

Bishop Thomas E. Ricks, in honor of President Wilford Woodruff.

In May, 1884, the first Sunday school was organized with 16 pupils and William J. Pratt as superintendent.

May 9 and 10, 1884, the townsite was surveyed by Andrew S. Anderson. On the 15th of November following the first house was built on the townsite by William Brower. About the same time Joseph H. Brower, John Brower and John Burrell also erected log houses on the townsite.

At a special meeting held at Wilford, June 9, 1884, at which Apostles Wilford Woodruff and Heber J. Grant and Pres. Thomas E. Ricks were present, a branch organization was effected with George D. Black as presiding Priest.

Sept. 6, 1884, at a conference held at Rexburg, the Wilford branch was organized into a ward with Thomas S. Smith as Bishop. His Counselors were Richard Funk and John T. Brower, who were ordained High Priests and set apart to their respective offices at a Priesthood meeting held at Rexburg, Dec. 6, 1884. Subsequently Thomas S. Smith was ordained a Patriarch, and George Davis took temporary charge of the Ward as acting Bishop from July 18, 1886, until August 21, 1887, when he was duly ordained and set apart to act as Bishop of the Wilford Ward by Apostle Lorenzo Snow. Reuben A. Belnap and John E. Pincock were chosen as his Counselors. Elder Belnap was ordained a High Priest and set apart to his position as First Counselor September 3, 1887. Brother Pincock was ordained soon afterwards.

March 25, 1885, the first day school was taught at Wilford by William Jack.

In 1886, a commodious meeting-house, 44x22 feet, (at that time the largest in the Stake) was built by donations. It is still the only meeting-house of the ward.

**FALL RIVER BRANCH.**—Quite a number of families having located on and near Fall River (which stream empties into Henry's Fork of Snake River at a point about ten miles north-east of Wilford), a special meeting was held at that place (Fall River) February 2, 1889, on which occasion the Saints in that district of country were organized into a branch of the Church, called the Fall River Branch of the Wilford Ward. Thomas Brown was appointed presiding Elder and Elisha Hathaway superintendent of Sunday schools.

**SPRINGVILLE BRANCH.** which also belongs to the Wilford Ward, consists of the new townsite of Springville and the settlers in the surrounding country—about twenty families altogether. The townsite is situated between Henry's Fork of Snake River and Fall River, on a high plateau overlooking a beautiful scope of country. It comprises all of the southeast quarter of section 30, township 9 north of range 43 east, and is twenty-two miles northeast of the town of Wilford. It is on the line of the proposed Park branch of the Union Pacific Railway, and in the midst of what is locally known as the garden spot of the Snake River Valley. Water is pure, abundant and easy to get for irrigation and manufacturing purposes. The soil is of a sandy loam; rich in vegetable mould, warm in its

nature and deep. Upwards of 200,000 acres of this kind of land surrounds the settlement bordering on large streams of pure water and vast forests of pine timber. The altitude of Springville is 5,354 feet or 400 feet higher than Rexburg, but it is singularly exempt from frost on account of its peculiar location.

The first attempt toward making a settlement in that part of the country now included in the Springville Branch was made in the summer of 1889 by James H. Wilson and others, who located near some beautiful springs which suggested the name of Springville. In the early part of 1890 a canal company called the Springville Irrigation Company was organized, and active preparations made to bring water upon the lands selected for agricultural purposes. Good crops of corn, wheat, oats and vegetables were raised there in 1890.

The Springville Branch was organized by President Thomas E. Ricks and others July 18, 1890, and James H. Wilson, formerly of Salem, a neighboring ward, was chosen to preside over the branch. On the 10th and 11th Civil Engineer Andrew S. Anderson laid out the town into blocks containing 36 square rods each. It is the intention to build on the site at once.

#### WILLOW CREEK WARD.

Alphonzo Bert Simmons, Bishop; Luman Elisha Shurtliff, First Counselor; George Albert Simmons, Second Counselor.

Willow Creek Ward derives its name from quite an important stream of that name, which rises in the mountains on the east side of the Snake River valley, and falls into the river immediately above Eagle Rock. It embraces an extensive tract of country lying between Rigby Ward on the north and Iona Ward on the south. West it extends to the Louisville Ward and east to the mountains. The boundaries of the ward are as follows: Commencing at the foot hills on the township line between township 8 and 4 north, thence running west to the northwest corner of section 2 in township 3 north of range 38 east, Boise meridian, thence south to Willow Creek, thence along Willow Creek to the county bridge, thence due east to the foot hills; (See map on page 130.) All the people live on their farms and are much scattered, and there are quite a number of non-Mormons within the limits of the ward. Water for irrigating purposes is conveyed to the farms through a 12-mile long canal which taps the Snake River about half a mile below the head of the Eagle Rock and Willow Creek canal. The land is level and very productive. The meeting house, a log building, 34x22 feet, finished in January, 1890, which is somewhat centrally located, is in section 9, township 3 north of range 39 east. It is fourteen miles by road northeast of Eagle Rock and twelve miles southeast of Louisville.

**HISTORY.**—The first Mormon settlers in that part of the country now embraced in the Willow Creek Ward were John R. Heath and Jesse Cleverly. These were the only two families of Saints there in July, 1883. In 1884 George A. Simmons, Amos G. Robinson, Parley Davis, Thomas Cole and others, who located on quarter sec-

tions at different points along Willow Creek, arrived.

A branch of the Church was organized June 12, 1885, with Jesse Cleverly as presiding Priest. It was attached to the Rigby Ward and continued thus until May 28, 1887, when, at a Priesthood meeting held at Eagle Rock, it was attached to the Eagle Rock Ward, and Reuben Coles appointed presiding Priest.

At a special meeting held at Willow Creek, August 11, 1888, Alphonzo Bert Simmons was presented to the people as the future Bishop of the ward, which was to be organized. He was ordained and set apart to this position at the quarterly conference held at Louisville August 19th following. November 30, 1888, at a special meeting held at Willow Creek, Luman E. Shurtliff was set apart as First Counselor Counselor to Bishop Simmons. December 16, 1888, at a meeting held at Menan, George Albert Simmons was set apart as his Second Counselor.

In January, 1890, the present meeting house, a log building, 34x22 feet, was completed. Previous to this, meetings were held in private houses.

At a meeting held at Willow Creek, June 1, 1890, a temporary division of the ward was effected, the west end of the same being organized into a branch, with James H. Gardner as presiding Priest. This was done because of the great distance which some of the members had to travel in order to attend meetings.

(NOTE)—The history of the Banrock Stake closes with July, 1890. Changes that may have occurred since that time are not recorded in this history.

#### THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE.

Boise, Idaho, Feb. 20. [Special telegram to the *Herald*].—One of the worst crimes perpetrated on Idaho was today, when the house passed the Australian ballot law, revised edition, for a special occasion. It defines the qualification of electors, provides for nominations to public office, authorizes the proclamation of rules to govern and regulate elections, to specify the duties of election officials and their fees, to regulate the procedure in contesting elections, govern and regulate elections for changing county seats and boundaries, provides for printing and distributing ballots and other election supplies at the public expense and for the publication and distribution of copies of the election laws and repealing all territorial laws on elections. Thus it will be seen how sweeping the law is. Not even one amendment was made to the bill as the Republicans had caucused and decided to push it through without delay. A few days ago when final action was being taken in the senate, Senator Brandstetter proposed to amend section 3, striking out "1888" and inserting "1892," which amendment was voted down, Shoup arguing that it was to prevent Mormons from voting who were guilty of those crimes up to that time.

Senator White argued that it was an *ex post facto* law and that crime should not be punished by a law enacted at this day, but have reference to crimes committed in the future. So far as throwing safeguards around the ballot was concerned, he was as much