BEAR LAKE VALLEY.

A Sketch of Its First Settlement and Present Condition.

Editor Deseret News:

Of the twenty-seven wards (one only a branch) comprising the Bear Lake Stake of Zion, fourteen are situated in Bear Lake County, Idaho, which together have a total membership of 4,135, divided into 1,93 families, a little in excess of three-fifths of the entire membership of the Stake. Bear Lake County embraces the extreme southeast corner of the State of Idaho, and is one of the smallest but most thickly populated counties of the State. Its area is about 959 square miles, and its population, according to the United States census, 6961, in 1890. The greater portion of the county consists of mountains, covered in many places with a heavy growth of pine timber, and the lower hills with nutritious grasses, affording excellent facilities for pasturage; while the settled part is confined to the famous Bear Lake Valley, extends north and south through nearly the entire length of the county, with an average width of about six miles. The entire valley, including that part thereof lying in Lincoln County, Utah, is nearly fifty miles long and varies in width from one to eight miles. The surface of the valley is somewhat uneven in many places, which makes irrigation rather difficult in some of the settlements, but the soil is generally very rich and productive, and water wherewith to irrigate is ample.

Bear Lake County is divided into six justices' precincts, thirteen voting precincts and twenty school districts.

The renowned Bear Lake is situated in the south end of the valley and covers an area of upwards of nine hundred square miles. It is twenty miles long with an average width of five miles, in which part of it is the south of Stove Creek on the west side to Eden on the east side—near the boundary line between Idaho and Utah, is seven and one-half miles. This is one of the largest sheets of water in the Rocky Mountains and abounds in that of various kinds, such as several kinds of trout (called here mountain trout), speckled trout and mountain brook trout), also mullet and white fish, as well as chub. The lake is fed by several mountain streams and there also abound in fish; it has an outlet emptying into Bear River in the north. The shores of the lake are mostly 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, six miles southwest of Montpelier, the county seat of Bear Lake, 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 Bear 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 flourishing roller mill, a number of fine dwellings, and 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 95 families, and the latter 400 members, or 85 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 is 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 fertile farming lands in the county. Besides raising all kinds of small grain suitable to the climate, Bloomington also produces fruits of various kinds, and it is mentioned 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 suburban Paris, being so adjacent thereto. William Holmes 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 separate 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 108 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 top 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 135 members or 30 families, over whom John Steele, 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, or more the town, used to stand in four and a half miles north of that place, and six miles southeast of Montpelier. The majority of the people have moved on their farms and ranches which extend for several miles west from the old townsite. Phineas Lindsey is the Bishop; the ward has 41 families of 211 souls, and a large proportion of the people are Danish. This place was the last place settled in the spring of 1864.

Liberty Ward embraces the settlement of settlers residing on Liberty Creek and Montpelier Creek, including the village of that name, situated in the form of the two streams mentioned, about four miles northwest of Ovid, and about eight miles northwest of Paris. The settlers live along the creeks, and their houses and farms extend for a distance of about eight miles north and south. Liberty was one of the Bear Lake Valley pioneers of 1863 first entered, but passed on to where Paris now is, or below they were a location. Moses N. Austin is Bishop of the Liberty ward, which consists of 231 members or forty-one families. The place was first settled in the spring of 1864.

Bennington is a small ward lying north of Ovid and numbers 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 southwest 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 farms gushing forth along Foxhills, on the west side of Bear River. The ward extends south and north 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 influence 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 considered to be the coldest place in Bear Lake Valley; its altitude is 5700 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 114 families, and the non-"Mormon" population exceeds this considerably. Wm. L. Rich, a son of the late Apostle Chas. C. Rich, is the Bishop.

Paris ward embraces that district of country lying south of Montpelier and north of Bear Lake. The township, which is irrigated by about a dozen branches out of the westerly Bear River, is eighteen miles south of Montpelier by the road, and the Oregon Short Line track, five miles southwest of Montpelier, and three miles north west of the mouth of the canyon through which Bear River enters Bear Lake Valley from the east. Charles G. Rosser, a young man called from St. Charles for the purpose of presiding, is the Bishop of Paris, which was first settled in the fall of 1863 by Preston Thomas, after whom the place has derived its name.

Bloomington ward lies opposite the river from Preston and consists of thirty-nine families of Saints, or 229 souls, and of those reside on the township of Bloomington, immediately south of the celebrated "Peg Leg" Island, in Bear River, 22 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 has 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 Bloomington ward. This place was first settled in the spring of 1871, but long before the Saints came to Bloomington, 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 township, 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 S. Wright. The numerical strength of the ward is 160 souls, or families of 34 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, about a half mile 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 bottoms are sheltered against the cold winds from the north by the hills, the hardier varieties of fruit do well. Henry A. Lewis is the Bishop of Georgetown, which has a "Mormon" population of 241 souls divided into 45 families. The place was first settled in the spring of 1871.

Nounan is the name of a little valley lying west of Georgetown and separated from the north end of Bear Lake Valley by a low spur of mountains through which the water of Nounan Creek has cut a channel to find an outlet into Bear River. The valley is about eight miles long from north to south, and has an average width of something less than two miles. The mountains on the west, which separate the valley from Gentile Valley, are quite lofty, and Shermans Peak, standing not boldly immediately back of Skinner's dairy, has an altitude of about 9000 feet above sea level. There are five dairies, twelve families, or seventy-one souls in Nounan Valley, which constitute the Nounan branch, over which John Skinner presides. The place was first settled in 1875.

ANDREW JENSON,
Georgetown, Bear Lake Co.,
Idaho, Oct. 15, 1891.

THE UTAH GRANCH

Of the Keeley Institute Files Articles of Incorporation With the County Clerk.

The Utah branch of the Keeley Institute have filed articles of incorporation with the county clerk.

The life of the company is set down at fifty years. Its object is "the treatment and cure of the opium, liquor and morphine habits, and nervousness, under methods now and heretofore employed by the Keeley Institute, of Dwight, in the State of Illinois, and Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, and also the operation and maintenance of a sanitarium."

The home place of business is to be in this city.

The capital stock is fixed at $100,000, divided into 1,000 shares of the par value of $100 each. The affairs of the company shall be managed by five directors, who shall hold their offices for one year, and from their number they shall select a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

The annual meetings are fixed on the first Wednesday in March, and the following named parties shall act as directors until then: E. H. Harris, A. L. Hyde, Orson Bonnemort, J. F. Woolley and John Beck.

The shares of stock subscribed for by the respective corporators are as follows:

E. H. Harris	$ 9,000
A. L. Hyde	15,000
A. Bonnemort	15,000
J. F. Woolley	15,000
John Beck	15,000
Total	$69,000

Probate Court.

The following cases were heard before Judge Hatch yesterday afternoon:

Guardian and guardianship of Alfred and Thetis Kimball; hearing of guardian's account set for Friday, January 8, 1892.

Estate of Benjamin C. Stevens; decree of due and legal notice to creditors made. Hearing of final account and petition for distribution set for January 28, 1892.

Estate of William Sweney; notice to creditors ordered published.

Estate of Frank Crocker, deceased; continued to Tuesday, January 5, 1892.

DEATH OF FATHER ALLEN.

A Long and Honorable Career Has Come To a Close.

The death of Father Allen Taylor occurred at Lehi, Utah county, Utah, on December 5th. Deceased was the son of William Taylor and Elizabeth Patrick, and was born at Harding Green, Warren county, Kentucky, on January 19th, 1814. From that place he moved with his father's family to Monroe county, Missouri, and there joined the Church, having been baptized by David Cakwell in the winter of 1835. He was married September 8th, 1839, to Sarah Louvina Alvey, finding the personalities and sufferings of the Saints in Missouri, he endured, in common with his brethren, all the hardships without a murmur. He was at Far West at the time of his surrender. When the Saints were driven from Nauvoo, Brother Taylor was among them, and landed himself in assisting the poor to Winter Quarters. He was one of the volunteers of the "Mormon" battalion, but it was deemed advisable for him to remain and help the fathers and his family to Utah; therefore his brother Joseph went in his stead. The deceased came out with President Brigham Young in 1848 so far as the upper crossing of the Sweetwater, and was captain of the company. He returned to the Bluffs and came to Utah with President Young the next year. He was at one time Bishop of Kay's Ward, from which he was called by President Young in the fall of 1861 to go south and assist in building up the Lehi ward, which he remained until the fall of 1864. He was then honorably released by Apostle Lorenzo Snow. Consequently he moved to Alma, Pitt Co., where his oldest son was residing. Father Taylor was the bosom of his wives, one of whom survives him. Of his numerous family, of which there are twenty one are now living. He leaves 99 grandchildren and fifty-six great-grandchildren. Last spring he had a severe attack of la grippe, from the effects of which he never fully recovered, although sufficiently to enable him to attend to his ordinary duties. A few days before his death he thought he injured by a silver. This resulted in blood poisoning, which was the immediate cause of death. As he had lived so he died, full of faith in the work to which the greater part of his life had been devoted.

WILLIS H. ROMNEY.

St. Joseph Stake Conference.

The regular quarterly conference of the St. Joseph Stake was held on Sunday and Monday, December 13th and 14th, at Cove. The weather was unfavorable, and consequently the congregation was smaller than usual. The meetings were presided over by the Stake authorities.

The speakers dwelt on the subject of education, particularly our academy and Church schools. Some dilated upon the Word of Wisdom and tithing.

The general and local authorities were presented and sustained by unanimous vote.

The general health of the people is good, only one death having been reported in the Stake during the last three months.

Conference adjourned for three months.

J. PERCIVAL LEE, Clerk.

Golden Wedding.

Brother William and Sister Ann McGregor celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding at their home in the Second ward, last evening, Monday, Dec. 28th. A lot of relatives and friends were present and a pleasant time was spent. Brother and Sister Mellinger officiated on the occasion in some lively and spirited dancing. They also sang a number of old Scotch songs, assisted by their numerous children and grandchildren. Several beautiful presents were given.

Brother and Sister McGregor came to Utah in 1852 and have since made their home in the Second ward. Brother McGregor has been employed on the Temple block nearly forty years and his estimable wife has been for several years President of the Female Relief Society of the ward to which they live and both have been constant and energetic workers.

Dentistry.

Dr. J. Tenney, Scientific Dentist, No. 18 Main Street. All work guaranteed. Anesthetics administered. Friends and patrons invited. 4

THE QUICK AND THE DEAD

WOODS' PENETRATING PLASTER

is a quick, sure, safe, and effective cure for Lame Back, Chest Pains, Pleurisy, Rheumatism, Lumbago, Sciatica, Sore Throat, Sore Chest, Sore Muscles, Bruises, Sprains, Stiff Joints, Cramps, Chilblains, Frost Bites, Tender Feet, Ear Ache, Toothache, Neuralgia, Sore Kidneys, Pleurodynia, Backache, Hip Pain, Stitch in the Side, Pain in the Chest, Pain in the Back, Pain in the Bowels, Pain in the Limbs, Pain in the Joints, Pain in the Muscles, Pain in the Nerves, Pain in the Head, Pain in the Face, Pain in the Ears, Pain in the Eyes, Pain in the Nose, Pain in the Mouth, Pain in the Teeth, Pain in the Throat, Pain in the Shoulders, Pain in the Arms, Pain in the Hands, Pain in the Fingers, Pain in the Feet, Pain in the Toes, Pain in the Skin, Pain in the Flesh, Pain in the Blood, Pain in the Bones, Pain in the Marrow, Pain in the Brain, Pain in the Heart, Pain in the Lungs, Pain in the Liver, Pain in the Stomach, Pain in the Bowels, Pain in the Kidneys, Pain in the Bladder, Pain in the Navel, Pain in the Groin, Pain in the Thighs, Pain in the Knees, Pain in the Legs, Pain in the Ankles