

and others. We were all pleased with the appearance of the country and the facilities it presented for agricultural pursuits, as well as for stock raising. The climate, also, seems more congenial than was at first anticipated.

"I continued my labors of exploring until the morning of the 17th, when I returned to my grading camp. I am informed by a Brother Heath, who is living in Willow Creek, that he and others raised corn on that stream last year, and in fact they showed us some which was well matured. There is a fine tract of country along Willow Creek, and also in the forks of Snake river, along the Teton and other streams, as well as on the north side of Henry's Fork. There are facilities in this country for hundreds of comfortable homes.

During the remainder of 1879 several other families came to the island and located upon various pieces of land as choice led them to select, and began building and improving the same. Among these settlers was Alexander N. Stephens.

In July, 1879, Joseph C. Fisher moved into his house which had been erected near the "Little Buttes." This was the first log house finished on the island by Latter-day Saints.

Some time during the fall of 1879, John R. Poole called all the people who had located on the island together in the house of A. Wright, a non-Mormon, and held a meeting with them, which was the first Latter-day Saint meeting ever held in that part of the country. In December Elder Poole moved his family to the island.

In 1880 the little settlement was strengthened by the arrival of other families seeking for homes.

July 10, 1880, the first child (Alexander V., a son of Alexander N. Stephens), was born on the island.

In August, 1881, Susannah R. Poole taught a term of school, which was the first school taught on the island.

The canal through which the people of Menan get their irrigation water, and which taps the main branch of Snake River, was constructed in 1880-81 by the settlers, who have since incorporated under the name of the Long Island Canal Company. The canal is about eight miles long.

In November, 1881, Mariner W. Merrill, of the Cache Stake Presidency, and William D. Hendricks visited the island and held two meetings with the Saints. On that occasion John R. Poole was set apart to preside over the branch then organized, and named it the Cedar Buttes Branch of the Cache Stake of Zion. This name was suggested by President Preston because of its close proximity to the above-mentioned buttes. On the same occasion Susannah R. Poole was sustained as clerk of the branch, and Joseph C. Fisher and David R. Carr were sustained as home missionaries. About this time, also, Alexander N. Stephens and Spencer V. Raymond were appointed to act as Teachers. They were the first acting Teachers on the island. The Cedar Buttes Branch at the time of its organization included the whole country south and east of Snake River as far south as Pocatello.

That year (1881) the first Sunday school was organized by John R. Poole, who superintended it. It was continued until the schoolhouse, to-

gether with all books and school fixtures, was burned early in 1882. November 25, 1883, the school was reorganized with Albert L. Ellsworth as superintendent. Also a Y. M. M. I. A. was organized in 1881.

In 1882 a few more families arrived, who, with those already upon the island, put in some grain and a few potatoes. In the fall it was ascertained that wheat, oats and barley, as well as all the hardier vegetables, could be grown there in abundance.

In February, 1883, the Cedar Buttes townsite was surveyed by Andrew S. Anderson. It contained a mile square, but has since been reduced to half that much on account of trouble in securing title to the land. This is the same site that was located by John R. Poole in 1879. In May, 1883, the sale of city lots commenced. The townsite was originally entered under the desert act, under the advice of government officials, but it was afterwards thrown out owing to a technical error, after proving up on it, and after a final receipt had been obtained. The money expended has never been returned. Afterwards the townsite was entered by the probate judge under the townsite act, but only half of it was secured, because not enough settlers located on it within the time specified by law. The whole trouble in this connection was caused by misrepresentations on the part of the Idaho officials, who, with a view to bleeding the people for money, took advantage of these technicalities of the law. As it now stands, the people have bought their lots twice.

October 25th, 1883, William B. Preston, President of the Cache Stake, visited the place and authorized Robert L. Bybee to build a tithing office on the townsite and to collect tithing from the people. The foundation for such a building was laid November 25th and completed December 25th following.

In December, 1883, the first private dwelling was built on the townsite. William N. Stephens built the second house. In the summer of 1884 a few more houses were built on the townsite and a proportionate number of families were added to the slowly increasing population.

In April, 1884, Robert L. Bybee set out 50 apple trees and 30 plum trees on his city lot south of the tithing office, which were the first trees planted on the townsite; he also fenced the first lot on the townsite.

At a quarterly conference held at Rexburg, August 17, 1884, Robert L. Bybee was ordained a High Priest, under the hands of George Q. Cannon, Francis M. Lyman and George Teasdale, and set apart to act as Bishop of the Cedar Buttes Ward.

September 28, 1884, the following brethren were set apart to act as ward Teachers: Alexander N. Stephens, Spencer V. Raymond, Homer A. Pease, Charles W. Shippen, Luman E. Shurtliff, Francis Gold, J. T. Caldwell, W. F. Walker, Joseph H. Byington, Joseph C. Fisher.

October 26, 1884, President Thomas E. Ricks visited the island, on which occasion George Eames and John G. Morgan were ordained High Priests and set apart to act as First and Second Counselors to Bishop Robert L. Bybee.

In 1885, the people petitioned the postoffice department for a postoffice,

which was granted, but the name Cedar Buttes was objected to by the department because of its length. Hence a mass meeting of the people of the island was held in March, 1885, at which the name Menan was adopted, it being an Indian name for island.

May 2, 1885, Herbert Poole, a three-year-old son of John R. Poole, was accidentally drowned in the old river bed; his body was never found.

In that year (1885) Bishop Bybee was appointed acting President of the Stake and William Nephi Stephens was appointed to take temporary charge of the ward. He acted in that capacity until August 21, 1887, when he was ordained a High Priest and set apart to act as Bishop of the Ward by Apostle Lorenzo Snow. This was done at a quarterly conference held at Rexburg. On the same occasion Oscar W. Green and Spencer V. Raymond were ordained High Priests and set apart to act as his first and second counselors. This Bishopric still stands intact.

The first meeting and school house at Menan was erected in 1883. It was the second meeting house built in the Bannock Stake, the one in Parker, (Egin) antedating it. This house was burned in the fall of 1883. Previous to its erection meetings were held in a small log house, originally built for a private residence. A few years ago the present meeting house, a log building, 23x40 feet, was erected.

PARKER WARD.

Wyman Mynard Parker, Bishop; Francis Rawson, First Counselor; Arnold Daniel Miller, Second Counselor.

Parker Ward, the most northerly ward in the Stake, embraces all the country lying north of Henry's Fork of Snake River, east of the Brighton ward. The line between the two wards is just three miles west of the centre of the Parker townsite. About half the population are Gentiles.

Parker townsite, which embraces all of section 9 in township 7 north, of range 40 east, Boise Meridian, in a direct line, is only eight miles north of Rexburg, but the way the road runs, by way of the bridge at St. Anthony, the distance is about sixteen miles. It is also 30 miles northeast of Market Lake, the nearest railway point. Owing to imperfect title, and for other causes, only a small percentage of the people live on the townsite; the majority reside on their respective quarter sections.

Parker vies with Teton in point of beautiful location, and the surrounding level country here in the spring of the year is literally covered with flowers of a yellowish hue, which is also the case in the Wilford and Teton wards. The hardy weed bearing these flowers is the natural vegetation in this part of the valley, while the country south of the main fork of Snake River is generally covered with a thrifty growth of sage brush.

The land in the neighborhood is very productive and particularly adapted for the raising of vegetables of all kinds. Water will run west and south.

HISTORY.—That part of the country now included in Parker Ward was first visited by Stephen Winegar and two others, from Randolph, Rich County, Utah, in July, 1879. They came with a view to locating farms and ranches