

"IN OLD VIRGINNY."

HARAN, Roanoke Co., Va.,
July 22, 1896.

Our conference was held at Haran, Roanoke county, Virginia, July 11 and 12, 1896, in a shady grove at Mountain View Church in a picturesque spot in the top of the Blue Ridge mountains overlooking the beautiful valley of the Roanoke. Our worthy and esteemed president of the Southern States mission, Elder Elias S. Kimball, and all the Elders of the conference were present. Elder M. Thomas, president of the Virginia conference presided.

The speakers during conference and subjects dwelt upon were as follows:

Saturday morning—Elders W. W. Huffaker and H. M. Bohney Jr., on faith. Elder David R. Matthews, repentance. Elder George H. Webb and W. K. Burnham, baptism. Elder M. Thomas spoke briefly upon the glorious mission of our Redeemer.

Two p. m.—Elders J. De Gray Dixon and C. W. Nibley Jr., Holy Ghost. H. Whitney Kimball Jr., and Heber W. Beckstrand, on Church organization. Rufus Day, necessity of revelation. Elder Thomas C. Romney, the Book of Mormon.

Sunday morning—Elder R. J. Blachoff, Church History. Elder M. Thomas dwelt at length upon the personality of God.

Two p. m.—Elder Elias S. Kimball occupied the entire time speaking upon the subject of the Church organization, and by numerous Bible references, appropriate illustrations, and the power of the Lord that he was in possession of, delivered a masterly discourse which all present listened to with satisfaction and profit.

At the council meeting held at 7:30 a. m. and 4:30 p. m. on Saturday, July 11th, each Elder gave an account of his labors and experiences during the past year in his appointed districts.

At the Priesthood meeting held Monday, July 13th, continuing from 7:30 a. m. to 6:30 p. m. except intermission for lunch, Elder Elias S. Kimball instructed the Elders on their various duties.

All our meetings were well attended; the Saints and friends at Haran provided ample accommodations for the Elders and visiting Saints and all felt that the conference was a spiritual feast. The good people of Haran deserve praise for the kindness shown during the conference. The following clipping from the Salem Times Register of July 14th, will show the feeling towards us in this vicinity. The article was written by a county official of Roanoke county, and is as follows:

"A friend and the writer of this article went to Mountain View last Sunday to hear the much abused Mormons preach. The services had commenced on our arrival, and we failed to hear all of the morning discussion, but what we did hear was well delivered, and the preacher confined himself strictly to the Bible all the way through, not uttering a word at any time that any exceptions could be taken to. After the morning services were concluded, a bounteous dinner was spread by the good people of the neighborhood, and all present invited to partake; my friend and myself, however, accepted an invitation to dinner with that

prince of good fellows, James Owens, and right royally were we entertained by him and his good wife at their home near by.

"After dinner we returned to the grounds and listened to another fine sermon by the president of the body. This was a conference of what is known as Mormons, or Latter-day Saints, there being thirty-four of the Elders present, all comparatively young, fine looking, intelligent men.

"The congregation was made up from among the best people of that section, and the best of order prevailed."

W. M. S.

The health of the Elders is good. They all left conference for their respective counties, absolutely without purse or scrip with a determination to carry out the instructions given and to fulfil every requirement made of them.

Elder M. Thomas was tendered a hearty vote of thanks for his untiring labors as president of this conference for the past eleven months. He left for home Tuesday afternoon, July 21st, after an absence of twenty-seven months, carrying with him the love, esteem and kindest wishes of the Elders and Saints of the conference.

Elder J. DeGray Dixon was appointed and sustained as his successor. The News comes to us regular and is greatly appreciated by all the Elders.

The following are the Elders' addresses:

J. DeGray Dixon and John S. Blain, Box 527, Petersburg, Va.

R. J. Blachoff and Elisha Brower, Orange C. H., Orange county, Va.

Henry M. Bohney Jr. and Albert A. Day, Louisa C. H., Louisa county, Va.

D. R. Matthews and J. A. Mahay, Golandsville, Caroline county, Va.

Rufus Day and J. B. Kendall, Summit, Spottsylvania county, Va.

W. W. Huffaker and H. B. Crouch, Culpeper C. H., Culpeper county, Va.

Thomas C. Romney and F. J. Adams, Bromo Bluff, Fincastle county, Va.

N. W. Kimball Jr. and Rueben Hatch, Bedford City, Bedford county, Va.

O. W. Nibley Jr. and R. C. Butler, Chatham, Pittsylvania county, Va.

Wallace Fries and Joseph Oguthorpe, Montreal, Nelson county, Va.

George H. Webb and J. G. Lynsford, Amherst, C. H., Amherst county, Va.

W. K. Burnham and Ernest Duce, Madison, C. H., Madison county, Va.

Samuel Jackson and H. C. Hollingsworth, Rustburg, Campbell county, Va.

William D. Dixon and David Call, Martinsville, Henry county, Va.

C. F. Hawkes and J. H. Gibbs, Stuart, Patrick county, Va.

Alexander Adams and new companion, Rocky Mount, Franklin county, Va.

Heber W. Beckstrand and new companion, Hillsville, Carroll county, Va.

J. DEGREY DIXON,
President Virginia Conference.

George Nobbs of Washington, D. C., died suddenly on Monday evening, while bathing in a pool at Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

IN SUWANEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

LIVE OAK, Suwanee Co.,
Florida, July 22, 1896.

That items of progress in the work of the Lord may be portrayed to all interested, I beg a small space necessary in your much esteemed and appreciated paper.

This county (Suwanee) became for the first time the recipient of so-called "Mormon". Elders Nov. 9th, 1895. On entering it there were found to be but few people who had ever heard of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Some few, however, had heard of the "Mormon" people. In conjunction with my companion (Elder G. W. Rogers) work was commenced in real earnest and soon the principles of the Gospel were being revealed to many attentive listeners.

We called on Mr. Whitfield, editor of The Banner, who through the columns of his valuable paper invited his many patrons to hear us before judging and treat us with due respect as ministers of the Gospel. Mr. Whitfield still remains a warm friend and or the great help he has given through The Banner at various times we entertain the deepest regard.

At present we have thirty-four members, all of whom have been converted and baptized within the last eight months. On the 28th of last month we organized a Sunday school with an enrollment of forty-two. Since that time it has increased to fifty-four. In honor of our dear leader, it bears the name of the Woodruff Sunday school. We are now in possession of four acres of land on which an arbor was built for the convening of conference and in another place one acre on which stands a church, that was given us by Bro. W. H. Redding, where we are permitted to meet in worship and Sunday school capacity.

Some of the Saints whose heads are silvered, at times are caused to weep in thought that all these years they have been laboring in darkness and have been deprived of the true Gospel and the many blessings which follow the believe.

There is but little sickness among the Elders of this conference and all are working with great zeal with a view of being designated on the plains of glory like sons and stars in the firmament of heaven and bear the laurels of immortal fame which crown the achievements of those who bear the cross with the celestial power above, whose cross will lead us on to victory and add immortal lustre to our names.

W. G. FISHER.

KANE COUNTY IS BEAUTIFUL.

KANAB, Kane County,
July 27, 1896.

The dry spell of two years was broken two weeks ago when gentle showers of rain began to fall and have continued almost every afternoon since. Some of our stockmen had begun to despair, and as one said he wished himself in the St. Louis whirlwind. Fifty per cent of range stock have died through the drought. Even the sagebrush had dried up and blown away. Not a blade of grass nor a weed could be seen in our streets or on the range, and even our lucern and other crops which had not been well