IN MILLARD STAKE.

An Interesting Descriptive Sketch of the Various Wards.

WATERWORKS AND RESERVOIRS.

The Stake House at Fillmore.—Historical Reminiscences.—At the Stake Conference.

Correspondence Deseret News.

FILLMORE, Millard Co., Utah, June 2, 1893.—On Sunday and Monday, May 21st and 22nd, I attended the Millard Stake quarterly conference, held in Hinckley ward. Elder R. H. Robertson was the only representative of the general authorities of the Church present. Good instructions were given during the conference, and the hearts of the assembled Saints were made to rejoice under the outpouring influence of the Holy spirit which rested upon both speakers and hearers throughout all the meetings. Considering that the Hinckley ward is situated off to one side, and that some of the local visitors had to come a distance of nearly forty-five miles to attend conference, there was a good attendance, every ward in the Stake having several representatives present. The bulk of the congregations, however, consisted of the Saints residing in the Hinckley, Deseret and Oasis wards.

Since conference I have visited all the wards in the Stake, and have held special meetings in Leamington, Oak Creek, Holden, Fillmore, Kanosh, Meadow and Scipio. I have also been successful in obtaining data and such other information as is needed for Church history.

The Millard Stake of Zion comprises all of Millard county, Utah, and embraces most of the great Pauvan valley, which consists chiefly of a barren desert, uncultivated as yet by the husbandman, except a few spots near the base of the mountains on the east where most of the settlements are situated on the small mountain streams, which have been diverted from their natural course onto the adjoining lands, taken up by the settlers for agricultural purposes. Unto settlements in Millard county are just as many oases in the desert; and at this time of the year when the trees, appearance of the lucern and grain fields, and the vegetation generally in the watered districts, clad in spring's beautiful attire, please the eye, they point out to the traveler in a most effective manner the difference between that part of our Utah which has been redeemed from the desert and that part which is yet to be redeemed.

The Millard Stake of Zion consists of ten fully organized wards, with a total membership of 3604 souls, numbered in 841 families. There are one Patriarch, 134 Seventies, 112 High Priests, 211 Elders, 32 Priests, 50 Teachers, 206 Deacons, 1811 members and 1003 children under eight years of age. Ira N. Hinckley, of Fillmore, is President of the Stake; and Daniel Thompson, of Scipio, is his first and D. R. Stevens, of Holden, his second counselor. The Stake clerk is Elder Christian Anderson, who also presides over the High Priests' quorum; Joseph D. Smith, formerly Bishop of Fillmore, is the Stake Patriarch.

Fillmore City, the first capital of Utah Territory, and now the county seat of Millard county and headquarters of the Millard Stake of Zion, is pleasantly situated on Chalk creek, near the base of the mountains, which separate Pauvan valley from Sevier valley lying eastward. Of the principal public buildings of Fillmore may be mentioned the old state house erected at the expense of the government in 1852-55, and in which the fifth annual session of the Utah legislature was held in the winter of 1855-56. This is a solid two-story rock structure, and of late years it has been used for school purposes. The county court house, situated in the southeast corner of the state house square is a creditable building, but the Latter-day Saint meeting house standing near the center of an adjoining block and which was erected in 1864 when the people for fear of Indians lived in a fort, reminds one of that Fillmore which ought to have disappeared twenty years ago. Of course a new and a more modern house of worship is on the program of the good Saints of Fillmore, but until such a building shall become a reality Holden will enjoy the pleasing distinction of having the finest meeting house in the county, unless Kanosh, which also needs a less antiquated building than the one now used by the Saints there, should rustle up and erect one first. Fillmore was settled by the late Anson Call and many others in the fall of 1851, and its long and eventful history more than its present importance, makes it a place of distinction among the towns and cities of Utah. Thomas C. Callister is the present Bishop of Fillmore, and James A. Melville and Nelson H. Bishop are his counselors. The ward has a population of 606 souls, or 121 families, which makes it the largest ward in the Stake since Deseret was divided up into three wards. Besides the Church population, there are quite a number of non-Mormons in Fillmore.

Meadow ward embraces all the Saints residing on Meadow Creek, which is about eight miles south of Fillmore. Nearly all the people live in a cozy little village, in which the comfortable and neat residences are more or less hid in the midst of beautiful orchards with which the place abounds. This ward, presided over by Bishop Hyrum B. Knight, has a population of 179 souls, or 41 families. The place was first settled in 1857.

Ten miles west southwest the town of Kanosh on the valley now known as Pahvant valley, but formerly called Chalk Creek, also the place of a small Indian camp ever since. It was here the old Indian chief Kanosh and his band used to meet with a remnant of the Saints numbering about fifty souls, excluded by a willing vote the Indians from membership among the saints, and confirmed the town of Kanosh. The old chief himself died several years ago. The present Bishop of Kanosh is Jens Hansen, who succeeded the late A. A. Kimball in 1885. The membership of the Kanosh ward is 370, represented in 81 families. The settlement dates back to 1859, when the first white people located permanently on Chalk Creek. The present town of Kanosh, which is twenty miles south of Fillmore, was founded in 1862.

Hooper, formerly known as Cold Springs, is situated ten miles north of Fillmore. This latter outstanding settlement, over which Anthony Stephenson presides as Bishop, is located in the Pahvant valley, on an excellent tract, having some excellent and an abundant supply of water. The latter is worthy of special mention. When the drought in Utah came near decimating the flocks of living other settlements, the people of Hooper went to work with a will and sinked a number of small artesian wells at different points along the base of the bluffs, below where the town is located, and by this means finally brought water into almost every home in the settlement, which is flowing with the stream of spring's formerly utilized for irrigation purposes. There are no less than five different systems of pipe, some of which supplies a number of families, besides enough to water the fine shade trees. Hooper's Bishop was appointed in 1886, and has a population of 344 souls, or 72 families. The place is named after the late Elijah Hooper, a member of the Mormon Battalion, who perished in a storm between Round Valley and Holden in the fall of 1858.

Scipio, a settlement numbering about 600 souls, of which 533 souls, or 95 families, are Saints, possesses the distinction of being romantically situated in Round Valley, twenty-five miles north of Fillmore and twenty-three miles southwest of Juab, in Juab county, the nearest railroad station. Round Valley is about ten miles long from north to south with an average width of nearly five miles. The settlement owes its existence to a large reservoir lying in an upper valley about nine miles southeast of the settlement. In this reservoir all the small mountain streams leading forth from the surrounding elevations, and springs in the neighborhood are gathered both winter and summer, and there it is stored until the irrigation season commences, when by a most judicious and systematic contract it is made to water a large scope of country in the lower valley where the town is situated. Round Valley was first settled in the spring of 1860, the location of the settlement was changed in 1865 and the place named Scipio by President Brigham Young in 1866. Thomas Callister is the present Bishop, and Peter Nielsen and W. J. Hatch are his counselors. The Stake Monograph, the ward clerk, has compiled and written one of the best and most complete ward histories that I have had the pleasure to examine in all my travels in the settlements of the Saints.

Leamington, also named after an English town of that name, consists of a scattered settlement lying along the Sevier river, at the mouth of the canyon through which the river emerges into the broad desert valley (Pauvan) below. The settlement comprises only about twenty families, of which 18 (or 151 souls) belong to the Church. Lars Nielsen is the Bishop. This place was first settled in 1873 and was a part of the Oak Creek ward until 1891, when it was organized into a separate ward. It is the smallest ward in the Millard Stake of Zion.

Oak Creek, also called Oak City, is pleasantly situated on a small but beautiful mountain stream, which rises in the mountains lying east of the settlement and which forms the natural boundary between Pauvan and Round Valley. The elevated bench on which the valley is situated commands a fine view of the great valley lying to the west and northwest. Oak Creek was first settled in 1866 by Saints who had formerly resided at Deseret, which place was abandoned that year owing to the repeated loss of the dams which the settlers had constructed across the Sevier river, in order to obtain water for irrigation purposes. Oak Creek ward has at present 81 families, or 522 souls. Peter Anderson presides with George Fillmore and Fred. B. Lyman as his counselors.

Deseret ward of today embraces a scope of country lying on both sides of the Sevier river about 25 miles west of Leamington, and about twenty miles northeast of the city of the Sevier. Most of the families live in a scattered condition on their farms, though a township was surveyed many years ago, on which there is a number of building blocks, including the meeting house, several stores and a number of private residences. Since the division of the ward in 1891, Milton Moody has presided as Bishop, with Adolph F. Warnick and Lars Wilcox as counselors. The present population strength of the ward is 67 families or 451 souls. Besides these there are a number of non-Mormons.

Hinckley ward, the smallest ward of the Stake, has a population of 138 souls, or 30 families. The place is noted for growing north and northwest of the main house, formerly occupied as a ward house, but abandoned in March, 1891, and replaced by a fine new house, which is well worth a visit. Hinckley is 17 miles southwest of Deseret. A. H. Hansen and Thomas Jones are the counselors. The majority of the inhabitants of the ward are those who formerly resided in or near Delta, but who, after losing their farms and improvements by the flood of the Sevier river, were induced to settle the Hot Springs, some 40 miles southwest of Deseret, on land which would make a good crop in 1891. Fifty-one families, numbering 237 souls, registered the journey and settled in the ward, and it was proposed to make the ward a center of the Saints in the west house. The house was the best quarterly tithe and some was paid into it, but the Deseret people of the Hinckley ward have just erected a substantial meeting house of brick and adobe, which provides more comfort and leaves enough to hold the people who attended conferences.

Some ward, like many of the railway settlements, which the Church encourage the Saints to build up in Deseret, represents a population of 247 souls belonging to the Church. The non-Mormons have to contend with, compared to what they have were. Delta is 125 miles by rail from Salt Lake City and nearly thirty miles northwest of Deseret, which is the central point of the three wards lying adjacent and also in the Fort Sheridan mines, therefore and the whole surrounding country is at present experiencing a revival in its mining industry. The Sevier river, which flows from the mountains in the Deseret and Hinckley wards, and consequently close to Delta, is used for irrigation purposes across the river from the settlement, in a most unusual way, or which there is a small dam, and the Deseret ward, which is the Hinckley ward is an outrowing Deseret, is presided over by John Roper, Bishop, a young man who a few years ago came to Utah to a land, almost fifty miles long, but when Fred B. Lyman, who is such as the Good Shepherd, only affords the shoulder and moan, the town appointed to his present position, which he fills with honor. Elders Lars Hansen and Jacob C. Stawley are his counselors.

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