

Paradise Was Chosen As The Name Of This Prett

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Herald Journal Paradise
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In the year 1859, Alvin Month, Joseph Crapo, Barnard White, William Smith, and Samuel McMurdie arrived in the south end of Cache Valley. They saw what they saw, the soil was good, there was water for irrigation and an abundance of fine lumber in the surrounding mountains. The name Paradise was chosen because it looked like a Paradise to them.

A settlement was located where Avon now stands. After building a few small log houses they went back to Davis, Weber and Box Elder counties for their families, arriving here May 12, 1860.

Settlers Arrive

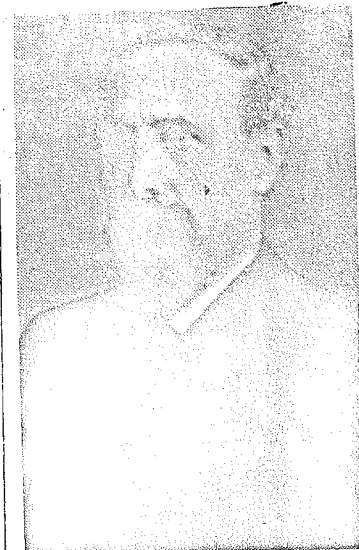
Soon afterward other settlers arrived. Crops were planted, water taken out of the East fork of Little Bear River for irrigation. A good harvest was gathered that season.

Meetings were held in various homes the first winter, usually the oldest Elder present would preside at these meetings.

Paradise being at that time in Box Elder County, the place was not settled under the Cache Valley ecclesiastical organization; but as a range of mountains separated Paradise from Brigham City it soon afterward seemed wise to organize the settlement under the Cache Valley Authorities, this wish being carried to President Ezra T. Benson with

the Presiding Bishop, Peter Maughan. These brethren came over to Paradise in February 1861 to effect an organization. David James was chosen Bishop with Henry C. Jackson and Harry A. Shaw as counselors. At the next session of the Legislature the County lines were changed so that Paradise became a part of Cache County.

Among the early settlers who arrived here were Elijah Tams, William Humphreys, Edward Price, James Bishop, Enoch Rawlins, Jerome Remington,



FIRST BISHOP of Paradise ward, Daniel James.

William Nash Thomas and John Wright.

Furnish Teams

The settlers did their share in furnishing teams and drivers to go back to the Missouri River for immigrants, some of the teamsters who made the trip were William Humphreys, Edwin Pope, Barnard White, Samuel Holbrook and others.

In 1862 more settlers arrived. Work on the irrigation ditches was carried on successfully, another good crop was harvested, and union and good will prevailed among the people.

In 1864 a new meeting house 18 x 27 feet, built of logs, was completed. In 1865 a Sunday School was commenced, with John Wright as superintendent, although it didn't become a regular organization until 1867.

Relief Society

A Relief Society was organized here June 12, 1869, with the following officers: Jane James president, Martha Obray, first, and Harriet Hirst, second counselors; Emma Shaw, secretary; and Elizabeth James, treasurer.

There was a YMMIA organized here at an early day, but as the association failed to send a representative to meet the Historian at the time of his visit, the history cannot be given here.

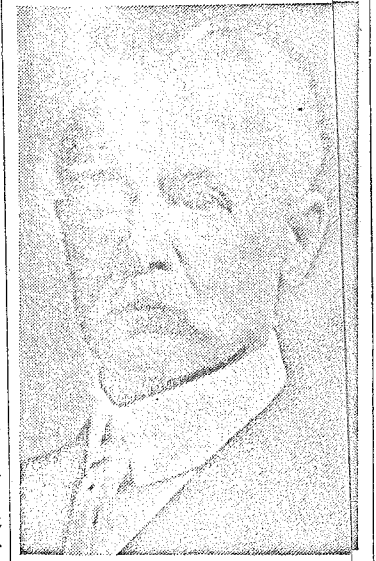
At a special meeting held at Paradise August 10, 1878, attended by Eliza R. Snow and Elizabeth E. Davis, a YLMIA was organized with the following of-

ficers: Caroline M. Smith, president; Elizabeth Sandiford, first, and Sarah Ann Obray, second counselors; Mary Jane Oldham as secretary.

Primary

In the spring of 1881 a Primary association was organized but the minutes were preserved, so April 22, 1883 the association was re-organized with Louisa Gibbs as president, Elizabeth Smith first, and Melissa Shaw second counselors, and Louisa Bishop secretary.

One remarkable feature in our



SAMUEL OLDHAM, first president, Paradise Town board.

little settlement is the fact that the members of our ward were residents of the same branch of the church in England; namely the settlement.

Due to the abundance of timber at the nearby canyons, the lumber business became an important industry. Several saw mills were in operation, lumber being hauled across the fouring hill and down to Brigham City and Corinne and other settlements. This industry furnished much of the income to the settlers for the next 50 or more years. In fact Alonzo Burrell still operates a sawmill at Paradise.

First Teacher

At an early date a school was opened with Harry A. Shaw as the teacher and by 1867 more than 50 pupils were enrolled.

At about this time due to Indian trouble the settlers decided to move about three miles north to the present site of Paradise.

Grasshoppers destroyed most of the crops in 1869-'70-'72. These were really hard times for the members of our little community.

About this time a brass band was organized under the direction of William Orgill and later Robert Pearce.

In 1873 Bishop David James moved to Salt Lake City, Henry C. Jackson was appointed acting Bishop, which position he held the next two years, when

the ward was re-organized with Orson Smith being sustained as Bishop. He acted without counselors until 1877 when Henry C. Jackson and Harry A. Shaw were appointed as his counselors.

New Church

In 1876 a new meeting house was started, the former building erected in 1868 which had served for all public purposes that time, was now inadequate to accomodate the increasing



FIRST TEACHER in Paradise, Harry A. Shaw.

population of the settlement. In 1877 work was continued on the meeting house which was a rock building 35 x 65 feet. It was finished sufficiently that year that meetings could be held in the coming winter. A belfry was built on the west end. David James, the former Bishop of the ward donated the bell and glass windows.

Orson Smith presided over the ward until June 8, 1884, at which time he was called to be second counselor to Charles O. Card, president of Cache Stake and Samuel Oldham was sustained as bishop.

Missionaries

Paradise ward maintained its quota of missionaries in the field. Many young men and married men filled honorable missions for the church. One of these was Elder John H. Gibbs, who was called on a mission to the Southern States. His wife, Louisa Obray Gibbs was left at home to care for their three small children. Elder Gibbs was laboring with a companion, William S. Berry of Kanarra, in Southern Utah. The two Mormon missionaries were holding a religious service at the home of James Condor, a member of the church. An angry mob surrounded the house. Elders Gibbs and Berry were shot and killed by members of the mob. This tragedy took place at Cane Creek, Lewis County, Tennessee, August 10,



Before Benson was sustained as part of the country was used as a herd ground, in fact, the land west of Newton and as far north as Weston, was used for grazing of livestock, cattle and horses.

At that time there were many wild animals and game to be found all through the river "bottoms". Small bands of Indians frequently camped along the river. In the late sixties Joel Ricks of Logan operated a ferry across Bear River in the south west part of Benson close to where the Logan river joins the Bear river. He was also homesteading a large tract of land.

His youngest son, who was also named Joel (the father of Mrs. J. Karl Wood) would come with his father to Benson and in a row-boat he would wander all over the river and sloughs exploring. William Ricks was an elder son of the first Joel Ricks and many of his children are still living in Benson (J. W., Wallace and Hugh Ricks and Jennie Young). Alec Ricks' father, Louis, was also a son of the elder Joel Ricks. Later on David Reese operated a ferry about where the

On February 27, 1921 Henry Ballard was sustained as Bishop with Sylvan Peterson and Lionel Munk as counselors and J. Vern Adams as ward clerk. Later Marvin P. Thain became a counselor taking Sylvan Peterson's place and Foster S. Reese became the ward clerk.

In October 1941 Cyril K. Munk became the new bishop with Melvin Ballard and Arvel C. Reese as his counselors and A. Alton Hoffman as ward clerk. During this time Joseph C. Patton and R. L. Ballard also served as counselors.

In July 1951 Thain became the new bishop with Gordon Ricks and Foster S. Reese as counselors and Kenneth Cardon as ward clerk.

First Teachers

The first meeting house and school house was located west of where the Willard Saunders home now stands. A school was also conducted where the George Cowley home and the George Tarbet homes now stand. The first early teachers were Mrs. John (Sophrina) Rees, George Thomas (who later became the president of the University of Utah), William G. Reese (Mrs.

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1884. Word was sent to B. H. Roberts, mission president at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Elder Roberts disguised as a tramp, succeeded in obtaining the bodies. A missionary, Elder William R. Robinson was released to accompany the bodies on the train to Utah. When the funeral train arrived in Logan, a large crowd of sorrowing people were assembled at the depot.

Eye Witness

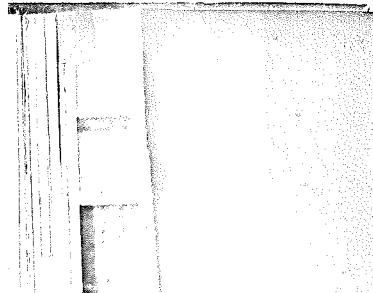
John Welch, a young man twenty years old, moved from Brigham City in 1884 to make his home in Paradise. He leaves an eye witness account of the sorrowful homecoming of the martyred missionary John H. Gibbs.

A procession of friends and neighbors followed the body along the route from Logan to Paradise. It was after dark when the funeral procession passed through Milville. The Paradise band led the group, the softly played sacred hymns sounded like heavenly music in the still summer night. Marching with the band were men carrying lighted torches. For those who silently watched, it was an experience never to be forgotten.

President Taylor

Impressive funeral services were held in Paradise. A large bowery was built along the south side of the meeting house to provide additional room for the assembly. John Taylor, presi-

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Bishop Marion Olsen fine sheep at pasture.



Treasureton is In Northern Part Of Valley

Paradise Area Is Versatile In Agriculture

Continued from Preceding Page
 dent of the church, attended. His sermon was especially impressive. He had been present at the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum, in Carthage jail, just 40 years before.

A monument was erected at the grave of John H. Gibbs by the YMMIA of Cache Stake.

Paradise was an early dairy center in Cache Valley. In the early 1880's Samuel McMurdie, owner and operator of a large farm west of town, began the manufacturing of butter and cheese. His trade mark Diamond M became well known throughout the country.

Fine Equipment

The dairy equipment was the

most modern and finest to be found any where west of the Mississippi river and was housed in a fine new building that is still standing and in good condition. It is now being used as a turkey processing, refrigeration and storage plant. Mr. McMurdie also built some very fine barns and sheds that are still standing, strong and true and in daily use, he also has the credit of bringing into the state some of the first if not the very first registered Percheron horses, Devon cattle and Poland China hogs. Since about 1907 the property has been owned by Joseph B. White, son of Barnard White, one of the original settlers and is still the largest ranch in Cache County.

The oldest building left standing in our town is a barn built

in 1869 by Alvin Monteith, there is 3500 cubic feet of rock and mortar in the foundation, the timbers are large and hand hewed. The property was purchased in 1884 by John Welch, the barn is still in daily use.

New Church

In 1902 an addition was added to the meeting house, a two-story structure, built of rock, adding four class rooms and a stage. This served our community until 1953 when our new chapel was added and the old part remodelled at a cost of more than \$150,000.00. It was dedicated May 23, 1954 by Apostle Harold B. Lee. The building is among the most beautiful religious edifices in the valley and is a tribute to the perseverance and hard work by ward members.

About 1904 the first part of our present school building was constructed, made of red brick. In 1911 an addition was added, also of red brick which furnished more class rooms, a furnace was also installed at this time. Then in 1940 a recreation hall and gymnasium was constructed by the school and ward.

Incorporated

Paradise town was incorporated April 1907. Samuel Oldham was the first president of the town board, members of the board were, Gibson Olsen, Elias Tams, John Welch and Robert W. James, with Robert Pearce as town clerk.

Since that time we have had the following town board presidents or mayors: John Welch, Gideon Olsen, Erastus Bankhead, Robert Shipley, William H. Shaw, George S. O'Bray, Edward P. Oldham, John P. James, Orson Miles, Ed Bahen, Joseph B. White, Joseph Howells, Marion Olson, Fred Summers, Frank Olson and Oliver Smith.

From 1861 to 1951 the follow-

ing Bishops have served: David James, Orson Smith, Samuel Oldham, Peter O. Hansen, Orville L. Lee, Heber G. Shipley, Ernest S. O'Bray, Orville S. Lee, Marion Olson who is still serving.

Application was made to the Utah Power and Light Company for the installation of an electric light system, this was completed and in operation in 1917.

From the time the town was settled until 1920 the people depended on wells and water from the canals for culinary purposes at which time a very fine water system was completed. Piping a spring from Hyrum canyon at a cost of about \$68,000.00. This system was considered as good as any in the state.

From the beginning of this community a mutual feeling of common interest and willingness to assist each other are notably conspicuous to a person who has lived here. Mills, machinery and a store owned by a cooperation and everything else go to prove that this Paradise is not a place of departed spirits.

**Major Contracts
 In The Mountain West**

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By MINNIE F
 Herald Journal
 Correspond

Located in the corner of Franklin County the little, friendly Weston.

CELEBRATING

55 YEARS

ELECTRICAL EXPERIENCE

