming land lying adjacent to the settlement, and several small patches situated at different points in the canyon below, where the mountains recede a little from the creek bed,) makes about four hundred acres of utilized land belonging to the place. This includes all the arable land on the creek; consequently the settlement has no chances to grow so far as the facilities for agriculture is concerned. Owing to the high altitude and hard frosts scarcely any fruit is grown, but small grain of all kinds do well, the soil being very rich and productive.

The Pinto settlement is 42 miles by nearest road, or 48 miles by way of Pine Valley, north of St. George; fifteen miles by mountain road northwest of Harmony, thirteen and a half miles north of Pine Valley; eighty miles (by way of Antelope and Sulphur Springs) southwest of Milford, the nearest railway station, and 302 miles southwest of Salt Lake City.

Pinto was first settled in 1856 by missionaries sent to the Indians in Southern Utah.

On Friday, April 8th, I traveled 13 miles over a very rough mountain road and through deep snow and sticky mud from Pinto to Pine valley where I addressed an appreciative audience in

the evening, and the following day met with the old settlers of the place, in order to obtain the information needed.

Pine valley is one of the most romantic places I have seen in the Rocky Mountains; it consists of a natural basin, situated in or very near the tops of the well known Pine valley mountains, whose lofty snow-capped peaks form a beautiful background to "Our Dixie." The natural facilities for retaining the large deposits of snow which this mountain system receives in the winter season, being most excellent, the Pine valley mountains send forth beautiful clear streams of water in all directions, without which the settlements of St. George, Santa Clara, Washington, Harrisburg, Leeds, Silver Reef, Toquerville, Bellevue, Harmony, Pinto, Hamblin, Gunlock, etc., could not exist; neither the Pine Valley settlement itself, which I will briefly describe.

Pine Valley proper is about five miles long from east to west with an average width of nearly two miles. The highest mountains are on the south and east. On the north a low ridge separates the valley from another valley of nearly the same size called Grass Valley; and there is a ridge composed of black volcanic rock on the west through which the Santa Clara has cut a deep channel, in order to escape to the lower country.

The settlement of Pine Valley is situated near the centre of the valley on the south bank of a beautiful clear stream of water and is surrounded by some very rich and productive farming land. A number of cozy little brick houses adorn the place, in the midst of which a fine two-story meetinghouse towers up above all the rest, bearing testimony of the public spiritness and enterprise of the inhabitants. The town is regularly laid out in blocks, the streets crossing each other at right angles, but not conforming to the cardinal points of the compass, as the natural slope of the country were given the main consideration when the townsite was surveyed. The settlement is thirty-four and a half miles by round about mountain road, north of St. George, and 315 miles southwest of Salt Lake City. In and adjacent to the settlement there are two steam saw mills, one fluming mill and one shingle mill operated by water, two stores, etc.

The Pine Valley creek rises in the