

sandy and gravelly, in some places rocky, thus affording a clean and easy approach. The water is shallow for some distance out, when it gradually deepens to an extent not as yet determined. The water is very clear, affording a view of the bottom at a depth of ten or fifteen feet.

Paris, the headquarters of the Bear Lake Stake and the county seat of Bear Lake county, is the largest settlement in Bear Lake valley. It is beautifully situated on the north bank of Paris creek, near the base of the mountains on the west side of the valley, ten miles southwest of Montpelier, the nearest railway station, and eight miles northwest of the north end of the lake. Paris can boast of a large number of fine brick buildings, and among its public structures the fine Stake Tabernacle towers up high above everything else in the town. It is one of the finest Stake houses owned by the Latter-day Saints; and is built of a species of granite and red sandstone, hauled a distance of sixteen miles from the place where they were quarried on the east side of the lake. Paris has also a fine two-story court house, two ward houses, one school house, two stores, a first-class roller mill, a number of shops, etc. The town is divided into two wards, of which William West presides as Bishop over the south or First Ward, and Robert Price over the north or Second Ward. The former has a total membership of 411, or 76 families, and the latter 505 members, or 88 families. Paris was first settled by Apostle Charles C. Rich and many others in the fall of 1863, and is the oldest settlement in Bear Lake Valley.

Bloomington, one of the most prosperous settlements in the Valley, lies two miles south of Paris, on a beautiful stream of water, and surrounded by some of the best farming land in the county. Besides raising all kinds of small grain suitable to the climate, Bloomington also produces fruits of various kinds, and it is estimated that one hundred bushels of choice apples were raised there this year, besides large quantities of plums and cherries and a few pears. This place may almost be called a suburb of Paris, being so adjacent thereto; William Hulme is the Bishop. The place was first settled in the spring of 1864.

Saint Charles, thus named in honor of Charles C. Rich, is a flourishing settlement, and second to Paris in size, situated about six miles south of Bloomington or eight miles south of Paris, and a mile and a half west of the north end of Bear Lake. Like Paris and Bloomington, it nestles at the foot of the mountains which separates Bear Lake from Cache Valley, and is surrounded by fertile lands and well cultivated farms. A large number of the inhabitants are Scandinavians, mostly Swedish. John A. Hunt is the Bishop; the ward numbers 538 souls, or 105 families, and is consequently the second largest ward in the Bear Lake Stake. St. Charles was settled in the spring of 1864.

Fish Haven ward embraces the village of that name and the settlers living on their farms north and south of the village along the shores of the lake. The village is most beautifully situated on the west bank of the lake and commands a very excellent view of the

whole surface of the same as well as of nearly the entire valley. In the summer season it is visited by hundreds of tourists who come to enjoy the beautiful scenery, the fresh air, a bath in and a boat ride on the lake.

Fish Haven claims to raise the best fruit in the valley, and as good grain as any of the other settlements; but some farming land is uneven and rolling, lying as it does on the tops and the slopes of the foothills, as the narrow strip of land on which the village is built is only half a mile wide, the lake being on the east and the foothills on the west side. Fish Haven ward contains 155 members or 30 families, over whom John Stock, an elderly man presides as Bishop. The place was first settled in 1864.

Ovid is a scattered settlement lying north of Paris. The centre of the ward, where the town used to stand, is four and a half miles north of that place, and six miles southeast of Montpelier. The majority of the people have moved out on their farms and ranches which extend for several miles west and north from the centre. Philemon Lindsay is the Bishop; the ward has 31 families or 211 members, and a large proportion of the people is of Danish origin. Also this place was settled in the spring of 1864.

Liberty Ward embraces the scattered settlers residing on Liberty Creek and North Creek, including the village of that name, situated in the forks of the two streams mentioned, about four miles northwest of Ovid, and eight miles northwest of Paris. The settlers live along the creeks, and their houses and farms extend for a distance of about eight miles, and this was the place where the Bear Lake Valley pioneers of 1863 first entered, but passed on to where Paris now stands, before they made a location. Edwin N. Austin is Bishop of the Liberty ward, which consists of 291 members or forty-nine families. The place was first settled in the spring of 1864.

Berne is a small ward lying north of Ovid and consists chiefly of Swiss Saints, who live by ranching and dairying. The place is noted for its excellent quality of cheese. The centre of the ward, or the place where the meetings are generally held, is about four miles northeast of Ovid, or eight and a half northeast from Paris, and four and a half northwest of Montpelier. The whole strength of the ward consists of nine families or seventy souls, who live in a scattered condition on springs gushing forth along foot-hills, on the west side of Bear River. The ward extends north and south for a distance of about five miles. John Kunz is Bishop.

Montpelier, the railway town of Bear Lake Valley, lies two miles east of Bear River, at the mouth of a canyon and near the base of the mountains bordering the east side of the valley. Since the completion of the Oregon Short Line Montpelier has been the headquarters of Gentile influences in this part of the country, and a new town lying immediately west of the original "Mormon" settlement has been founded, which today is principally inhabited by non-"Mormons," while the old town, founded by the Saints in 1864, continues principally as a "Mormon" town. This place, owing to its exposure

to the winds from the north, is reckoned to be the coldest place in Bear Lake Valley; its altitude is 5793 feet above the level of the sea. No fruit to speak of is raised here. Montpelier is the largest town and ward in the Bear Lake Stake. It numbers 710 members of the Church, or 110 families; and the non-"Mormon" population exceeds this considerably. Wm. L. Rich, a son of the late Apostle Chas. C. Rich, is the Bishop.

Preston ward embraces that district of country lying south of Montpelier and north of Bear River. The townsite, which is occupied by about a dozen families out of the seventeen families (or eighty-eight souls) which constitutes the ward, lies near the Oregon Short Line track, five miles southeast of Montpelier, and three miles northwest of the mouth of the canyon through which Bear River enters Bear Lake Valley from the east. Charles G. Keetch, a young man called from St. Charles for the purpose of presiding, is the Bishop of Preston, which was first settled in the fall of 1866 by Preston Thomas, after whom the place has derived its name.

Dingle ward lies opposite the river from Preston and consists of thirty-nine families of Saints, or 228 souls, part of whom reside on the townsite of Dingle situated immediately south of the celebrated "Peg Leg" Island, in Bear River, 2½ miles southeast of Preston, eight miles southeast of Montpelier and seven miles in a straight line due east of Paris. The place is quite windy, but less subject to frost than any part of Bear Lake Valley, and the snow-fall is also lighter. The farming land is good, but part of it is broken and rolling. Samuel Humphreys is Bishop of the Dingle ward; the place was first settled in the spring of 1871; but long before the Saints came to Utah a man, widely known as "Peg Leg" Smith, had a hut or trading post on the island which bears his name to this day.

Bennington ward is north of Montpelier and embraces a large tract of country lying east of Bear river, including the village of Bennington, which is situated on an elevated piece of ground about six miles northwest of Montpelier.

The surrounding farming land is good and productive but water is scarce, and the place subject to early and late frosts, which has caused the loss of crops repeatedly. Only about half a dozen families reside on the townsite, the rest live on their respective farms and homesteads. The place was first settled in the spring of 1864, and the present Bishop is Amos R. Wright. The numerical strength of the ward is fifty-two families or 344 souls.

Georgetown ward embraces the Saints residing on Twin creek in the extreme north end of Bear Lake valley including the village of Georgetown, which is located on the lowlands skirting Twin creek, about a mile east of the point where that stream empties into Bear river, seven and a half miles northwest of Bennington, twelve miles northwest of Montpelier, and twenty-two miles north of Paris. The farming land along the creek and river is good and where the locations are sheltered against the cold winds from the north by the hills, the harder fruits are raised. Henry A. Lewis is