

Circular No. 8.

**A BRIEF HISTORY AND FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF THE GALLANDS GROVE, IOWA, DISTRICT.**

**Illustrated.**



The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter Day Saints.



**From 1859 to 1912.**



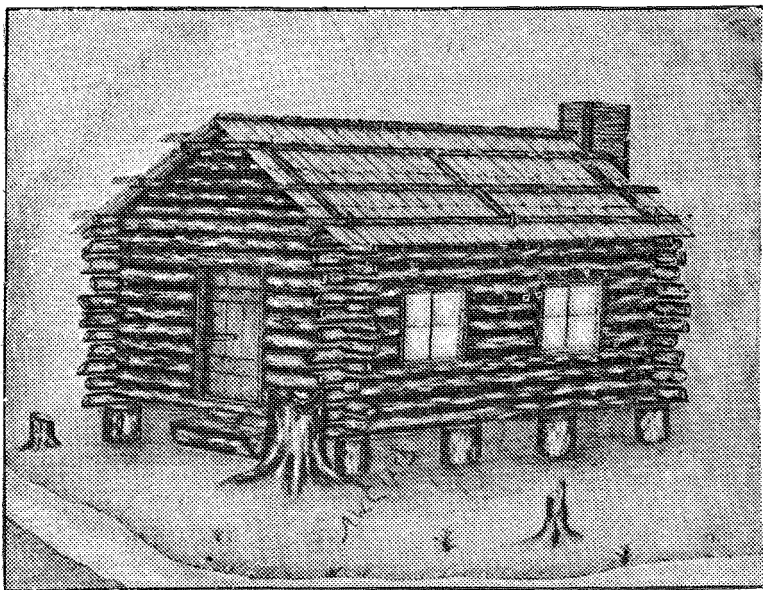
All are called according to the gifts of God unto them; and to the intent that all may labor together, let him that laboreth in the ministry and him that toileth in the affairs of the men of business and of work labor together with God for the accomplishment of the work intrusted to all. Doctrine & Covenants Section 119:8.

**Enterprise Print,  
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## A BRIEF HISTORY AND FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF THE GALLANDS GROVE, IOWA, DIS- TRICT. ILLUSTRATED.

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At a semi-annual conference of the church October 6, 1863, the counties of Shelby, Crawford, Audubon, Guthrie, Dallas, Polk and Sac were organized as the Gallands Grove District. At this time there were only two branches in the district (Gallands Grove, and De-loit). John A. McIntosh was chosen president at the first conference of the new district, which was held in the old log church in Gallands Grove, Shelby county, Oct. 25, 26, 1863. O. E. Holcomb, and N. Lindsay were chosen clerks.



[We are pleased to favor the readers of this booklet with a picture of the historic log church of Gallands Grove, drawn by Bro. Ancil W. Clark of Dow City, Iowa.]

Sweet Memories of Our old Log Church  
of Fifty Years Ago. By  
Alexander Black.

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I dreamed a dream the other night  
When all around was serene and still.  
I dreamed I saw our old log church  
Standing, yes standing by a rill.

My mind drifts back to child-hood days  
And I ponder o'er and o'er  
The beautiful sermons preached to us  
Inside that old church house door.

It is a sacred spot to me  
Where once our church house stood.  
And many Saints attended there  
And all seemed very good.

It makes my heart rejoice to tell  
As dreaming, dreaming on I go.  
Of the ones I knew, the good and true  
Who are now at rest, I know.

O! for a bird with wings to fly  
To waft me back to child-hood days.  
And the old log church where first I learned  
The name of our Savior and Lord to praise.

Later, changes were made in the boundaries of the district, and it now comprises twenty-one counties as follows:— Shelby, Crawford, Carroll, Greene, Guthrie, Audubon, Humbolt, Pocahontas, Buena Vista, Palo Alto, Clay, Cherokee, Dickinson, Webster, Calhoun, Sac, Ida, O'Brien, Emmet, Osceola and Kossuth.

Twelve presidents, besides Elder McIntosh, have presided over the district, and ten secretaries have recorded the proceedings of the conferences, and other important work of the district.

Elder John Pett was the first financial agent of the district collecting tithes and free will offerings from 1874 to June 1, 1897, since which time C. J. Hunt has been intrusted with that responsibility.

James Pearsall has been the faithful chorister at the district gatherings for over a quarter of a century.

The faithful pioneers of Gallands Grove district, in their saintly fortitude, loyalty to God and to man, were as true and unswerving in the upbuilding of the church, and the maintaining of the principles of the gospel as were the Pilgrim Fathers in establishing the fundamental principles of the great Republic of America.

In the year 1876, Apostle James Caffall, after a visit to this field, wrote:— “Gallands Grove district stands prominent in the history of the Reorganized Church. It has many aged and experienced members, in the latter day work. There are also younger men, who seem to be anxious to imitate the example of these fathers in fighting under the banners of truth. Wherever this is seen it is indeed encouraging. The old veterans’ voices do not thunder as they used to, in years past, but the effects of their work are remembered, and will be, by many even after they shall have passed away.” *Journal of History*, July 1910.

The one hundred fiftieth “quarterly” conference of the district was held with the Cherokee branch, Oct. 14, 15, 1911.

In order to answer the missionary spirit in some parts of the district, four gospel tents have been bought since 1891. The last of these is in good condition for service.

Realizing the importance of Sunday school work, Sunday schools were organized in the branches throughout the district, and in June 1888, a district Sunday School Association was formed, James M. Baker superintendent and Fannie L. Pett secretary.

The District Sunday School Home Class Department began its work in 1906, with Sister Nellie Hall as

superintendent, who has been persevering, accomplishing much good in her labors. She still holds that office.

The Zion's Religio-Literary Association of the district organized Oct. 29, 1898, was the outgrowth of the local Religio Societies which were important factors in the education and development of the young. Dora Young was the first district president, and Fred B. Shumate secretary.

Under the superintendency of Mrs. Mary E. Schafer, the Home Department of the Religio was started in 1898, and has continued as a successful auxiliary. Miss Grace Baughman is the present superintendent.

In looking over the history of the district we can see that these district organizations have resulted in the mutual good, and the spiritual growth of the local organizations.

The growth of the district has been one of gradual development. There is at present ten branches in the district and each branch has had its varied experiences and its own local history.

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“Shall we whose souls are lighted  
With wisdom from on high,  
Shall we to men benighted  
The lamp of life deny?”

## GALLANDS GROVE BRANCH.

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The Gallands Grove branch was the first organized branch in the district.

The persecution of the Saints which continued to follow them after the martyrdom of their beloved prophet and patriarch Joseph and Hyrum Smith, June 27, 1844 did not destroy their confidence in the angel's message, the divinity of the gospel, and the organization of the church April 6, 1830, but were unwavering in their religious experience, and waited hopefully for the time when Joseph Smith, son of Joseph Smith the martyr, should by divine appointment and ordination take his father's place as legal successor in the presidency of the church. This hope was realized in 1860, the church having been reorganized in Wisconsin eight years prior to this time; and Joseph Smith the son, became the prophet and leader of the church.

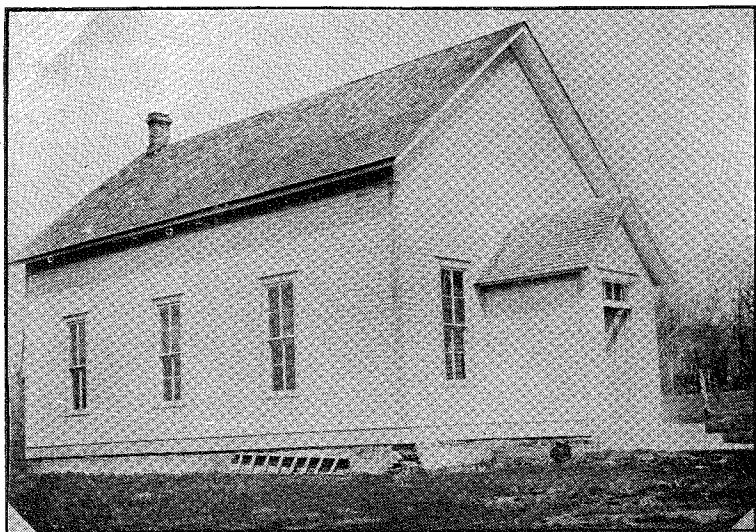
Some of these hard working, self-denying Saints, in 1848 and the early fifties came to the western part of Iowa. They traversed the rich valleys and the fertile slopes, finally reaching Pottawattamie county, A number of them soon after resumed their travels, and crossing the trackless prairies and fording the running streams in their "prairie schooners" drawn by oxen, located in what is now known as Gallands Grove, in Shelby county.

They made their homes in the natural groves which abounded in that part of the state and were soon building saw mills, grist mills, and log houses for dwellings, public schools, and religious services.

The church in its scattered condition was beginning to rise above the gloom and depression occasioned by the death of the prophet and the disorganization of the church; conferences were held, and in 1852 a reor-

ganization was effected: missionaries were again sent out to preach and build up the church. The first of these ambassadors of saving truth to preach in Gallands Grove were Elders W. W. Blair and E. C. Briggs, and other faithful laborers resulted in the organization of the Gallands Grove branch Oct. 21, 1859 with thirteen members. Of these charter members Mrs. Melinda McIntosh, widow of Elder John A. McIntosh, and Alexander Black are still living.

The Gallands Grove branch is one of the oldest



GALLANDS GROVE CHURCH.

branches of the Reorganization and has been the source of untold good to the church.

This local organization has had twenty-one presiding officers, besides Joseph H. Greenwood now in charge of the branch, seven clerks, and at times a membership of over three hundred. James Pearsall recorded the business of the branch business meetings for over a score of years. Frank E. Crandall is now



in charge of the records.

For more than a half century the pure gospel of the risen Lord has been preached in the historic Gallands grove where branch and district meetings were held, also semi-annual conferences and church reunions have been attended by thousands and where hundreds have united with the church, many of whom have been instrumental in extending the gospel to other counties, states and nations demonstrating their confidence and love for the angel's message.

In 1881 the present church building was completed and since that time has been used for worship although it was not dedicated until six years later. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Pres. Joseph Smith.

A Sunday School was organized in the eighties, a Zion's Religio-Literary Society in 1893. Both organizations have been of special worth in developing and maintaining the sacred principles of the Latter Day Saint faith. Drayton A. Holcomb is in charge of the former and Fred F. Jackson the latter.

The Ladies Aid Society of this branch has been a factor for good in a social and financial way. It is presided over by Sophia Roundy.

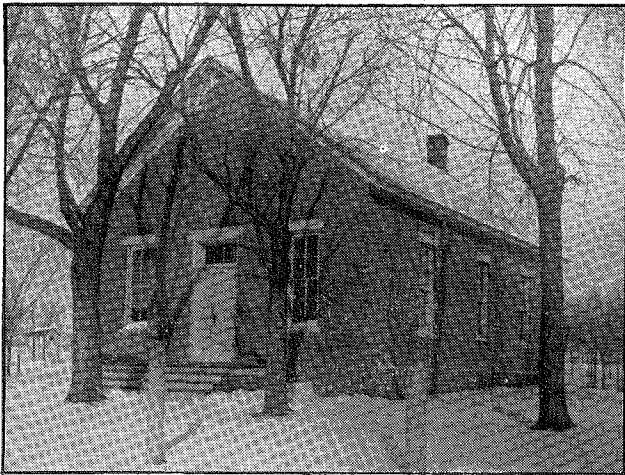
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“When they are learned, they think they are wise, and they harken not unto the counsel of God, for they set it aside, supposing they know of themselves; wherefore, their wisdom is foolishness, and it profiteth them not. And they shall perish.” B. of M. p. 73:11.

## DELOIT BRANCH.

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The Deloit branch, (called Masons Grove branch for many years) was organized July 5, 1862 with eleven members. The branch records show that four hundred forty five have been enrolled as members, seventy four received by letters from other branches, and three hundred seventy-one have been baptized; twenty-four have been expelled, and five re-baptized.



DELOIT CHURCH.

The old brick church building which cost about two thousand dollars, was built in 1873 and dedicated June 15, 1879 is still used as a gathering place for God's people. Within its hallowed walls the saints have rejoiced in the saving principles of the gospel, the gifts of unknown tongues, the interpretation of tongues, prophesy, and in fact all other gifts of the Holy Spirit outlined in the Scriptures, have been witnessed and enjoyed by the members who have worshipped in this chapel.

Sister Kate Turner, of Deloit, was richly endowed with the gifts of the gospel and being instructed by the Holy Spirit she often spoke and sang under its blessed influence and power. To her was given the following inspiring song in unknown tongues and the interpretation at a prayer and testimony meeting:—

Awake ye Saints of latter glory;  
Raise your voices long and loud;  
Tell the world the wondrous story—  
Say, Behold the way to God;  
Hear the royal proclamation,  
Let your voice ascend to God,  
For the mandate of high heaven  
Is again to earth restored;  
It was delivered by an angel  
Flying through the midst of heaven;  
And this glorious revelation  
Was for your instruction given.  
Be not ashamed to own your savior,  
Who has born the cross for you;  
He will own you before the angels  
And your heavenly Father too.  
Though you may have many trials,  
Put your trust in him, your Lord,  
For he never will forsake you,  
He has said so in his word.  
Keep the law, in it abiding  
Ever let your hearts be found;  
For to gain the nobler refuge,  
In it must your lives abound.

The Deloit branch was the second branch organized in the Gallands Grove district, and is one of the historic branches of the Reorganization. It has been presided over by Thomas Dobson, B. F. Wicks, E. T. Dobson, W. W. Whiting, I. A. Goff, J. T. Turner, William McKim and Carl W. Winey who is in charge at this writing.

A Sunday school has been supported by this congregation ever since 1866, Cyrus Dobson was the

first superintendent, which school continues to be of special worth to the branch. It is now superintended by Lacy Myers and Lloyd Winans.

The Zion's Religio-Literary Society, an organization for the youth of the church, for the study of the Book of Mormon, American archaeology, church history, ancient and modern, was organized May 4, 1899 with twenty-two members. This society is still in good working order.

The Willing Workers (Ladies Aid Society) have proven to be a "live wire" as a financial and benevolent organization.

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"To be learned is good, if they hearken unto the counsel of God." B. of M. p. 73:12.

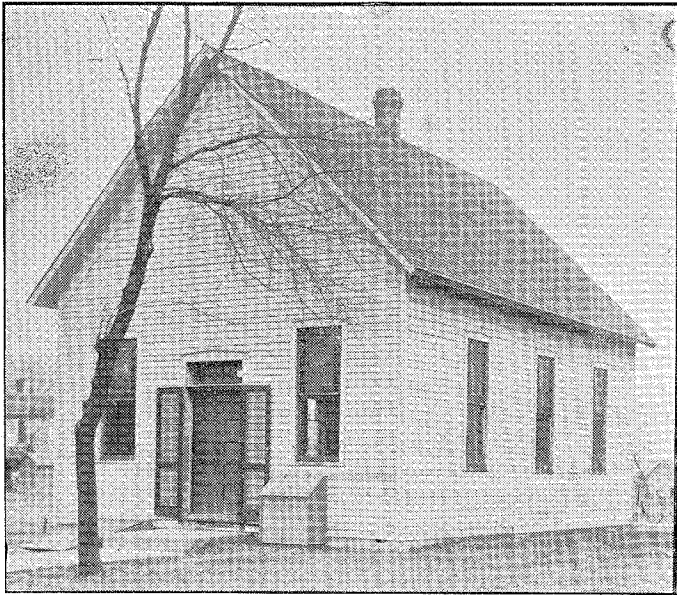
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"When comes our Lord in royal might  
To crush the wrong and crown the right,  
When all the saints in glory meet  
No more to die, no more to weep,  
When thrones are set and crowns are given  
With all the rich rewards of Heaven,  
Oh! in that glorious bye and bye  
What's done for God can never die."

## DOW CITY BRANCH.

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Near where Dow City is located, a branch was organized which was called, for many years, the Boyer Valley branch, the name being changed to Dow City branch several years ago. It was organized by Elder Thomas Dobson June 16, 1867 with twenty-two members, Geo. Montague president, John R. Rudd priest, Geo. W. Bird teacher, and A. F. Rudd clerk.



DOW CITY CHURCH.

This branch of earnest Latter Day Saint workers flourished, soon enrolling other strong and faithful followers. Some of the members of this congregation have been richly endowed with the gift of unknown tongues, interpretation of tongues, prophesy, and other special blessings of the Holy Spirit. In this branch thousands have heard the restored gospel and

hundreds have obeyed it, some of whom have been ambassadors for the Prince of Peace to other states and to the Islands of the sea.

Besides Elder Montague, this branch has had the following local pastors:—John R. Rudd, A. Kuykendall, E. C. Benedict, C. E. Butterworth, T. W. Chatburn, J. M. Baker, J. L. Butterworth and Alfred Jackson who presides over the congregation at this time.

The records of the branch have been kept by twelve different clerks, A. H. Rudd serving in that office about twenty years. Ora Butterworth is the present recording clerk.

The Dow City branch has qualified for service several prominent and efficient church workers, among whom may be named Charles E. Butterworth patriarch and evangelical minister, John W. Wight and Cornelius A. Butterworth apostles, also those who have faithfully filled the offices of high priest, seventy, elder, priest, teacher and deacon.

The Gallands Grove and Little Sioux districts jointly held five annual reunions in the beautiful park in Dow City which were largely attended and greatly enjoyed by members and non-members. President Joseph Smith presided at these gatherings.

Apostle C. A. Butterworth visited his home branch in 1908 after about twenty years of faithful missionary labors to Australia. He returned to that far away island that same year.

The Sunday school organized in 1872 which has continued to the present, has through its educational and spiritual influences inclined many to the truth, and has moulded and shaped their lives and fitted them for the Master's use. J. L. Butterworth is now in charge of the school and Raymond Butterworth assistant.

In addition to the Sunday school work a Gospel Research Society, the first organization of its kind in the district was organized in 1886 with Elder A. F. Rudd as its presiding officer. This society was in after years superceded by the Zion's Religio Literary Society. These societies have also helped to qualify many of the young for active service in the church. Leroy C. Hatch presides over this Religio society at present.

The Ladies Aid Society has been actively engaged in providing many substantial gifts for the needy ones, besides helping to bear the current expenses of the branch.

In the early history of the branch regular Sunday school and church services were held in country school houses, but later, (1878) a chapel was provided in the city.

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“If you will that I give you a place in the celestial world, you must prepare yourselves by doing the things which I have commanded you and required of you. D & C. 77:1.

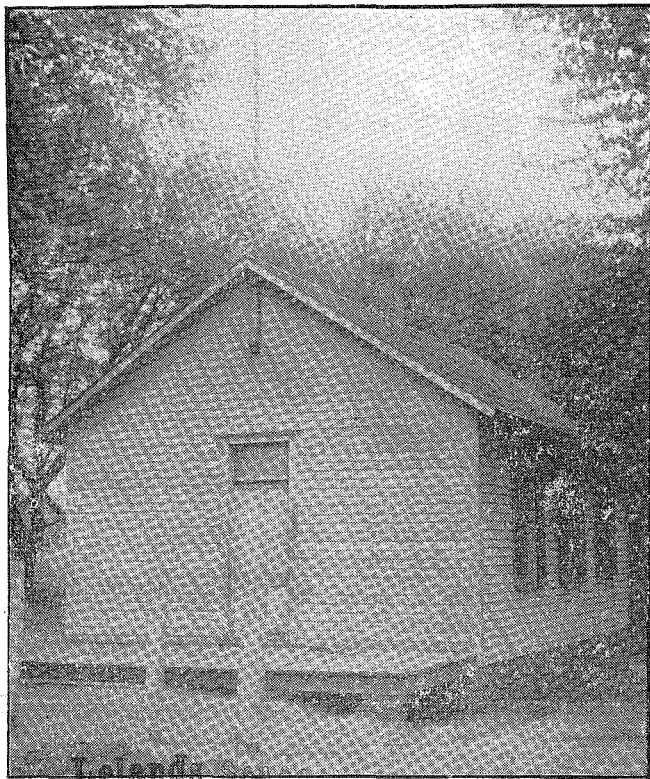
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“Therefore, hearken once again unto the voice of inspiration, in warning and instruction, and conform to that which is given and receive what is awaiting the upright and the pure in heart.” D & C. 129:8.

## SALEM BRANCH

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The Salem branch is composed of farmers and their families who till Iowa's broad acres in the south west part of Shelby county. Their place of worship is the unpretentious Leland school house which surrounded by nature's beautiful trees and over-



SALEM CHURCH.

hanging vines, is about four miles from Persia the nearest town. This branch was organized Dec. 27, 1869 by Elder Charles Derry with eighteen members representing the families of the Hallidays, the Lelands,



the Shackeltons, the Seddons, the Halls, the Bullards and the Leythams.

Henry Halliday was chosen president, Jonathan Bullard priest, Richard Leytham and David Hall teachers, John Leytham deacon, Joseph Seddon clerk. The peaceful and appropriate name of Salem was given this branch and they have been true to the appellation, as there has not been an elder's court summoned to try a member for over a quarter of a century. This band of Saints have enjoyed strong faith, the gift of wisdom, knowledge, and healing, also other blessings of the Holy Spirit.

The district has had good reasons for feeling proud of the Salem branch, not alone for their good behavior, but also for the true missionary spirit which has ever been manifest in many of their number as shown by the yearly gifts in tithes and free-will offerings.

For the past forty years, only four presidents have served the branch, viz., Henry Halliday, George Sweet, William D. Bullard, and Frederick Hansen who has been in charge for several years and is still the trusted shepherd of the little flock.

Sr. Nellie Hall, the energetic and competent District Home Class Sunday School superintendent is a member of this branch.

The first general church reunion which took the place of the semi-annual conferences was held in the Salem branch, in Lelands grove Sept. 15-23, 1883. President Joseph Smith was in charge of the meeting.

A Sunday school was organized in the early history of the branch by David Chambers. This school was disorganized for a time, but reorganized by William D. Bullard and is still active in its work. James H. Bullard is in charge of the school and Nellie Hall secretary.

A Zion's Religio-Literary Society was launched in 1901, but was soon disorganized and its members were identified with the District Religio Home Class.

## HARLAN BRANCH.

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Prominent among the pioneer members of the Harlan Branch (organized May 23, 1869) were Jonas W. Chatburn, John W. Salter, Frank Reynolds, W. M. Goreham and J. C. Hardman. About seven years later a number of the Saints living a few miles west of Har-



HARLAN CHURCH.

lan petitioned the branch to be separated from them in order to be organized into a congregation by themselves which work was completed Aug. 13, 1876, and was known as the Pleasant Ridge branch with W. M. Goreham president, J. W. Salter priest, and J. C. Hardman Clerk. This organization, for a short time, (until Dec. 23, 1877) when the two branches were consolidated, taking the name of "Union branch." At

this session the following officers were installed: J. W. Chatburn president, J. W. Salter priest, F. Reynolds teacher, W. M. Goreham Clerk. In after years the name of the branch was changed to Harlan.

The following brethren, besides Elder Chatburn, have presided over the branch: Nathan Booth, J. B. Swain, W. M. Goreham, J. C. Hardman. W. N. Booth, David Brewster, and Geo. A. Hoisington who is in charge of the congregation. Six clerks have been in charge of the branch records. Thomas N. Franklin, the present efficient clerk filling that office the greatest number of years. Bro. Franklin paid the following just tribute to Elder Jonas W. Chatburn and family: "They were among the first Saints to permanently settle at Harlan, Iowa, and to him and his faithful companion, more than to any one else, probably, belongs the honor and reward of establishing this Latter Day Gospel in Harlan. He was always diligent in the service of his Master. He occupied the pulpit nearly every Sabbath from the time he started as a minister for the church until the Sunday just prior to his death. He died at Harlan March 31, 1902 aged 82 years and 20 days."

The descendants of Elder Chatburn are represented in the Harlan branch to the fourth generation.

The Saints chapel at Harlan which was erected in 1882 is still used for church purposes. It cost \$1,567.00 including furnishings.

The general church reunion was held at Harlan in the autumn of 1887 with a large number in attendance, and many united with the church by baptism. Pres. Joseph Smith presided.

The Sunday school work was fully organized April 15, 1883, Nathan Booth superintendent, Henry Booth secretary, Frederick A. Smith (now a member

of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles) treasurer. The following have superintended the school besides Bro. N. Booth: J. B. Swain F. P. Taylor, W. N. Booth, J. O. Booth, G. A. Hoisington, A. D. Martin and T. N. Franklin. Bro. Franklin having acted in that office continuously from 1896 with the exception of eighteen months during which time he was assistant.

A Zion's Religio-Literary Society was organized March 6, 1911 with Pearl S. Franklin president, Leonard Hoisington vice-president, Curtis U. Black secretary, Bradley L. McCord treasurer, and Daisy McCord Librarian. The following changes in the leading offices in the Religio was made at a recent election: Earl F. Hoisington president, Ada Bunnell vice pres., and Hattie Bunnell secretary.

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“He that my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father.” John 14:21.

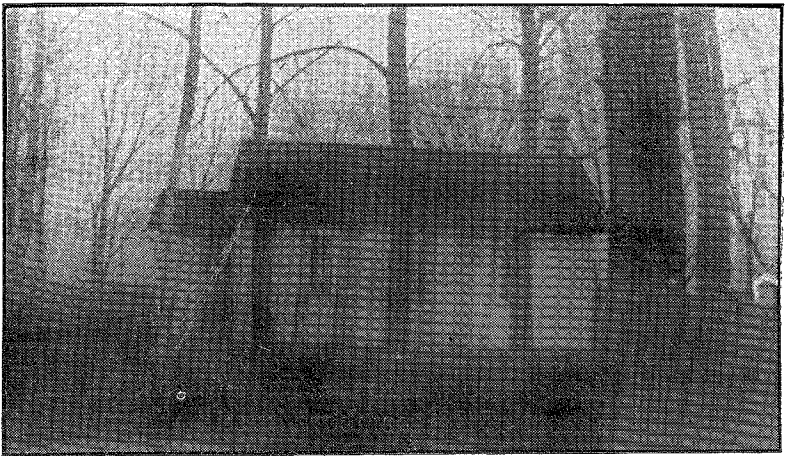
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“Were the whole realm of nature mine  
That were an offering far too small,  
Love so amazing so divine.  
Demands my life, my soul, my all.”

## LANESBORO BRANCH.

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Elder Thomas Dobson and Robert R. Montgomery were the first to present the faith of the Latter Day Saints (Feb. 1866) where the North Coon branch was afterwards organized. The first meetings were held in a school house near the Daniel Cooper home where the missionaries were kindly cared for by Mr. and Mrs. Cooper. Mrs. Jane Hirons was the first to unite with the church by baptism. Elder Dobson baptized



HIRONS SCHOOL HOUSE.

her August 1, 1869, since which time many of her posterity even to the fourth generation have followed in her footsteps.

The Lanesboro organization was first called North Coon branch, then Benan branch. It was organized by Elders Thomas Dobson and John A. Mc Intosh Jan. 30, 1870 or 1871 with ten members, David K. Buttrick president, Elizabeth Ochampaugh clerk. Enos Buttrick was the second presiding officer, and Walter Dillivan the third. In 1873 Benan Salisbury was elect-

ed president and he held that position almost continuously until his death, July 27, 1905. To him and his devoted family may belong, more than any to others, the credit for the regular church and Sunday school services being held during many years of that long period of time.

M. B. Skinner was in charge of the branch a short time after the death of President Salisbury. He was succeeded in office by Orman Salisbury who presided until he located in Des Moines. Geo. Juergens, for many years presiding teacher, was elected to fill the vacancy. He has been ordained an elder and continues in faithful service as branch president.

Five branch clerks have recorded the proceedings of the organization. Herald Salisbury having faithfully discharged the duties of that office since February 1893.

For over a quarter of a century regular church services were held in the Hirons school house eight miles north east of Glidden where hundreds heard the angel's message and many received and obeyed that message with glad hearts. In later years a hall was secured in Lanesboro where meetings were held for a time, but as most of the members lived on farms south of town, they concluded to hold services in the Cooper school house where church is still held.

Near the Kendall bridge, which spanned the North Coon river was the Salisbury grove where many summer meetings were held. These services lasting about ten days, were attended and enjoyed by thousands who lived in the surrounding country and neighboring towns. The good resultant from those gatherings have been far reaching.

A Sunday school was organized in 1890 which has continued in its work of usefulness to the present. Eleven different superintendents have been in charge of

the school, Herald Salisbury occupying that position the greatest number of terms. This organization holds the distinction of having had the youngest assistant superintendent in the history of the district, Arthur Juergens aged 14. Ether Salisbury is the eleventh secretary and has served the school several terms.

A Zion's Religio-Literary Society was organized with twenty members, in 1900, Orman Salisbury presiding and Buryl Kendall secretary. Owing to the scattered condition of the members the society was disorganized after a few months.

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“Heaven is not reached by a single bound,  
But we build the ladder by which we rise  
From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies,  
And we mount to its summit round by round.”

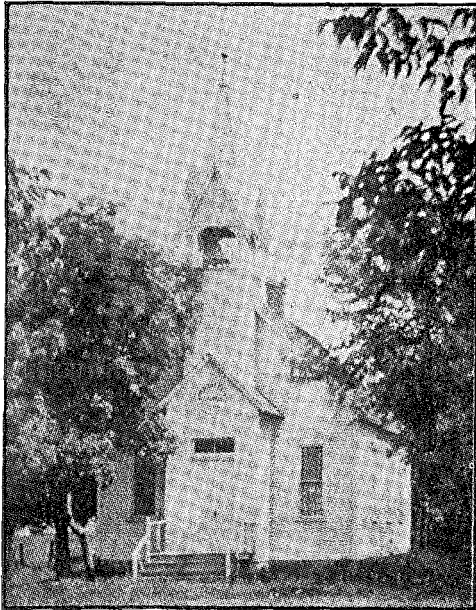
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“If any man shall take of the abundance which I have made and impart not his portion, according to the law of my gospel, unto the poor, and the needy, he shall, with the wicked, lift up his eyes in hell, being in torment.” D & C. Sec. 101:2

## AUBURN BRANCH.

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The Auburn branch, formerly called Camp Creek branch, was organized Oct. 25, 1874 by Apostle J. R. Lambert with thirteen members, William A. Carroll was elected president, and David Hain teacher, which office he (Bro. Hain) held during his many years residence at Auburn. His wife held the clerkship of this



AUBURN CHURCH.

organization for about twenty-five years.

In after years the branch was encouraged by the labors of Moses B. Skinner who labored as priest, Thomas J. Skinner, and Timothy C. Brady who held the office of teachers.

For a number of years church services were held in the Camp Creek school house, after which they met



for worship in a school building in Aubuan. The membership grew in numbers and in favor with their neighbors who gave them substantial aid in building a house in which to worship. Accordingly, in 1895 a chapel was erected at a cost of \$1,250.00. Elder C. E. Butterworth president of the district, was faithful as master workman in helping build the church house. He held evening meetings in the town during his labors, giving double service to the Lord's work. The building was dedicated during a district conference held in Auburn June 1896, President Joseph Smith preaching the dedicatory sermon, the prayer being offered by president Alexander H. Smith.

On the fourth day of July 1874 Elder Heman C. Smith baptized Jacob Hain, father of Bro. David Hain, in Camp Creek at the age of 86 years. He is believed to have been the oldest person uniting with the church in the history of the district. Had this aged saint lived a few more months he would have died a centenarian.

Geo. H. Bush formerly a Baptist, became a member of the Auburn branch. He was ordained a priest and labored in the branch until he became too aged and infirm to attend church services. He was sympathetic and spiritual in his labors. John W. Bean, at one time associated with the "Christian Church", was the last teacher ordained to office in this local organization.

The Auburn branch received into communion many who became strong and faithful members who contributed liberally to the tithe and free-will offering fund for the benefit of the general missionary work. From time to time members moved away to other localities and the branch became so greatly reduced in numbers that regular church services are not held at present.

Elder W. A. Carroll has been in charge of this branch almost continuously from its organization in 1874, nearly forty years holding the office longer than any other one in the district. He and his faithful wife have, for a number of years sacrificed their own interests for the good of the work and denied themselves the privilege of moving away where they might have the association of Saints and the pleasure of attending regular church services, with the hope of doing further work at Auburn.

It is claimed by the members of this branch that the first public debate held in the district was held in their locality in June 1872 between Elder Jason W. Briggs of the Latter Day Saints and Rev. Burch of the Christian Church.

A Sunday school was organized in 1890 and a Zion's Religio-Literary Society was put into working order ten years later, which organizations accomplished much good while they were in progress.

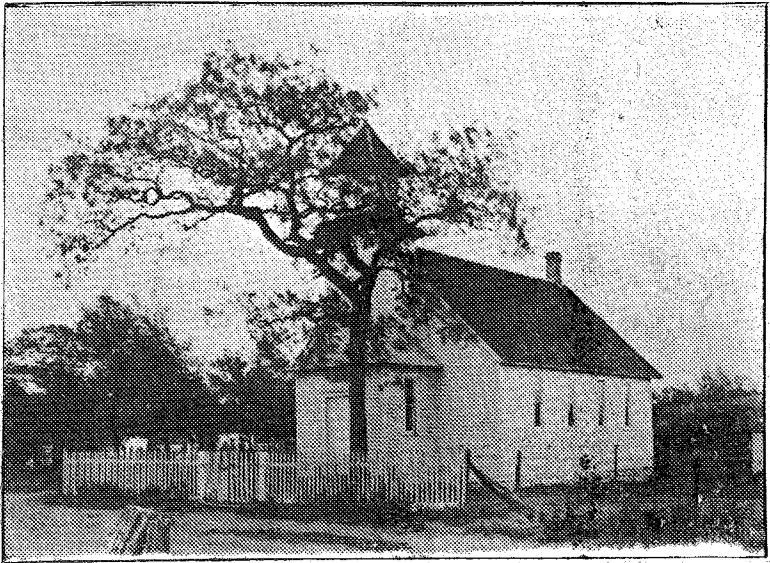
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“And, behold, none are exempt from this [temporal] law who belong to the church of the living God; yea, neither the bishop, neither the agent, who keepeth the Lord's storehouse; neither he who is appointed in a stewardship over temporal things.” Doctrine and Covenants 70:3.

## COALVILLE BRANCH.

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Coalville is a mining town located on the banks of the Des Moines river six miles south of Fort Dodge. Apostle J. R. Lambert organized the Coalville branch May 5, 1878 with thirteen members, representing the families of the Willams, the Allens, and the Teasdales. Thomas R. G. Williams was chosen president, Thomas R. Williams priest, James Allen and John Teasdale



COALVILLE CHURCH.

teachers, Daniel T. Williams deacon, and Thomas R. Williams clerk. President Williams has had the following successors in office:— James Allen, Samuel Jordison. William Jordison, and Richard Jcrdison who is president of the branch at the present.

This earnest band of Saints held services in the town school house for over twenty years, and sweet are the memories of the social gatherings, the congrega-

tional singing, the inspiring sermons, all of which gladdened the heart, cheered the soul, and also caused sinners to repent and follow the Man of Galilee.

During the summer of 1891 Elder Hyrum O. Smith held a successful series of meetings in a gospel tent at Coalville. Much prejudice was removed and some united with the church.

On August 31, 1900 the branch decided to build a chapel for their use. Accordingly a soliciting committee composed of Samuel Jordison, Samuel Dixon, and Thomas Hay were appointed. Richard Jordison, John Jordison, and Thomas Hay were the building committee, William Jordison secretary, and Richard Jordison treasurer.

The committees were faithful to the trust imposed. The building was, however, used for religious services several months before the day it was dedicated which was in the autumn of 1903. Apostle Frederick A. Smith preached the dedicatory sermon assisted by Elder David M. Rudd and the local brethren. Large and appreciative audiences enjoyed the sacred and impressive services of the day, a culmination of the faithful and sacrificing efforts of the Coalville saints.

The branch is composed largely of miners, hard working people, who are liberal in defraying expenses of missionaries, and also contribute generously to the several departments of the general church.

A Sunday school was organized in 1879 with Daniel Williams superintendent. Since that time the following have carried that responsibility:— James Allen, Samuel Jordison, William Ray, Richard Jordison, John Jordison, and Samuel Dixon. The school has been a factor for good in the branch.

A Zion's Religio-Literary Society was organized in the winter of 1899 by Elder James M. Baker with

thirty members. William Ray president. This Religio, in time, was disorganized, but began its work of usefulness again in 1909 William C. Jordison presiding over the society. This organization has been of great worth to those who faithfully studied the lessons of the Religio quarterlies.

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“God helps them that help themselves.”

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“He who would lead must first himself be led.”

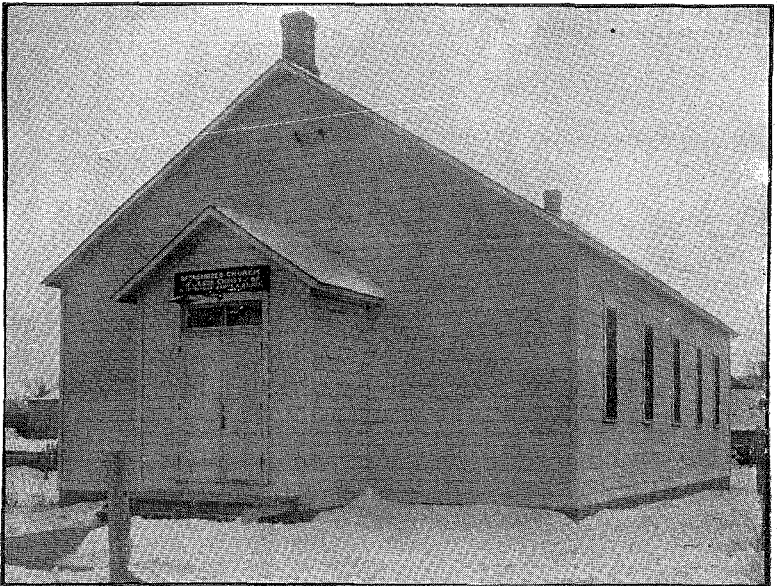
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“Resolved, that ministers who are eligible to the law of tithing, and who refuse to comply with it; or who ignore the law by neither paying nor making proper effort to pay, are not justly entitled to claim upon the church for family support.”—Page 96 General Conference Resolutions.

## CHEROKEE BRANCH.

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Several families of Saints living about seven miles south of Cherokee were organized into a branch in 1871 by Elder Ira A. Goff. For many years this branch was known as the Pilot Rock branch but was finally changed to Cherokee. In 1882 the organization



CHEROKEE CHURCH.

reported a membership of twenty-four with Nathan Hayes president, William Sheldon clerk. The clerk's book showed that forty four names had been recorded, but on account of the majority moving away, a district conference instructed Elder E. C. Brand to visit the branch and if deemed advisable, to disorganize it. He fulfilled the wishes of the conference November 27, 1886, when the struggling branch was, by vote, disorganized. However, disorganizing of the branch did

not discourage the humble and devoted ones, prominent among whom were "Uncle" Nathan Hayes and his faithful wife, in their Christian experience, for they invited, entertained, and in other ways helped the traveling missionaries to publish the angel's message to their friends in the neighborhood which resulted in the baptism of many, some of whom became earnest and efficient church workers.

The faithful district president, C. E. Butterworth called the members, fourteen in number, together at the Hayes school house October 28, 1894, and after a spiritual prayer and testimony meeting, at their request, reorganized the branch. Nelson V. Sheldon was chosen president, Nathan Hayes teacher, Albert R. Crippen deacon, Lulu E. Hayes clerk. Bro. Nelson resigned the presidency of the branch New Year's day 1898 and his brother James O. Sheldon was selected to succeed him. Five years later, or Feb. 1, 1903, Albert R. Crippen was placed in charge of the branch, and continues to faithfully discharge the trying duties of that office. He was ordained to the office of elder in 1896 by W. W. Whiting.

The Hayes school house served the branch as a place of worship until Feb. 16, 1902. The majority of the members having moved near to and in Cherokee, they rented a swedish church building for several months, after which they secured the use of the G. A. R. hall where divine worship was held, until the spring of 1909 when a chapel was bought of the Christian Church and moved to the north part of the city. The building was opened for worship May 23, 1909, and the dedicatory sermon preached June 20, by Apostle J. W. Wight, prayer was offered by Patriarch C. E. Butterworth. A baptismal font was installed in the chapel in 1910, the first in the district.

The one hundred fiftieth conference of the dis-

trict was held in the Cherokee church Oct. 14 & 15, 1911 which was a very enjoyable and profitable gathering. During the conference William Shove was ordained an elder, and John Julius deacon.

Charles L. Julius and family and John Julius have been liberal financially and untiring in their efforts to get the saving truths of the gospel before the people of Meriden near Cherokee.

In the year 1907 Rev. (?) F. M. Archer delivered a lecture against the faith of the Saints which was replied to by C. J. Hunt in the G. A. R. hall. Elder Hunt also wrote an open letter, challenge and statement of about one thousand words to Rev. (?) Archer which the branch had published. Byron Gross and his son with untiring zeal placed a copy in nearly every house in Cherokee. Although the challenge to debate was not accepted, the reply to the lecture, and the printed matter distributed brought the faith of the church quite prominently before the city. The name Latter Day Saint was very much more respected thereafter in Cherokee.

The Cherokee branch has given the general church substantial aid financially. Its members have enjoyed many gifts of the Holy Spirit, viz., prophecy, healing, visions, spiritual dreams, faith, unknown tongues, interpretation of tongues, etc.

A Sunday school was organized in 1892 with Nathan Hayes superintendent. He has been succeeded in office by Joseph O. Sheldon, Frank M. Sheldon, William W. Leonard, William W. Reeder, and Albert R. Crippen.

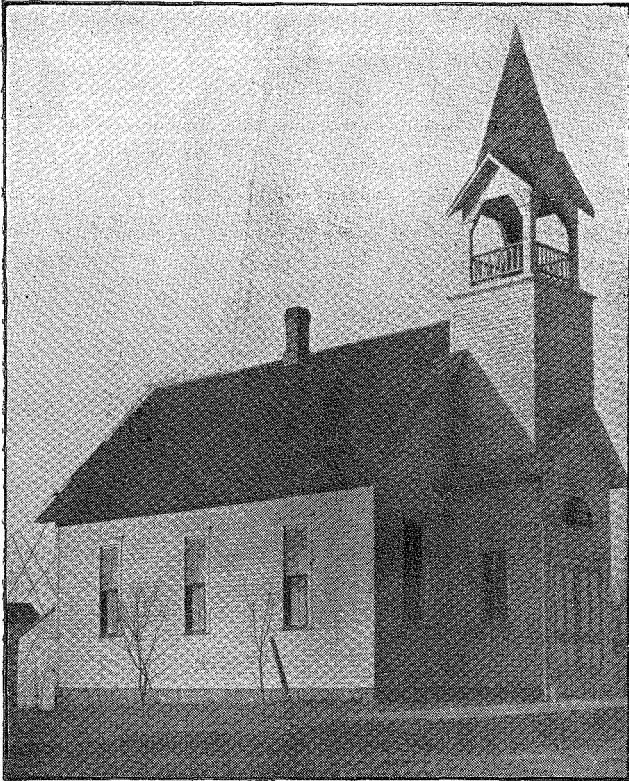
A Zion's Religio-Literary Society was put in working order July 28, 1907 with fourteen members. Florence Hoagland in charge. This Society became disorganized, but later, January 12, 1908 it was reorganized with A. R. Crippen president, Paul Gross secretary.



## MALLARD BRANCH.

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The Mallard branch, first called Union branch No. 2, was organized by district president C. E. Butterworth at the Cook school house, Garfield township,



MALLARD CHURCH.

Clay county Sept. 10, 1893 with twenty-six members. Edmund Ford was chosen president, Manley W. Harts-horn priest, Harris Cook teacher, Alfred F. Lincoln deacon, Charles L. Carmichael clerk. This branch, composed of many noble Saints, some of whom were pioneer settlers of northern Iowa, living in Palo Alto,

Clay, Pocahontas, and Buena Vista counties, a rich farming country. For some time they held semi-monthly meetings in the Loomis school house, it being the most centrally located place for services, and was at that time about eight miles from the nearest town. However, many successful meetings were held in the homes of the Saints.

Of the families who embraced the gospel during the labors of the early missionaries were the Reeds, the Barkers, the Carlsons, the Hansens, the Harts-horns, the Cooks, the Fords, the Chapins, the McDonnells, and later the Carmichaels, the Kings, the Truogs, the Crosses, the Fishes, the Feasters, the Zeidlers, and the Christensons. Elbert A. Smith a member of of The First Presidency of the church was baptized by his Uncle Alexander H. Smith Thanksgiving day 1887 in the clear waters of Pickerel Lake near where the Mallard branch was afterward organized.

The gospel message was dear to these Latter Day Saints. Their homes were generally shared, their means cheerfully given to comfort and help the missionaries in their labors. The Mallard branch has given the general church strong financial support.

In July 1899 the branch concluded to build a church house in Mallard. Edmund Ford, John Truog Sen., and Joseph Fish were appointed a soliciting and building committee, and they faithfully performed their work, and November 12, of the same year a large and appreciative congregation assembled and listened to the dedicatory sermon by president Joseph Smith. He was assisted in the services by Elders C. E. Butterworth, W. A. Carroll, and E. Ford.

Elder Edmund Ford presided over the branch from its organization until the close of 1902 when he resigned the office on account of ill health. For nearly

twenty years, (often accompanied by his faithful wife) he traveled in storm or sunshine, heat or cold, filling appointments in school houses and in private residences in nearly every direction from his home. The responsibility of the presidency of the branch was placed upon Joseph Fish who dilligently performed the work entrusted to him till the "death angel" called him to his well earned reward June 22, 1910, being loved and respected by all. Charles L. Carmichael faithfully discharged the duties of branch president until he resigned May 14, 1911, when Elder Robert Fish was elected to that office.

A Sunday school was organized Nov. 19, 1899 with Joseph Fish Supt., John Truog Jr. assistant Supt., Della Feaster secretary, John Fish treasurer, Lulu Zeidler librarian, Lizzie Fish organist. During the past twelve years the above offices have been filled by other members of the school. Benjamin Fish was in charge of the school in 1911.

The Zion's Religio-Literary Society held their first meeting in January 1900 with an enrollment of thirty-two. A full organization was effected with John Fish president. After a few months of prosperity the Society was called upon to mourn the loss of their beloved president. His office was filled but the Religio waned and in the winter of 1902 it was disorganized. Bro. John D. Price reorganized the Society Nov. 7, 1910 with the following officers:—C. L. Carmichael president, Robert Fish vice president, Lettie McDonnel secretary, Mabel Draper treasurer. These organizations have proved to be helpful auxiliaries to the branch.

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“Nature is a revelation of God; art is a revelation of man.”

Sister Helen B. Rudd of Dow City was appointed historian of the Gallands Grove district June 1, 1901. The manuscript she furnished the General Church Historian was burned when the Herald Publishing House was destroyed by fire January 1907. Mrs. Rudd moved from the district, and Charles J. Hunt was appointed her successor June 9, 1906.

Since the district was organized there has been sixteen public debates held in the district, which assures us that the gospel message has been strongly opposed in its onward and upward march. The glorious truths delivered by the angel to the Seer of Palmyra have shone brighter and brighter at the close of every engagement.

The log church house given on first page of this booklet was built about the year 1855 and was used for both school and church purposes. It was destroyed by fire in the early sixties. The Gallands Grove branch replaced this building with a much larger one, built of hewed logs, which was used for divine worship until the erection of the frame building shown in the history of their branch.

The Gallands Grove district was organized Oct. 6, 1863.

The first conference of the new district was held at Gallands Grove, Shelby County, Iowa, Oct. 25-26 1863.

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## BRANCHES.

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Gallands Grove branch organized Oct. 21, 1859.

Deloit, formerly called Masons Grove branch, organized July 5, 1862.

Dow City, formerly called Boyer Valley branch,

organized June 16, 1867.

Harlan, called Union branch for a time, organized May 23, 1869.

Salem branch, Shelby county, organized Dec. 27, 1869.

Lanesboro, formerly called North Coon and Benan branch organized January 30, 1870 or 1871.

Cherokee, formerly called Pilot Rock branch, organized in 1871, disorganized Nov. 27, 1886. Reorganized Oct. 28, 1894.

Auburn, formerly called Camp Creek branch, organized Oct. 25, 1874.

Pleasant Ridge branch, near Harlan, organized Aug. 3, 1876, united with the Harlan branch Dec. 23, 1877.

Yell branch was organized about the year 1876 near Ogden, with William McBurney as a prominent officer. The members moved away and the branch was disorganized.

Franklin branch, Green county was first reported in 1877, John Hatcher president. The members moved away and the branch disorganized in 1884.

Coalville branch, organized May 5, 1878.

Maple Valley branch, near Mapleton, organized June 1880, Elder Lampton president. Members moved away and the branch disorganized.

Pilot Creek branch, near Rolfe, organized March 1882. J. Milton Reed president. Several of the members moved away and the branch was disorganized in 1890.

Shelby branch, organized in 1883. Thomas Nutt president. Members moved away. Disorganized in 1886.

Earling branch, organized July 12, 1883. Disorganized in 1887. Members joined other branches.

Mallard, formerly called Union branch No. 2. organized Sept. 10, 1893.

In the early years of the district, Des Moines and Boonesbore branches belonged to the Gallands Grove territory and they reported regularly to its conferences.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOLS.**

The Gallands [Grove District Sunday School Association was organized at Deloit, June 15-17, 1888.

The District Home Class Sunday school Department was organized in 1906.

The District Sunday-school and Religio Associations adopted the Circulating Library system Feb. 12-13, 1903.

A district Library Board of Commission was adopted and organized in 1908.

### **LOCAL SUNDAY SCHOOLS.**

Deloit Sunday school (the first in the district) organized in 1866. T. C. Dobson superintendent.

Dow City Sunday school organized 1872.

Salem Sunday school organized about 1875.

Coalville Sunday school organized 1879.

Gallands Grove Sunday school organized in 1880.

Harlan Sunday School organized April 15, 1883.

Lanesboro Sunday school organized 1890.

Auburn Sunday school organized 1890. Discontinued.

Panama Sunday school organized 1893. Sister Benjamin Crandall superintendent. Discontinued after a few months.

Cherokee Sunday school organized 1892.

Defiance Sunday school organized 1896, Geo. H. Gunsolley first superintendent, R. W. Yeamans secretary. Discontinued in 1900.

Mallard Sunday school organized Nov. 19, 1899.

North Star Sunday school (6 miles southwest of Rockwell City;) organized July 5, 1906. John Reynolds superintendent, Anna Willert assistant. Members moved away. Disorganized.

Lake City Sunday school organized April 21, 1907, John Reynolds superintendent, W. M. Kendall assistant, Emma Roosa secretary. Disorganized.

### **ZION'S RELIGIO LITERARY SOCIETY.**

A District Religio Association was organized Oct. 29, 1898.

A District Religio Home Class Department organized in 1898.

### **RELIGIO LOCALS.**

Dow City Gospel Research organized in 1886. Religio organized later.

Deloit Gospel Reseach Society organized 1890. Religio organized May 4, 1899.

Gallands Grove Religio organized Dec. 18, 1893.

Coalville Religio organized in 1899. Reorganized in 1909.

Lake City Religio organized March 6, 1900. Discontinued.

Mallard Religio organized January 1900. Reorganized Nov. 7, 1910.

Lanesboro Religio organized in 1900. Discontinued.

Auburn Religio organized in 1900. Discontinued.

Salem Religio organized in 1901. Disorganized.

"North Star" Religio organized July 5, 1906. Discontinued Dec. 16, of the same year. Members moved away.

Cherokee Religio organized July 28, 1907. Reorganized Jan. 12, 1908.

Harlan Religio organized March 6, 1911.

The above summary shows that nineteen branch-

es have been organized, fourteen Sunday schools put into working order, and twelve Religio Literary Societies formed in the Gallands Grove district. This, however, only represents part of the organizations for good in the district. Since the introduction of the gospel in this part of the state, nearly three score years ago, tens of thousands have heard the angel's message and thousands gladly received and obeyed it.

Of this number many have moved to other parts, and now our district has representatives in nearly every state in the Union, and in Canada.

While the members of the Gallands Grove district have helped to build up the church work by establishing and maintaining branches and carrying on the Sunday school and Religio work, they have also helped to sustain and build up the general church financially as will be seen by the summarized account of tithes and free-will offerings. Elder John Pett was the first Bishop's agent appointed in and for the district beginning that work in 1874 and continuing in office twenty-three and one half years with the following results:

Year	Am't Col.	Year	Am't Col.
1874	\$ 109.15	1886	\$ 339.16
1875	17.30	1887	748.65
1876	140.02	1888	1,004.51
1877	59.15	1889	1,134.04
1878	432.17	1890	1,237.85
1879	366.84	1891	778.20
1880	522.70	1892	858.70
1881	403.75	1893	998.35
1882	624.60	1894	893.14
1883	642.75	1895	657.25
1884	407.30	1896	969.40
1885	397.40	1897 to June 1	543.42

The above yearly contributions received for by Elder Pett amounted to \$14,285.80.

On account of old age Bro. Pett was released from the arduous labor of traveling and collecting church funds in the district June 1, 1897, at which time Charles J. Hunt was appointed his successor, and three years later (June 1900) was ordained bishop of the district.



The following is the annual receipts in tithes and offerings, as reported by the writer from June 1, 1897 to Dec. 31, 1911:

Year	Am't Col.	Year	Am't Col.
1897 June 1 to Dec. 31...	\$ 937.28	1905.....	1,794.41
1898.. . . . .	2,462.57	1906.....	2,938.13
1899.....	2,968.95	1907.....	2,234.03
1900.....	2,229.30	1908.....	2,667 00
1901.....	2,874.45	1909.....	2,961.64
1902.....	4,761.42	1910.....	4,655.49
1903 .....	2,706.91	1911.....	2,587.26
1904.....	1,470.05		

The foregoing shows receipts of \$40,225.89 which added to the \$14,185.80 collected by the former agent makes a total of \$54,511.69. Besides the tithes and offering fund the district has contributed to Graceland College, \$1,318.93; Sanitarium, \$755.88; Saints Home, \$305 00; Childrens Home, \$206.09; United Order of \$10.00; Temple Building Fund, \$50.00; and other purposes \$569.52 making a grand total of \$57,727.11.

The above amount does not represent all the money paid by members of the district, for thousands of dollars have been sent to the General church treasury and receipted for by presiding bishops.

Since our appointment to the work of collecting tithes and free-will offerings in the district we have issued 3,301 receipts, the last of these was given to

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\$ 50.<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub>..... No. 3.301,  
Deloit, Iowa Dec. 30 1911,  
Received of Frank M. & Amanda Sheldon of Garretts,  
State of Iowa. Kind of property bank draft.  
The sum of Fifty & no/100..... DOLLARS  
as tithing..... for use and benefit of the Reorganized Church of  
Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.  
..... W. H. Hunt Bishop.  
Callands Grove (Iowa) District.

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Frank M. and Amanda Sheldon, of Larrabee (members of the Cherokee branch) Dec. 30, which closed the work for 1911.

The first in the district to contribute to the United Order of Enoch, a benevolent society in the interest of the poor and needy, established at Independence, Mo., was Chauncy S. Holcomb of the Dow City branch.

\$ 10 <sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub>-----

No. 2949..

Deloit, Iowa. Sept. 13, 1910.

Received of Chauncy S. Holcomb of Dow City

State of Iowa. Kind of property check by A. H. Rudd Agt.

The sum of Ten & no/100----- DOLLARS

as United Order of Enoch fund,  
for use and benefit of the Reorganized Church of  
Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

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L. J. Hunt Bishop.  
Gallands Grove (Iowa) District.

There is to be, according to divine instruction in the Bible and Doctrine and Covenants, a temple built by this church, and the means for its erection is being provided. The first in this district to have a gift forwarded to this fund was Mrs. Rebecca E. Miller of the Deloit branch.

\$ 50 <sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub>-----

No. 3147..

Deloit, Iowa. May 19, 1914,

Received of Mrs. Rebecca E. Miller of Deloit,

State of Iowa. Kind of property gold-----

The sum of Fifty & no/100----- DOLLARS

as Temple Building fund  
for use and benefit of the Reorganized Church of  
Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

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L. J. Hunt Bishop.  
Gallands Grove (Iowa) District.

With the issuing of this booklet at the beginning of 1912 we desire to receive a gift from every member of the district during the year in tithes, free-will offerings, consecration and surplus as the Lord has prospered him. Do not make the fatal mistake so often made by not sending a small gift because you have not a large amount to send or because you cannot give as much as some others have given. Remember "the widow's mite" and do the very best you can, for the prospects and possibilities for continued advancement in every department of the church was never brighter than now. Trusting you, dear reader, will be numbered with the faithful helpers of this year, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Charles J. Hunt,  
Bishop of Gallands Grove District.

Deloit, Iowa, January 1, 1912.

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#### ERRATA.

First page, read "O. E. Holcomb, Sen."

In account of Deloit branch, fourth verse of poetry, read "borne," instead of born.

Mallard branch, third paragraph, read "generously shared," instead of generally shared.

Salem branch, under the picture should read, "Lelands School House," instead of Salem Church.

We recommend a careful reading of the following from an "Address to the Membership of the Lamoni Stake" by its Bishopric:—

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### **Why Honor the Temporal Law?**

1. We believe it is impossible to please God without honoring his whole law. The same God that teaches us the necessity of baptism, laying on of hands, etc., also teaches us the necessity of honoring the temporal law.

2. It brings more peace and happiness in this life, and we can feel assured that we are laying up "treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal."

3. If we are officers in the church, and have complied with the law, we can conscientiously teach it to others and can recommend it to others as a positively safe and satisfactory investment.

4. If we are parents, we can set a proper example before our children.

5. If we are children we can add to the happiness of our parents by showing them we are following the good example set by them.

6. It will give us greater interest in the church and make it easier for others to do right.

7. It removes burdens from those who are overworked to care for their earthly possessions, and lightens the burdens of the worthy ones who are striving diligently to give to their loved ones the most necessary things of life.

8. We believe that God would not give us a plan to follow if it would not make us happier and better satisfied by following it. If we have faith in God, we should be willing to trust him and do the things that he says. Without faith it is impossible to please him.