

A History of the Rise of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Montana

Sources

Montana Mission History from Church History Library

Anyone with historical information about the rise of the Church is invited to share that information by sending it to this website and it will be added. Thanks. Hal Pierce

Montana originally formed a part of the Louisiana Purchase. It was organized as a territory in 1864 and admitted into the Union as a State on 8 November 1889. The population was 20,585 in 1870, 39,159 in 1880, 132,159 in 1890 and 243,239 in 1900.

During 1895 the Lima Branch was organized by **Thomas E. Ricks** of the Bannock Idaho Stake.

On 22 May 1896 **Matthias F. Cowley** who was serving as 2nd Counselor in the Oneida Idaho Stake Presidency was called with Edward Stevenson to prepare to open a mission in the northwestern States and to visit members in the area and create Branches of the Church where possible.

On 4 June 1896 Matthias F. Cowley was set apart for his mission to the northwestern States. On 14 June 1896 Elder Cowley and **Elder Stevenson** both spoke at a conference of the Bingham Stake in Iona Idaho near Idaho Falls.

The Elders arrived at Lima, Beaverhead Co., Montana on 16 June 1896 where they were received by church members **William Hopkins** and his wife. On 20 June 1896 they visited **Austin W. Childs** and baptized or re-baptized 8 people.

On 21 June 1896 the Lima Branch was reorganized with William Hopkins as President, **John M. Burt** as 1st Counselor, Austin W. Child as 2nd Counselor and **Edwin Halverson** as Clerk. **William Purdy** and **John Thompson** were chosen as Teachers and **Edward Halverson** as Sunday School Superintendent.

On 27 June 1896 13 people were baptized in Lima.

From this location they visited Dillon, Anaconda, Butte, Helena and Florence. They left Florence on 26 August 1896 and went to Post Falls Idaho.

On 10 September 1896 Elder **Phineas Tempest** of Rexburg Idaho arrived in the Mission. He had been called to preside over the Mission by the Bannock Idaho Stake Presidency. Elder Tempest was replaced by Elder **Franklin S. Bramwell** on 25 October 1897.

August 12, 1896. **Governor Richards** visited with Elders Stevenson and Cowley in Helena and gave each a letter of introduction to the leading men of the State.

August 20, 1896. Elders **Franklin S. Bramwell** and **Frank H. Mason**, both from Parker Idaho, arrived at Mission Headquarters in Anaconda to serve in the Montana Mission.

September 21, 1896. Elder **William Thornley** of Smithfield Utah was set apart as a missionary to serve in the Montana Mission and arrived on October 14, 1896.

September 26, 1896. Elder **Charles J. Black** (age 30 years) of Wilford Idaho joined the Montana Mission.

December 17, 1896. Elder **George S. Young** (age 29 years) of Pratt Idaho arrived in the Montana Mission.

December 31, 1896. Elder **Willard Johnson** (age 26 years) of Rexburg Idaho arrived in the Montana Mission.

At the April 1898 semi-annual conference in Salt Lake City the Montana Mission became part of the Northwestern States Mission and Franklin S. Bramwell replaced George C. Parkinson as President. This action was presented to members of the Montana Mission at Anaconda on 12 June 1898 and it was sustained.