

1856

Jan 5: Lorin W. Babbitt (then living in SLC) selected as Probate Judge of Beaver County, likely simultaneous to being called to preside there

Feb 6: first settlers arrive at Beaver

Feb 8: Branch organized at Beaver by George A. Smith, PE Simeon F. Howd [CC]

Feb 10: George A. Smith organizes a temporary branch at Beaver “until the arrival of President Babbitt,” P.E. Simeon F. Howd with counselors.¹

March 5: Babbitt is leaving SLC for Beaver, which appears to be under the authority of Parowan Stake²

March 14: Pres. Dame issues some instructions for the new settlement at Beaver after some indian troubles. “The Presidency of Parowan had no desire to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction of the new settlement at Beaver, but as Loren Babbitt, the president, had not yet arrived with his company, it was thought that trifling technicalities should not interfere with the general good of the saints. Pres. Dame was sustained...by the citizens of Parowan, as well as those settlers of Beaver at that time in Parowan.”³

April 12: Lorin W Babbitt (under authority of G.A. Smith?) organizes government for Beaver County⁴

April 13: Lorin W Babbitt (under authority of G.A. Smith?) organizes church in Beaver County with counselors (himself as president?), Philo T. Farnsworth as bishop with counselors⁵

Oct 30: “Beaver Branch,” mentions being organized around April 5 by LW Babbitt as pres with counselors, P.T. Farnsworth as bishop with counselors, but Farnsworth has moved to Fillmore, and Babbitt is leaving for California.⁶

Nov 7: BY writes Bishop Farnsworth: “We learn ... that President L.W. Babbitt has left for California, and you being at Fillmore leaves them without either President or Bishop. We therefore counsel you to return forthwith to that settlement and act in your office. We have recommended you to the people of that settlement to preside...”⁷ [i.e., be President and Bishop]

Nov 16: First Presidency excommunicates Babbitt for abandoning Beaver for California, after he

¹ James Henry Rollins, *Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia*, V.4 p.708, <https://archive.org/details/latterdaysaintbi04jens/page/708/mode/2up>; JH 2/11/1856, citing “an original document at the Historian’s Office,” CR 100 47 v.40, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=19cb5664-86bc-45d7-9484-d31fa27217f4>

² Improvements in the South, *Deseret News* 5:413

³ *Parowan Stake Historical Record*, part B p.13

⁴ Lorin W. Babbitt, letter to George A. Smith 1856 April 19, *George A. Smith Papers, General Correspondence*, Church History Library MS 1322, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/a1fc6d01-22be-4711-9449-f96f534616b6>

⁵ Lorin W. Babbitt, letter

⁶ Wilson G Nowers, letter to Brigham Young, Oct 30 1856, *Brigham Young Office Files, General Letters, 1840-1877*, Church History Library CR 1234 1, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=c2a9b976-1b4d-4c66-9015-bc6255e0c816>

⁷ Brigham Young, letter to Philo T. Farnsworth, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.3, p.181, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=99279f54-9c69-41a1-ac5d-e6069f9a2920>

“was made President of that branch.”⁸ It appears that he was upset over the Reformation, and eventually joined the RLDS Church.

Dec 10: Farnsworth has been living in Fillmore (he thought his appointment by Babbitt may have been invalid), but is returning to Beaver by their request.⁹ (BY responds with encouragement)

1857

March 2: Philo T. Farnsworth, “Bishop of Beaver County” is rebaptized by PB Edward Hunter in GSLC¹⁰

July 27: Farnsworth bishop of Beaver

Dec 22: General bishops meeting represented by ward bishops including Beaver¹¹

1858

Spring: Pleasant Grove Ward sends some tithing to “Beaver Ward, Bishop P.T. Farnsworth.”¹²

1859

Spring: Minersville settled, led by Isaac Grundy

Nov 7: BY writes “Elders Lyman and Rich are also instructed to visit the two lower settlements on Beaver and organize them into a ward.” [Minersville]¹³

28 November: “James Henry Rollins was ordained bishop of Lower Beaver Ward” by Amasa Lyman and Charles C. Rich¹⁴

⁸ Heber C. Kimball, Remarks, *Deseret News* V.6 #38 (Nov 26 1856) p.298, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2574525>

⁹ Philo T. Farnsworth, letter to Brigham Young, *Brigham Young Office Files, General Letters, 1840-1877*, Church History Library CR 1234 1, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=7684eedc-49b2-49d2-8064-bca4ec497e8d>

¹⁰ *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1851-1862*, p.196, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d6ef2526-92a6-45f5-9906-6879ac3353b3/0/217>

¹¹ *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1851-1862*, p.220, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d6ef2526-92a6-45f5-9906-6879ac3353b3/0/246>

¹² *Pleasant Grove Ward Tithing Records*, Church History Library LR 7005 23 box 1 folder 24

¹³ Brigham Young, open letter Nov 7 1859, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.5*, p.302, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=adc114c8-073a-494e-98cf-c9d00a054123>

¹⁴ *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1851-1862*, p.292, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d6ef2526-92a6-45f5-9906-6879ac3353b3/0/315>

1860

28 March: Statistical Report from “Minersville or Lower Beaver Ward,” Bishop James H. Rollins, 153 members¹⁵

6 April: General bishops meeting includes representatives from Beaver Ward.¹⁶

~~April 7: Minersville Ward organized by Amasa Lyman, bishop James Henry Rollins¹⁷ (see 28 Nov 1859)~~

April 30: BY and church leaders discuss unrest in Beaver;¹⁸ decide that Farnsworth is imperfect but the best person to be bishop

May 23: A petition is sent to Brigham Young requesting a new president for Beaver; a second “remonstrance” is sent supporting P.T. Farnsworth¹⁹

1861

7 Oct: General bishops meeting includes representatives from Minersville and Beaver “Wards.”²⁰

Greenville settled, led by Samuel James Edwards

1862

Adamsville settled, led by David B. Adams

October 6: General Bishops Meeting includes the bishops of Beaver and Minersville Wards²¹

1864

March 7: still Bishop Farnsworth in Beaver, Bishop Henry Rollins in Minersville

¹⁵ Bishops Reports, 1860 March-April, *Bishops Reports 1848-1866*, Church History Library CR 100 592, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/ced6e4c3-2d9b-4b09-8ab6-c7fc771fef6c/0/0>

¹⁶ *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1851-1862*, p.305, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d6ef2526-92a6-45f5-9906-6879ac3353b3/0/330>

¹⁷ Andrew Jenson, *Church Chronology*, p.63, <https://archive.org/details/churchchronology00jensrich/page/62/mode/2up>; James Henry Rollins, *Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia*, V.4 p.411, <https://archive.org/details/latterdaysaintbi04jens/page/410/mode/2up>

¹⁸ *General Church Minutes*, 1860 April 30 p.5, Church History Library CR 100 318, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/7f680d23-481a-49f4-8b3e-4fb8a4eead69/0/4>

¹⁹ Daniel M. Thomas, letter to Brigham Young May 23 1860, *Brigham Young Office Files, General Letters, 1840-1877, Th-Y, 1860*, Church History Library CR 1234 1, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=eb767ad1-2814-4e81-bafe-41f5f9ec672a>

²⁰ Ordination, *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1851-1862*, p.351, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d6ef2526-92a6-45f5-9906-6879ac3353b3/0/377>

²¹ *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1862-1879*, p.16, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/e9b0c4cc-2d99-497a-b4ce-f5afe97ea098/0/0>

Oct 25: First Presidency issues certificate "that Elder John Riggs Murdock has this day been ordained as Bishop to preside in Beaver City and throughout Beaver County and is appointed to take charge of the Tithing and also the Presidency there until further orders."²²

Nov 6: A. Milton Musser (traveling bishop) met with Beaver saints,²³ "I introduced Bp. Murdock to people, read his letter of appointment from Pres't & called for a sustaining vote ratifying his appointment. The vote was unanimous in the [Bpo?]. Bp. M. Ex. Bp. Farnsworth & myself made remarks." Then they went to Minersville in the evening, "the people were pleased with the appointment of Bro. Murdock. He, Bp. Rollins, & self addressed the saints."

1865

May 4: John Murdock leaves Utah County for Beaver, already called and ordained as the new bishop.²⁴

1866

March 1: BY writes to Bishop Murdock, granting tentative approval to settle at Snake Creek.²⁵ James McKnight made acting bishop of Minersville²⁶

May 12: Report to PB Edward Hunter from Clerk Wm. Fotheringham (Bishop John R. Murdock being absent) of "Beaver Ward."²⁷

1867

January 10: At Presiding Bishop's meeting, "Bishop Murdock" of Beaver reports.²⁸

Before March 11: John R. Murdock called to Beaver, leading to contention between him and P.T. Farnsworth over civil leadership of the town²⁹

²² Brigham Young, open letter 25 Oct 1864, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.7, p.316, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/867b28d5-f5ea-44bb-b228-516179bc010a/0/660>

²³ A. Milton Musser, *Diary 1864-1865*, p.1, Church History Library MS 8140 box 1 folder 9, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/bccc084b-d63a-4db5-b98e-d344b05c4e6b/0/2>

²⁴ Orrice C. Murdock, *Autobiography and Journal*, Church History Library MS 22240 folder 1 p.25, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=0767f81d-f6ce-456e-8f27-27e186a67965>

²⁵ Brigham Young, letter to John R. Murdock 1 March 1866, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.8, p.150, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=b3c72fee-6f44-4ce6-8a9f-5cf38b6153d1>

²⁶ James McKnight, *Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia*, V.4 p.410, <https://archive.org/details/latterdaysaintbi04jens/page/410/mode/2up>

²⁷ *Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company outfitting reports, 1866*, Church History Library CR 376 13 box 1 folder 9, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/87ee198d-ee46-45ec-99f4-5bc8628b7520/0/13>

²⁸ *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1862-1879*, p.117, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/e9b0c4cc-2d99-497a-b4ce-f5afe97ea098/0/0>

²⁹ John R. Murdock, letter to Brigham Young March 11 1869, *Brigham Young Office Files, General Letters*, Church History Library CR 1234 1, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=5294f26a-7d0a-4c92-b907-067aeafc215b>

Before Dec 20: Adamsville Branch organized³⁰

1868

Jan 4: David B. Adams (Adamsville) meets with “the Bishop” in Greenville³¹ *is this Bishop Murdock or a bishop of Adamsville/Greenville?*

Feb 1: Adams reports to Bishop Murdock in Beaver³²

Meeting house built in Adamsville

13 Feb: Bishop Murdock visits Adamsville and Minersville³³. *It is rather apparent that he has regional jurisdiction*

April 25: In first of a series of published Church directories, the following are listed:³⁴ mp:700394

- County President of Millard & Beaver: None
- Beaver County
 - Beaver: JR Murdock
 - Minersville: JH Rollins
 - Panaca: AT Barron

August 4: Last of a series of published Church directories, same as April 25 except:³⁵

- Greenville: Wm Edwards, pres’t
- Adamsville: DB Adams, pres’t
- Minersville: Jas McKnight, acting [bishop]
- Panaca moved to Washington County

1869

Feb 1: status of “wards:” **Beaver**, 160 families; **Minersville**, 50 families; **Greenville**, 23 families, Pres. Samuel Edwards; **Adamsville**, 18 families, Pres. David B. Adams.³⁶

March 12: Conference to organize the stake presided by GA Smith, Erastus Snow, Joseph F. Smith. New President John R. Murdock; high council. 2 Wards divided: at Telegraph Street. 1st (East of Telegraph St) Bishop Marcus L. Shepherd, 2nd (West of Telegraph St) John Ashworth;

³⁰ David B. Adams, *Diary*, Church History Library MS 1763 p.1,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=e733b030-0b24-424c-9e6f-4b45a7104ed9&crate=0&index=5>

³¹ David B. Adams, *Diary*, p.1

³² David B. Adams, *Diary*, p.2

³³ David B. Adams, *Diary*, p.2

³⁴ Church Directory, *Salt Lake Daily Telegraph*, V.4 #253 (25 April 1868) p.4

³⁵ Church Directory, *Salt Lake Daily Telegraph*, V.5 #25 (4 Aug 1868) p.4

³⁶ A Milton Musser, letter to Brigham Young Feb 1 1869, *Brigham Young Office Files, General Letters, 1840-1877, Th-Y, 1860*, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 33 folder 7,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=0dae9154-9128-4927-8ac1-3a7f9cc94918>

also bishops David B. Adams for Adamsville & Greenville (Beaver 3rd Ward?), James McKnight for Minersville.³⁷ All 4 are ordained by GA Smith³⁸

James McKnight is officially ordained a bishop at this time

Sep 23: President Murdock (reporting to George A. Smith?) sent several men to help with Piute County elections in Circleville and Bullion City.³⁹ Probably because they were in the same legislative district that Murdock was running for, not because of ecclesiastical authority

1870

19 April: Adams reorganizes Relief Society “in the 3rd Ward” in Greenville. *Throughout 1870 and 1871, he is working in both Adamsville and Greenville, with meetings in both, as well as frequent trips to Iron City*

Dec 3: Stake presidency more fully organized with counselors

1871

June 3: Beaver Stake Conference⁴⁰

- John R. Murdock, President of this stake of Zion, and presiding bishop; counselors, high council, priesthood quorums
- M.L. Shepherd, Bishop of the 1st Ward of Beaver City
- John Ashworth, Bishop of the 2nd Ward of Beaver City
- David B. Adams, Bishop of Adamsville and Greenville
- James McKnight, Bishop of Minersville

1872

Jan 15: David B. Adams resigns as bishop of Beaver 3rd Ward (moving to Iron County)⁴¹

March 24: Robert Easton ordained Bishop of Greenville[+Adamsville]⁴²

³⁷ Beaver Stake Conference Minutes, *Historian's Office Local Minutes and Records*, Church History Library CR 100 589 box 1 folder 35; David B. Adams, *Diary*, p.8

³⁸ Ordination, *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1862-1879*, p.197, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/e9b0c4cc-2d99-497a-b4ce-f5afe97ea098/0/0>

³⁹ John R. Murdock, letter to George A. Smith, 1869 September 23, *George A. Smith Papers, General Correspondence, Incoming letters M-N 1869*, Church History Library MS 1322 box 7 folder 11, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=c815b9a5-27cf-48e6-96bf-c5ba722a33f4>

⁴⁰ Conference at Beaver, *Deseret News*, (June 14 1871), <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2608753>

⁴¹ David B. Adams, *Diary*, p.32, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=e733b030-0b24-424c-9e6f-4b45a7104ed9&crate=0&index=36>

⁴² Robert Easton, *Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia*, V.4 p.408, <https://archive.org/details/latterdaysaintbi04jens/page/408/mode/2up>

1873

March 19: List of Presiding Elders and Bishops lists:⁴³

- Beaver, John R. Murdock (and Presiding Bishop over county)
- Minersville, James McKnight
- *No mention of Greenville/Adamsville or Beaver 1st/2nd Wards*

June 6: Stake Conference. No local leaders listed⁴⁴

1874

April 11: United Order organized in Beaver Stake, including President John L. Murdock, vice presidents Marcus L. Shepherd and John Ashworth (ward bishops), Robert Easton Pres of Greenville, Joseph H. Joseph Pres of Adamsville, James McKnight Pres of Minersville⁴⁵

May 27: List of Presiding Elders and Bishops, same as above.⁴⁶

July: Daniel Tyler communicates with Brigham Young about whether the High Priests Quorum in Salt Lake City has jurisdiction over high priests; apparently, the answer was no.⁴⁷

Oct 21: List of Presiding Elders and Bishops, same as 1873.⁴⁸

Nov 27: Adamsville Ward separated from Greenville?

1875

Jan 6: List of Presiding Elders and Bishops, same as 1873.⁴⁹

1876

By Jan 6: Joseph H. Joseph ordained bishop of Adamsville Ward (separated from Greenville?)⁵⁰

Feb 5: Joseph H. Joseph ordained Bishop of Adamsville Ward⁵¹

⁴³ Presiding Elders and Bishops, *Deseret News*, V.22 #7 (March 19 1873) p.103, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2622070>

⁴⁴ Correspondence, *Deseret News*, V.22 #21 (June 25 1873) p.334, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2619229>

⁴⁵ *Annals of the Southern Utah Mission*, 1874 p.105b

⁴⁶ Presiding Elders and Bishops, *Deseret News*, V.23 #17 (May 27 1874) p.267, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2635244>

⁴⁷ Daniel Tyler, letter to Brigham Young 22 July 1876, *Brigham Young office files, 1832-1878, General Correspondence, incoming, 1840-1877, General Letters, 1840-1877*, Church History Library CR 1234 1, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=1e2469e4-104a-4b8c-8c79-3bda9045229a>

⁴⁸ Presiding Elders and Bishops, *Deseret News*, V.23 #38 (January 6 1875) p.603, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2613752>

⁴⁹ Presiding Elders and Bishops, *Deseret News*, V.24 #49 (January 6 1875) p.782, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2614880>

⁵⁰ Joseph H. Joseph, *Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia*, V.4 p.409, <https://archive.org/details/latterdaysaintbi04jens/page/408/mode/2up>

⁵¹ David B. Adams, *Diary*; p. 75, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=e733b030-0b24-424c-9e6f-4b45a7104ed9&crate=0&index=79>

December 22: Final published list of Bishops and Presiding Elders, same as 1873.⁵²

1877

July 25: Conference to reorganize the stake. President John R. Murdock, counselors, high council. Bishops: 1st Ward Charles D. White, 2nd Ward John X. Smith; Minersville Ward Jas. McKnight; Adamsville Ward (acting Bishop) Thomas Gunn; Greenville Ward Robt. Easton.⁵³⁵⁴
December 1: Stake conference.⁵⁵ Same leaders as July sustained.

1878

9 Jan: Published list of all stakes and wards, including Beaver Stake:⁵⁶

- Charles D. White, 1st Ward, Beaver
- John X. Smith, 2nd Ward, Beaver
- Robert Easton, Greenville
- Thomas Gunn, acting, Adamsville
- James McKnight, Minersville
- J.R. Murdock, President of Stake

⁵² Presiding Elders and Bishops, *Deseret Evening News*, V.10 #27 (December 22, 1876) p.4, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=23166497>

⁵³ Beaver Stake, *Deseret News* V.26 #26 (August 1, 1877) p.416
<https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2627645>

⁵⁴ Wilford Woodruff, *Journal 1873 Jan - 1880 Feb*, p.258, Church History Library MS 1352, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/eb07ddd8-d258-43b3-82fd-1b0bc186b269/0/268>

⁵⁵ Beaver Stake Conference, *Deseret News*, V.26 #46 (December 19, 1877) p.722, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2629343>

⁵⁶ Names of Presidents and Bishops of the Organized Stakes of Zion, *Deseret Evening News*, V.11 #40 (January 9, 1878), p.4, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=23168097>