

1851

June 1: John Reese arrives in Carson Valley near Mormon Station with other Mormon settlers (there are already a few non-Mormons there).

1854

January: Carson County created (on paper)

1855

June 17: Orson Hyde arrives with more settlers to determine Utah/California boundary and organize the county

September 20: first election, Carson County is organized, county seat at Mormon Station, now renamed Genoa by Hyde.

October 9: Brigham Young sends a letter to Hyde: "you are at liberty and I think it would be an excellent plan to organize a branch of the church in carson county with presidency of stake high council etc."¹

Late?: Orson Hyde establishes his residence in Washoe Valley [later Franktown]

1856

April 6: In General Conference, 150-250 people called to settle in Carson Valley

June 24: first company of settlers arrives

August 14: Richard Bentley has a son named Frank (the first baby in the region), the Washoe Valley settlement is named Franktown after him.²

September 28: Conference presided over by Orson Hyde to organize the church here. Calls a high council "in the stake of Zion in Western Utah." Richard Bentley "Bishop in said Stake of Zion," "William Price chosen President of the Stake." Branch in "Wassau [Washoe] Valley" [Franktown, site of Orson Hyde's mill] previously organized with Seth Dustin presiding. William Nixon chosen to preside over new branch in Carson [Mormon Station/Genoa] and Jack Valleys. Meltiah Hatch to preside over new branch in Eagle Valley [Carson City].³

September 28: High Council holds its first meeting.⁴

November 6: Hyde leaves the Carson Valley area for Salt Lake.

¹ Brigham Young letter to Orson Hyde October 9 1855, *Brigham Young office files, Letterbooks, V.2*, p.426, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6

² Richard Bentley Autobiography BYU?

³ Carson Valley Conference Minutes, 1856 September 28; in *Historians Office Local Minutes and Records*, Church History Library: CR 100 589 box 1 folder 2.

⁴ *Carson Valley Stake High Council Minutes*, p.3, Church History Library LR 5618 21, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/4cc4fc0b-8047-4f86-bcb0-b13fbb4d1500/0/0>

1857

April 6: Stake Conference. Chester Loveland, President pro tem (William Price is in SLC); other officers the same. Wassaw Branch: 111, Carson Valley Branch 116, Eagle Valley Branch 60.⁵

August 15: Brigham Young writes the saints in Carson Valley about the approaching army: "We have concluded that it is wisdom that you should dispose of your property as well as you can and come home."⁶

September 5: last recorded meeting of high council, no business recorded.⁷

September 20: Mormon settlements are abandoned⁸

September 26: most of the Mormons leave for Salt Lake⁹

⁵ Minutes of the Annual Conference of the Church in Carson County, U.T., *The Western Standard*, V.2 #7 (April 24 1857) p.2

⁶ Brigham Young, letter to Chester Loveland et al 15 August 1857, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.3, p.795, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=99279f54-9c69-41a1-ac5d-e6069f9a2920>

⁷ *Carson Valley Stake High Council Minutes*, p.25, Church History Library LR 5618 21, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/4cc4fc0b-8047-4f86-bcb0-b13fbb4d1500/0/0>

⁸ Page, Albert. *Orson Hyde and the Carson Valley Mission, 1855-1857*. BYU Masters Thesis, 1970. P.117

<https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=6009&context=etd>

⁹ Page, p.117