

Spanish Fork; D. W. Driggs, Pleasant Grove; Francis Beardall, Springville. F. C. Boyer, secretary.

Mayor Hall made a speech of welcome to the visitors, and of commendation to the people of Springville on the action taken. He commended the remarks made in behalf of women as participants in all the hardships of pioneer life.

Milando Pratt moved that a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to the comrades and people of Springville, which was heartily responded to. Everybody dispersed feeling that the reunion had been a grand success.

The following are the names of those present who actually participated in engagements with Indians during the Black Hawk war:

Springville—Henry Curtis, J. H. Nokes, Lyle Curtis, David Dibble, W. L. Johnson.

Payson—M. H. Daley, John Turner, Henry Elmer, William Loveless.

Pleasant Grove—L. O. Lurd, Frederick Thorn, Robert Thorn, Robert Cobbley.

Spanish Fork—John Jones, E. P. Thomas, S. M. Hicks, A. R. M. Beck, John Houghton, John Hill.

Provo—Byron Pace, T. E. Fleming, Horatio Clark, Erastus Snow.

FATAL SNOWSLIDES.

With a mighty roar as of thunder, a terrific snowslide came down the mountains at Mullin, Idaho, on the 13th, carrying everything with it, says the *Rexburg Silver Hammer*. Several miners' cabins in its path were crushed and buried. Cornelia McVey and John Lion were eating dinner at their cabin, and before they realized the danger, the slide was upon them, crushing the life out of them in a twinkling. It is feared others are buried under the immense slide of snow. Not until spring comes will it be known how many perished. The town of Mullin narrowly escaped being carried away.

Today's *Logan Journal* contains the following: "A snowslide occurred in Strawberry canyon near Mink Creek the other day. Three teams were coming down with loads at the time. Drivers, horses, wagons and all were completely buried. Two other men were partially covered up. Aside from the killing of three horses and the injury of two men there was nothing fatal though one Hans Nelson was under the snow for two hours."

It is hoped that this account represents the full extent of damage by the snowslide, but a much more serious report has reached Salt Lake. A young lady, of Mink Creek, Miss Hilda Grabam, is now residing in this city, and has received a letter stating that her brother was caught in the snowslide, and that he was taken out dead. His body, when found, was standing head downwards in the snow. No further particulars are given. As the letter comes from a friend, it is possible that the full details of the accident were not known at the time of writing, and that the occurrence was not so bad as at first reported. In the meantime Miss Grabam is in a state of deep grief and anxiety regarding her brother.

Four girls were killed in the snowslide which occurred on Wednesday of

last week in the gulch putting into White Bird at Joe Jewell's. Two men with horses says the Grangerville (Idaho) *Free Press*, from the prairie stopped there that night, and they slept in the girls' room upstairs, while the young ladies made a shakedown bed on the floor down stairs. The snowslide went through the side of the house, throwing the boards down on them as they slept, and all were either crushed or smothered. An infant child which lay between the two eldest girls was recovered alive. The old folks also slept down stairs, but escaped without injury, as did the guests. The name of the family was Thompson, formerly located at Cottonwood. The young ladies' ages ranged between 8 and 16. It is without doubt the most melancholy tragedy that has occurred in the country since the Nez Perce war, and the bereaved family have the sympathy of all.

FARMS INTO SWAMPS.

Since the bringing out of the canals from Jordan river for irrigating purposes, the use of the water on bench lands has caused many tracts lower down to become so moist that where formerly irrigation was required to raise crops on them it is now unnecessary. In many instances on the east side of the river land which was formerly cultivated has been converted by irrigation above into meadowland. On the west side of the river, however, the changes from this cause have been more marked and in many cases more ruinous in their effects.

While instances of the kind noted are generally to be found in the cultivated section between the Oquirrh mountains and the Jordan, the peculiar condition is to be witnessed in its strongest aspect in Granger precinct, eight to ten miles southwest of the city. A few years ago that whole stretch of country was entirely devoid of water for many feet below the surface of the ground and so dry that even dry farming was a failure. With the bringing out of the canals, however, the soil could be irrigated, and when thus treated was capable of raising large crops. This caused many tracts of what was soon regarded as choice land to be brought under cultivation, and a great part of the district became as a fruitful field. The good appearance of the country there was taken advantage of during the boom, and real estate men sold for exorbitant prices large quantities of comparatively worthless land located northward down the slope.

In time land farther up the slope of the sandridge than the earliest settled part of Granger was taken up and reclaimed, and in a little while trouble began. Suddenly a farmer would find his season's crop unusually heavy because of the bountiful supply of moisture in the ground, but experience soon taught that this was anything but a welcome condition, for the next season the land would become a worthless, dangerous swamp. The reason for this is that in the particular section referred to there is, a few feet below the surface, a strata of "hard pan," through which the water will not percolate. As irrigation goes on in the more elevated sections the water, holding alkaline compounds in

solution, gathers beneath the lower fields and finally converts them into swamps.

In many instances drainage was resorted to, with the effect of partially preventing the land being ruined for farming purposes. A common plan which is followed is described by a Granger land owner. It is to drive short pipes vertically into the ground, the water that rises in these being carried off through ditches. In some places where the land became swampy, drainage was resorted to, with the result that the water, which is strongly impregnated with mineral, is partly drawn off and meadowland formed, on which there comes a liberal growth of bunch grass.

No general system of drainage has been adopted, but is being urged by some interested parties. There is a natural basin in the White Blatteratus lakes for the surplus water, and it is urged that the expense of a good drainage system would be amply repaid by the reclamation of the land which is now comparatively valueless and by preventing other farms from being ruined by the excess of brackish water.

YOUNG LADIES' TRAINING CLASS.

A News representative was informed by Professor Done that a young ladies' class in normal training will be organized in connection with the college, on Monday, Feb. 5th. The presidents of the Young Ladies' Improvement association of the several wards in the Salt Lake Stake will appoint two students from their respective wards; the class will be composed of such students, and will be under the direction of Prof. Done. Information is also given that a few more pupils can be accommodated in the kindergarten department of the college. Miss Aggie Sharp is teacher.

RETURNED ELDERS.

Elders W. T. Stewart and D. B. Stewart, of Kanab, Kane county, called at the News office January 26, having returned from a mission to foreign lands. They left this city on July 17, 1891, and returned on Jan. 24, 1894. Elder W. T. Stewart has presided over the Austral-Asian mission and Elder D. B. Stewart has labored in Australia. They both report the work in that part of the world fairly prosperous. There are thirty-five missionaries in the field. They are all desirous of doing their best for the furtherance of the Gospel and meet with but little opposition at present. Many Europeans are beginning to inquire into the doctrines held by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

A postal card from an Elder who left with a party of missionaries for the Southern states the other evening gives a brief account of an incident on the journey the night after leaving here. All of the party were in a chair car, and thought of remaining there for the night. They were moved, however, by a sudden impulse to go into the Pullman car, and did so. Next morning they learned that the car they left had been derailed and badly damaged, some of the passengers in it being severely hurt.