

on this mission, made preparations at once to fill it, and on the 15th of May, 1855, Pres. Smith, together with other brethren, left their homes in Farmington, and other places, and on the 19th they arrived on Bear River, north of Brigham City. On the following day (the 20th), the camp consisting of the following named brethren were organized for traveling: Thos. S. Smith, (President of the mission); Francillo Durfee, (Captain); Wm. Burgess, Jun., (lieutenant); R. F. Cummings, (sergeant); D. Moore, (historian of the camp); Ezra J. Barnard, Thos. Butterfield, Wm. L. Brundage, Nathaniel Leavitt, Pleasant Green Taylor, Israel S. Clark, Charles Dalton, Geo. R. Grant, Isaac Shepherd, D. Moore, Geo. W. Hill, Gilbert Belnap, Wm. Birch, John Galligher, J. W. Browning, David H. Stephens, Baldwin H. Watts, Joseph Parry, Ira Ames, Jun., Abraham Zundel, Charles McGary, Wm. H. Batchelor and Everet Lish.

From the encampment on Bear River the expedition continued the journey through Malad Valley, over the Malad divide and down Bannock Creek to the Portnent, which stream they crossed on Mr. McArthurs bridge, paying \$11 for that privilege. On the 29th they arrived at the ferry on Snake River, immediately below where the Blackfoot River empties into the Snake. It took them three days to cross the river with their wagons and stock, the ferry-boat needing repairs before it could be used. On the 2nd of June the journey was resumed, and a northeasterly course taken for about sixty miles over an almost trackless waste of barren sage brush plain, and along the right bank of the river, until Market Lake was reached. Then the camp turned to the left and traveled in a northwesterly direction, over rocks, sage brush and sand, by way of Mud Lake and up Spring Creek (now Birch Creek), until they reached the Salmon River Pass. Through this part of the country they made an entire new road, not having as much as an Indian trail to guide them. Continuing through the Pass over the divide to the upper valley of the Salmon River, the head-waters of the east branch of that river, now known as Lemhi River, was soon reached, and here President Smith called a halt. Selecting five brethren of the camp, he proceeded, on the 14th of June, about thirty miles further down the river to explore for a suitable place to locate a settlement. On the 15th they selected a site for a fort and a tract for farming land, after which Pres. Smith returned to the main camp, which moved upon the site chosen on the 18th.

With that energy and determination characteristic of Mormon pioneers the brethren immediately commenced to make improvements, and they soon had a blacksmith shop in working order and also had coal burned, a plow made and a corral built for their stock. By the 10th of August they had built a fort wall and gates, seven houses and the blacksmith shop, besides breaking and planting several acres of land, and doing a great deal of fencing. They called their location Fort Limhi, after Limhi, a Nephite king mentioned in the Book of Mormon.

Fort Limhi (now spelled Lemhi) con-

THE BANNOCK STAKE OF ZION.

BY ANDREW JENSEN.

More than thirty-five years ago, or about twenty-four years before the first Latter-day Saint settlement was made in the Snake River Valley, Fort Limhi, on the east fork of Salmon River, was founded as a missionary station among the Bannock Indians. This was done under the direction of President Brigham Young, who, also, about the same time, established frontier settlements on Green River east and in Carson Valley west, with a view to extending the borders of Zion, the intervening valleys and suitable points to be filled subsequently with settlements of the Saints.

It was at the annual conference of the Church, held in Salt Lake City, April 7, 1855, that a number of brethren were called to go and locate a settlement among the buffalo-hunting Bannock and Shoshone Indians in the far off north, in what was then Oregon Territory, and Elder Thos. S. Smith, of Farmington, Davis Co, Utah, a man of considerable experience, was appointed to take charge of the colony. Most of the brethren who were called

sisted of a neat stockade inclosing a space of sixteen rods square, located on the bench land a short distance from the right bank of the east branch of Salmon River, now called Lemhi River, in what is now township 19 north of range 24 east, Boise meridian. It is about twenty miles above the point where that stream unites with the main Salmon River. It is also about 125 miles northwest of Market Lake on the Utah & Northern Ry., or 147 miles northwest of Rexburg. Market Lake is 257 miles by rail from Salt Lake City.

The distance from Salt Lake City to Fort Limhi, the road the missionaries generally traveled in 1855-58, was about 179 miles.

The valley in which Fort Limhi was located is small, but the soil on the river is rich, and the table lands afforded, at that time, good pasturage for stock. Timber was also abundant on the river and on the adjacent mountains.

There is a very good pass through the Rocky Mountains east of Fort Limhi, through which the distance to Horse Prairie, on the headwaters of the Missouri River, is only about fifteen miles.

August 13th and 14th, 1855, twelve of the company were sent to Utah after supplies, in charge of Capt. Durfee; and B. F. Cummings and John Gailigher were dispatched to Salt Lake City with the mail, being ordered to return as soon as possible.

On the 14th (August) the fort was honored by a visit from a party of government troops and a topographical engineer from the settlements in Oregon. They were in search of some Indians who had murdered a company of Oregon immigrants the year previous. They seemed very much pleased at finding a few whites in that remote part of the country, and after looking at what the brethren had done, and being informed of the time they commenced, they thought it almost incredible that so much labor could be performed in so short a time by so few hands. Up to that time only a few Indians had been seen around the fort, as they had not yet returned from their hunt, but those who were lingering around showed the warmest tokens of friendship.

Sept. 29th, 1855, B. F. Cummings, accompanied by J. R. Clawson and Lot Smith, arrived at the fort, bringing the mails from Salt Lake City. They had left Ogden on the 18th.

On the 17th of November, Capt. Durfee and company returned to the fort with twelve wagons laden with supplies of wheat, corn and other seeds and several hundred pounds of flour. Five families also accompanied the brethren.

By the beginning of December, 1854, a large amount of hay had been cut, the field enlarged, much more ground broken, and about fifteen acres of land sown with wheat, besides which several more houses had been built in the fort. The weather had been pleasant during the fall, but there was now two or three inches of snow on the ground.

On the 5th of December, Thos. Butterfield, G. W. Hill and seven others left the fort with two ox-wagons to return to the settlements in Utah, where they expected to spend the winter.

In March, 1856, President Smith, ac-

companied by others, traveled to Utah, with pack animals, and on arriving in Salt Lake City, reported the condition of the Salmon River mission to President Brigham Young, who was much pleased with what the missionaries had done, and concluded to strengthen the settlement by calling more brethren to go and locate there. This was done at the general conference which was held in April, 1856, and among those who responded to the call made on that occasion were Thos. Corless, James Walker, Thos. Day, Richard Margetts and John Preece, of Salt Lake City, George McBride, James Miller and Fountain Welch, of Farmington, Oliver Robinson and many others. These brethren started on their missions soon after conference, some of them taking their families with them. When this new company of missionaries arrived at Fort Limhi, the brethren there were already busily engaged in putting in crops, and an addition was now made to the field on the north side, in order to give the newcomers an equal show for farming with the first settlers.

Pres. Smith returned to Fort Limhi July 8th, 1856, and found the missionaries in good health and spirits, "notwithstanding they had witnessed the almost entire destruction of their crops by grasshoppers, whose unrelenting ravages had blasted all anticipations of an abundant harvest, the prospect of which could not have been more flattering previous to the inroad of the devourers. The grasshoppers left without depositing their eggs. The loss of the crops put the brethren to serious inconvenience, as they thereby were compelled to again (like the previous year) haul their flour and seed grain from the settlements in Utah. A company of brethren started for supplies on the 28th of July and arrived in Salt Lake City about the middle of August. Most of them returned in the due course of time with provisions, seed grain and other articles of food and clothing needed by the settlers.

Considerable winter wheat was sown in the fall of 1856, when another small company of settlers arrived to strengthen the colony, having been called on missions to do this like the other brethren who had gone before them. Peace and good health prevailed among the brethren at Fort Limhi during the winter of 1856-57.

[To be Continued.]