



[Jim Seely](#) (son of F. Leland Seely)

Facebook post on August 12, 2018

We drove up to Bear Lake over the weekend and stopped in Paris, Idaho and toured the Bear Lake Stake Center there. The Stake Center is rather spectacular. We learned a lot about it and about Charles C Rich who helped settle the whole area. Rich was heavily involved in early church history. In Caldwell County, Missouri, he fought in the Battle of Crooked River in 1838. This caught my particular attention because that battle was crucial to my being here. The Battle of Crooked River was fought on 25 Oct 1838. The battle was caused when an anti-mormon mob, which was camped on the banks of the Crooked River, kidnapped three mormons and were boasting that they would execute them at dawn. David W Patton, who was a Mormon Apostle, lead a rescue party from Farr West to save the prisoners. The battle commenced at dawn and the three captives were saved, but David W Patton was killed. The battle was considered a Mormon victory, and lead directly to Missouri Governor Boggs issuing the famous Mormon Extermination Order two days later on 27 Oct. The Haun's Mill Massacre occurred three days after that on 30 Oct, and was a retaliation for Crooked River. My great, great grandfather, William Seely was one of the three prisoners. Had he not been rescued, I would not be here today.

Charles C Rich's log house is the only Mormon structure in Caldwell Country from that time period that is still surviving today.

After the Mormon expulsion from Missouri, Charles C Rich settled in Nauvoo where he was made an original member of the Council of Fifty and was called as an Apostle in 1849. Rich was then sent to California where he founded the town of San Bernardino and served as its first mayor. He was called back to Utah in 1857 because of the "Utah War" and in 1863 Brigham Young sent him to settle the Bear Lake region where he founded Paris, Idaho and a number of other cities in the Bear Lake area (When the founded Paris, they thought they were still in Utah, but that later proved not to be the case.). The Bear Lake Stake Tabernacle was completed in 1888 and seats 1,400. The walls are 3 foot thick and the whole building is amazing. Next time you are in Bear Lake, I would highly recommend you take an hour and tour the building.