

JUAB COUNTY TIMELINE

1851

June: Joseph L Heywood appointed as president over the settlement (reminiscence in 1854).¹

August 3: Martha Spence Heywood first mentions the future trip to Salt Creek.²

Sept 22: "We decided on locating for settlements on Salt Creek [Nephi] and Corn Creek [Fillmore] between this and Iron County, and companies will leave immediately after conference, to form those settlements."³ *The context of this sentence suggests that the decision was made at the Manti conference on April 30.*

23 September: Joseph L. Heywood and family arrives in the settlement. Levi Gifford chosen to preside over meetings by Joseph L. Heywood (probably not a real branch/ward organization)⁴

24 October: As he passed through, Brigham Young renamed the Salt Creek Settlement ("15 families") as **Nephi**.⁵

[Date]: George Bradley recalled years later that earlier in the year before he moved to Nephi, it was a new settlement known then as "**Salt Creek Settlement**" and was under the leadership of President Joseph Heywood. He recalled that he and Josiah Miller were called as counselors to President Heywood later on in the year.⁶

7 December: Minutes of Nephi meetings starts on this date. Although this was a Sunday, the minutes don't record any religious things being discussed at the meeting. The next Sunday's meeting it is indicated that the meeting was opened by a prayer. These early meetings were held at the house of George Bradley.⁷

1851-52: Heywood is rarely in Nephi, mostly living with other wives in SLC; he was also the bishop of the 17th Ward at this time and held two significant territorial government positions.⁸

¹ *General Church Minutes*, CR 100 318 box 2 folder 52 image 65.

<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=435983e1-2d15-47b0-b35f-21328378bbc2&crate=0&index=64>

² J. Brooks, ed. *Not by Bread Alone: The Journal of Martha Spence Heywood 1850-1856*. Salt Lake City, Utah State Historical Society, p.63

³ Sixth General Epistle, *Deseret News*, Nov 15 1851, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2578154>

⁴ J. Brooks, ed. *Not by Bread Alone: The Journal of Martha Spence Heywood 1850-1856*. Salt Lake City, Utah State Historical Society, p.65.

⁵ George A. Smith, Journal 1851 April-November, 1852 July-December, *George A. Smith papers, 1834-1877*; Church History Library, MS 1322 box 2 folder 6 image 92, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=409aa44e-9b98-4576-afb1-a4a64e982729&crate=0&index=91>

⁶ Autobiography of George Washington Bradley
(<https://familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/27345146?p=1330062>)

⁷ *Nephi Ward General Minutes*, Church History Library LR 6002 11 pages 2-3

⁸ *Not by Bread Alone*

1852

27 January: "Minutes of Trial held at Nephi City Jan. 27th 1852 Before Bishops George Bradly and Josiah Miller in a case between Margret Davies wife of John Davies against her husband for mistreatment and abuse... John Davies must acknowledge before the Bretheren that he has abused his wife and used her in a maner not becoming a man of God... or he shal be cut of from the this Branch... [signed] George Bradly [&] Josiah Miller, Bishops."⁹ *The strange thing is that these two bishops were identified by George Bradley as the two counselors to the branch president, so it's not clear what's going on here exactly. The situation is unclear, but it looks like we would categorize Nephi at this point as a dual-leader ward.*

March 20: Statistical report from Juab County:¹⁰

- Nephi City, Bishop Joseph L. Heywood, 62 members *not called a ward or branch*
- Willow Creek [Mona], *No leader listed*, 12 members

Spring: Later reminiscences by Homer Brown and David Cazier put the construction of the first small log schoolhouse in Nephi not long before 16 May 1852. It stood on the corner of Main and Center Streets where a post office was standing in 1951.¹¹

26 September: Enumeration of church members at Nephi describes "Nephi City" as a "Ward," with a "Bishop" named Joseph L. Heywood.¹²

November: Jacob G. Bigler (recently arrived) "ordained Bishop of Juab County by Apostle George A. Smith."¹³ He doesn't say stake, but it is implied that he was the only bishop in the county and thus over the county as a whole. If Smith ordains him, does that mean that this is considered part of Utah Stake, or does Smith's authority extend over both counties? *In G.A. Smith's journal, all he says is that in the latter half of November, he traveled from Parowan to Provo, and "preached at most of the settlements on my journey." Didn't mention Nephi when he had gone south in October.*¹⁴

1 Dec 1852: In Provo, "Jacob G. Bigler was ordained bishop of Nephi City under the hands of President George A. Smith."¹⁵ *This suggests that GA Smith at least considered Nephi as part of his Utah County presidency. This is a primary document, and more reliable than Bigler's later reminiscence.*

28 December: List of members and wards in Utah includes "Nephi City Ward" among Utah County wards¹⁶

⁹ *Nephi Ward General Minutes*, image 4-5

¹⁰ Bishops Reports, 1852 April, *Bishops Reports 1848-1866*, Church History Library CR 100 592, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/f8e49375-cc4e-4fab-9ec7-1e7dfe8112ee/0/26>

¹¹ Nephi's Centennial Jubilee (1851-1951), 19

¹² *Nephi Ward General Minutes*, image 6

¹³ Autobiography of Jacob G. Bigler (MS 10735/f0001), 2

¹⁴ Journal, April 1851-Dec 1852, p.111,115 *George A. Smith Papers*, Church History Library MS 1322, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/409aa44e-9b98-4576-afb1-a4a64e982729/0/114>

¹⁵ *Presiding Bishopric bishops meeting minutes*, 1851-1862 p.45, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d6ef2526-92a6-45f5-9906-6879ac3353b3/0/60>

¹⁶ Registry of the names of persons residing in the various wards, December 28th 1852. *Brigham Young Office Files: President's Office Files: Office Memorandum Books 1852-1871*, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 79 folder 12.

https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE4145451

1853

April 9: General Bishops meeting includes Bishop Bigler, Nephi¹⁷

May 15: Bishop Bigler holds a Sunday meeting with members at Clover Creek (Mona) [MH, citing Andrew Love journal]

July 18: Clover Creek residents abandon their settlement and move to Salt Creek (Nephi) [MH, citing Andrew Love journal]

During 1853 and 1854, the settlement is feuding over President Heywood, with some openly opposed to his presidency. Need more research on the source of the issue; may have been bishop vs. president authority, or Heywood's poor health, or Heywood's being gone to SLC for months at a time (he was a U.S. Marshal and had a house in SLC with other wives), or Heywood's friendliness with Chief Walker and opposition to building a city wall/fort. [LOTS MORE DETAIL IN JOURNAL].¹⁸

October 6: Report of General Conference includes a list of "wards" with "bishops" (this may be a generalization and could include some branches with presidents), including Salt Creek with Jacob G. Bigler. Heywood is listed as bishop of the Salt Lake 17th Ward.¹⁹ mp:800205

Oct 8: General bishops meeting includes Bishop J.L. Heywood, Salt Creek Ward [but he may have been called bishop because of his Salt Lake ward], who reports favorably on Bishop Bigler²⁰

October: Directory of local leaders includes the following for Juab County. Nephi City: president of branch Joseph L. Heywood (couns. Geo W. Bradley, Josiah Miller); Bishop Jacob G. Bigler (couns. Charles Hinkle Bryan, Richard Bentley)²¹ mp:700323

1854

8 January: First recorded Sunday meeting held in the "Council House." Also mentions "Prest. Bradley."²²

April 8: At a general bishops meeting, attendance included bishop of Nephi²³

May 25: apostles hold council with "all male members" about the feud.²⁴ Wilford Woodruff mentions "The Bishop, the President, the High Council." Issues discussed include Heywood

¹⁷ *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1851-1862*, p.60, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d6ef2526-92a6-45f5-9906-6879ac3353b3/0/75>

¹⁸ Martha S. Heywood Journal 1850-1856, Church History Library, images 120-126. Transcribed in J. Brooks, ed, *Not Be Bread Alone: the journal of Martha Spence Heywood, 1850-1856*.

¹⁹ Report of General Conference, *Deseret News* V.3 #19 (October 15 1853) p.74-75 <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2579576>

²⁰ *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1851-1862*, p.70, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d6ef2526-92a6-45f5-9906-6879ac3353b3/0/87>

²¹ Utah Territory Officers Oct 1853, *Winter Quarters Municipal High Council Records 1846-1848*. Church History Library LR 6359 21 box 1 folder 3 p.96

²² Nephi Record Book A, image 8

²³ *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1851-1862*, p.88, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d6ef2526-92a6-45f5-9906-6879ac3353b3/0/105>

²⁴ *General Church Minutes*, CR 100 318 box 2 folder 52 image 60, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=435983e1-2d15-47b0-b35f-21328378bbc2&crate=0&index=60>

refusing to build the fort, Heywood not allowing British saints to vote, Heywood being overbearing. JG Bigler reminisces that when he was considering moving here, “Bro. Heywood wanted me to be the Bishop.” Apparently Heywood wanted a fort, then left, and while he was gone, Bigler came up with a plan that was endorsed by the community, which Heywood rejected when he returned, saying it was his job to dictate what would be done (thus, the president is claiming clear authority over the bishop). In response, Heywood proposes a stake organization with a high council and “Bro. [Zimri] Baxter as the Pres.” [presumably composed of his supporters, because Bigler says they would have caused division]. Heywood only visiting occasionally is an undercurrent in the comments. In his defense, Heywood says he has been trying to build a fort for two years, but the people oppose him in everything he tries to do, including Bigler. Apostles see fault on both sides, ask the people to forgive Heywood, which they do.

1854-05-31: List of wards south of GSL City, with bishops, counselors, and clerk (and several measures of development, like the size of the fort, schools, and whether shade trees have been planted). It is clear that by this time, this is the general pattern. Includes Nephi, Bishop Jacob G. Bigler²⁵

July: Nephi citizens petition church leaders to remove Heywood from the presidency, and he is released.

14 August: Brigham Young writes Joseph L. Heywood, “As it is quite inconvenient and incompatible for you to spend much time at Nephi, particularly as the 17th Ward will fully occupy all the oversight you can spare...I respectfully suggest & counsel that it will be best ... to write to the brethren at Nephi your resignation of the Presidency you hold there with instructions to them to get together at an early date, and elect for their president the person who may receive the largest number of their votes.”²⁶ Heywood writes GW Bradley, suggesting that they reorganize.²⁷

27 August: Jacob G. Bigler is sustained as both “president” and “bishop” of the “branch” at Nephi. This was decided after a vote on August 13th between him and Heywood led to him being sustained.²⁸

December: Clover Creek [Mona] settled by three families [EH]

4 December: Jacob Bigler is referred to as both “president” and “bishop” at Nephi.²⁹

²⁵ Journal History, May 31 1854. Copy of a manuscript list, source not cited

²⁶ Brigham Young, letter to Joseph L. Heywood 14 Aug 1854, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.1, p.624, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=f7d18c09-51a0-42c6-8c73-10960c772d45>; Joseph L. Heywood Collection, MS 9480 box 1 folder 10, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/a4182d05-023c-46b1-a68c-1a15d1a11f66/0/0>

²⁷ Joseph L. Heywood, letter to G.W. Bradley, *Joseph L. Heywood Collection*, MS 9480 box 1 folder 10, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/c285fd00-548c-4b82-8721-50fb9a70609c/0/0>

²⁸ Nephi Record Book A, image 10-11

²⁹ Deseret News 4 December 1854

1855

3 June: On this date and in several other entries through the year, Jacob Bigler refers to Nephi as a “branch.” However, on this date he also describes a “bishop’s court” that he held.³⁰

23 July: Bigler meets with the seventies, who are petitioning Joseph Young and “the Provo Conference” (of Seventies) to remove Wm. Meeks as their president. Meeks had opposed Bigler’s presidency, then threatened to leave for the gold country. This apparently leads to enough of a division in the branch to lead to the September 23 meeting.

9 September: In a Sunday meeting in Provo, George A. Smith discusses the difficulties in “Salt Creek.” “Bro. Heywood was their President and they wanted to get rid of him, he was a good man. After a while he resigned. The presidency told them to choose one & they selected six candidates & they finally concentrated upon one man and after a while they found out that he was not chosen of the Lord and this threw them in wonderful confusion.”³¹

23 September: After conflict with the presidents of the two 70s quorums in Nephi, Bigler holds a meeting to get his congregation’s sustaining vote, which he describes in his journal. “Samul Pitchforth was then appointed Clk for the day (the branch Clk not being present) I was then sustained by a unanimous Vote as President Josiah Miller & T B Foot my Councillors I was also Unanimously Sustained as Bishop and C H Bryan my first Councillor and R Benty [Bentley] My second Councillor with about 12 apposing Votes.”³² *Nephi is once again referred to as a branch, and Bigler is sustained as both their president and bishop. It is unclear why he holds two positions, but it could be that the bishop part was for the county as a whole, and the president part was for the branch in Nephi.*

6 October: Statistical report at general conference lists Nephi as one of the “wards” outside of Salt Lake, bishop JB Bigler. No other wards mentioned from Juab county.³³

8 Oct: General bishops meeting includes representation from Nephi Ward.³⁴

[Date]: New adobe schoolhouse built in Nephi inside the fort. It was located where Forrest Hotel stood in 1951.³⁵

1856

8 October: Edward Hunter and counselors rebaptize and reconfirm several bishops,³⁶ including “Jacob G. Bigler, bishop of Nephi”

³⁰ <https://familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/18668483>, 3-4

³¹ *Utah Stake General Minutes*, Church History Library LR 9629 11 V.10 p.66

³² <https://familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/18668483>, 22-23

³³ Journal History 6 October 1855, 7, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/ba458d58-0eca-4a84-8b03-d4e203eaa1f4/0/34>

³⁴ *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1851-1862*, p.114, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d6ef2526-92a6-45f5-9906-6879ac3353b3/0/134>

³⁵ Nephi’s Centennial Jubilee (1851-1951), 19

³⁶ *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1851-1862*, p.165-166, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d6ef2526-92a6-45f5-9906-6879ac3353b3/0/186>

1857

April 7: General bishops meeting, bishops representing wards including Nephi City³⁷

April 8: General Bishops meeting includes representation from Nephi City bishopric³⁸ *It appears to be treated and indirectly called a ward.*

1858

10 Jan: "Brother Jacob Bigler from Salt Creek Bishop" preaches in North Cottonwood (Farmington)³⁹

Spring: Pleasant Grove Ward sends some tithing to "Tithing Office at Nephi, Bishop J.G. Bigler," and on another page, to "Salt Creek Ward."⁴⁰

1860

Winter-Spring: Clover Creek (Mona) resettled as part of Nephi Ward [MH]

6 April: General bishops meeting includes representatives from the Nephi Ward.⁴¹

6 Oct: General bishops meeting includes representatives from "Country Wards," including Nephi.⁴²

Nov 13: BY Writes to "Bishop J.G. Bigler"⁴³

1861

March 10: At a meeting of the Twelve,⁴⁴ Brigham Young sends Orson Hyde and G.A. Smith to "go through the settlements South and settle the difficulties...[including] Jacob Bigler's at Salt Creek...[sending] Bishop Bigler on a mission...we will ordain Charles H. Bryan a Bishop at Salt Creek at present."

³⁷ *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1851-1862*, p.199, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d6ef2526-92a6-45f5-9906-6879ac3353b3/0/225>

³⁸ Ordination, *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1851-1862*, p.199, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d6ef2526-92a6-45f5-9906-6879ac3353b3/0/220>

³⁹ *North Cottonwood Ward Minutes*, p.50, Church History Library LR 2816 21, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/b2c090f4-234a-4890-a597-c1c37abbf463/0/0>

⁴⁰ *Pleasant Grove Ward Tithing Records*, Church History Library LR 7005 23 box 1 folder 24

⁴¹ *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>

⁴² *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1851-1862*, p.319, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d6ef2526-92a6-45f5-9906-6879ac3353b3/0/346>

⁴³ David O. Calder, letter to Jacob G. Bigler 13 Nov 1860, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.7*, p. 31, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=867b28d5-f5ea-44bb-b228-516179bc010a&crate=0&index=0>

⁴⁴ Wilford Woodruff, *Journal 1860-1865*, p.120, Church History Library MS 1352, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/801702bf-e607-4f0d-82d0-e0f84b8c2406/0/125>

6 Apr: Presiding Bishop's meeting, a rare one with attendance from many "wards" statewide, including the bishop of Nephi⁴⁵

April 14: JG Bigler leaves on a mission to Britain. Charles H. Bryan is the new (acting??) bishop

May 17: Charles Hinkle Bryan ordained bishop of **Nephi** City by Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, and PB Edward Hunter⁴⁶⁴⁷

May 20: BY writes to "C.H. Bryan, Nephi" about a matter normally handled by bishops, but he is not called a bishop.⁴⁸

1862

April 7: General bishops meeting includes bishop of "Salt Creek Ward"⁴⁹

October 6: General Bishops Meeting includes the bishop of Nephi Ward⁵⁰

[Date]: **Clover Creek (Mona)** becomes its own branch. Prior to this it had been part of the Nephi branch.⁵¹ [branch]

Edward Kay called to preside over Clover Creek (Mona) by the bishop of Nephi [MH] *Dependent or independent branch?*

1863

[Date]: Jacob G. Bigler recalled being ordained president of the Juab Stake in this year, which would contradict other, later dates for the establishment of the stake.⁵² Plus, he was still on his mission. The fact that his autobiography was written years later near the time of his death means that he could have misremembered the year.

September 26: JG Bigler returns from the British Mission, but not sure if he received any calling

⁴⁵ Ordination, *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1851-1862*, p.335, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d6ef2526-92a6-45f5-9906-6879ac3353b3/0/361>

⁴⁶ Ordination, *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1851-1862*, p.339, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d6ef2526-92a6-45f5-9906-6879ac3353b3/0/365>

⁴⁷ Wilford Woodruff, *Journal 1860-1865*, p.132, Church History Library MS 1352, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/801702bf-e607-4f0d-82d0-e0f84b8c2406/0/137>

⁴⁸ David O. Calder, letter to C.H. Bryan 20 May 1861, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.7, p.82, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=867b28d5-f5ea-44bb-b228-516179bc010a&crate=0&index=0>

⁴⁹ *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1862-1879*, p.6, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/e9b0c4cc-2d99-497a-b4ce-f5afe97ea098/0/0>

⁵⁰ *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>

⁵¹ History of Edward Kay (by daughter?), <https://familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/27166591?p=12672754>

⁵² Autobiography of Jacob G. Bigler (MS 10735/f0001), 3

1864

June: Post Offices established at Chicken Creek (Levan) and "Mona," the first use of that name⁵³

1865

9 Jan: A. Milton Musser visits "Chicken Creek or Poule," [Levan], where there are about 12 families who have not met in months.⁵⁴

3 Feb: BY writes to "Bishop C.H. Bryan, Nephi City" in reference to a member of "your ward."⁵⁵

24 June: New meetinghouse dedicated in Nephi.⁵⁶ Later referred to as the Juab Stake Tabernacle, which was torn down in 1949.

1866

1 March: BY writes Abraham Palmer and members at Chicken Creek, who want an organization.⁵⁷ He suggests George A. Smith take care of it on his way home. [p.176 he writes to GAS asking him to do so]

April 25: Report to PB Edward Hunter from Bishop C.H. Bryan of "Nephi Ward."⁵⁸

17 July: BY writes to Bishop C.H. Bryan⁵⁹

11 August: Mona has built a schoolhouse by this date.⁶⁰

1867

11 February: Erastus Snow, Bishop C.H. Bryan, and "Judge Jacob G. Bigler" organize a branch at **Chicken Creek [Levan]** with a "presiding Teacher" Abraham Palmer and counselors appointed. Also mentions that the bishop and president of 70s at Nephi should be visiting Chicken Creek and Mona (Willow Creek).⁶¹ *This suggests that Mona and Levan are dependent*

⁵³ New Post Offices, *Deseret News*, V.13 #36 (1 June 1864) p.281, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2595492>

⁵⁴ A. Milton Musser, *Diary 1864-1865*, p.29, Church History Library MS 8140 box 1 folder 9, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/bccc084b-d63a-4db5-b98e-d344b05c4e6b/0/31>

⁵⁵ Brigham Young, letter to C.H. Bryan 3 Feb 1865, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.7, p.455, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6

⁵⁶ Journal History 24 June 1865, 1

⁵⁷ Brigham Young, letter to Abraham Palmer 1 March 1866, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.8, p.156, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=b3c72fee-6f44-4ce6-8a9f-5cf38b6153d1>

⁵⁸ *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-99f4-5bc8628b7520/0/2>

⁵⁹ Brigham Young, letter to C.H. Bryan 17 July 1866, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.9, p.56, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=954ebbd5-0620-40f5-86f3-97fa7dbab8f6>

⁶⁰ Journal History 11 August 1866

⁶¹ Correspondence, *Deseret News*, V.16 #12 (March 20 1867) p.94, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2599130>

on Nephi, or that the bishop has regional jurisdiction by then. They had supposedly already built a schoolhouse at Chicken Creek sometime after 1860.⁶²

October: Erastus Snow visits and helps the people of Chicken Creek find a new town site. The current town is further up from the original site [MH]

1868

Spring: The people of Chicken Creek begin moving into their new town, called "Levan" [MH]

April 25: In first of a series of published Church directories, the following are listed:⁶³

- Juab County not listed with other County Presidents
- Nephi: CH Bryan
- Chicken Creek: *no leader listed*

Summer: Samuel Lee from Tooele is called to preside over Levan [MH]

July 19: Ladies Relief Society of Mona organized, mentions "President [Edward] Kay"⁶⁴

Suggests an independent branch.

August 4: Last of a series of published Church directories, same as April 25.⁶⁵

19 Sep: BY and company visiting, meet with local authorities. Bishop Bryan is asked to resign over an old sin (prob. adultery) that has become publicly known.⁶⁶

20 Sep: BY and other leaders meet "to take into consideration the propriety of organizing that place [Nephi] into a stake of Zion and appointing a president over it...all voted to do this."⁶⁷

They meet and organize the stake: President Jacob Bigler, with high council (10). Bishop Bryon resigns as bishop, but he is appointed an "agent to take care of the tithing property"

20 September: **Nephi Stake** created. "Presidents B. Young and D. H. Wells... held a special conference at Nephi, Juab county, and organized that place as a Stake of Zion with President Jacob G. Bigler and a High Council, and ordained those officers."⁶⁸ The stake's manuscript history and confidential minutes both begin in 1868. Charles H. Bryan resigns as bishop of Nephi, replaced by ??? (this is not mentioned in the newspaper article, only in MH)

25 September: Visiting general authorities attended meeting in **Levan**. The settlement was settled about April 1868, so the branch must have been established at some point in 1868.⁶⁹ It was the same settlement as Chicken Creek, just moved to a different location, so they likely just continued with the same church organization. A log cabin near the center of town was used as a school and meetinghouse in 1868.⁷⁰ [branch]

⁶² A History of Levan (D.U.P.), 5

⁶³ Church Directory, *Salt Lake Daily Telegraph*, V.4 #253 (25 April 1868) p.4

⁶⁴ *Mona Ward Relief Society Minutes*, p.3, Church History Library LR 5671 14

⁶⁵ Church Directory, *Salt Lake Daily Telegraph*, V.5 #25 (4 Aug 1868) p.4

⁶⁶ Wilford Woodruff, *Journal 1865-1872*, p.142, Church History Library MS 1352, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/0c76d480-00aa-4210-9334-12a578908f1f/0/148>

⁶⁷ Wilford Woodruff, *Journal 1865-1872*, p.143, Church History Library MS 1352, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/0c76d480-00aa-4210-9334-12a578908f1f/0/149>

⁶⁸ President Young's Trip South, *Deseret Evening News* V.1 #260 (24 September 1868) p.2, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=23153912>

⁶⁹ Journal History 27 April 1868, 25 September 1868

⁷⁰ A History of Levan (D.U.P.), 14

27 Nov: BY writes J.G. Bigler and “Elder Samuel F. Lee, Tooele.”⁷¹ He mentions a letter from Lee that says he couldn’t serve as “president at Levan” and releases him “from that mission.” He suggests that Bigler call Samuel Pitchforth to be president, or someone else.

4 Dec: BY writes Samuel Pitchforth, mentioning his new calling.⁷²

16 December: J.G. Bigler writes G.A. Smith about his efforts as president. “Bro. Bryan feels sore, and too much the spirit of fight, has not humbled himself as I can see.” “Bro. Pitchforth has been appointed president at Levan, considerable prejudice against him there...but I think he will get along pretty well.”⁷³

1869

May 3: Conference in Levan [MH] sustains Jacob G. Bigler as president of Juab Stake of Zion, Charles H. Bryan as “bishop over the Church property in the stake” (presiding bishop?), Samuel Pitchforth as president of Levan Branch with counselors. Lots of other organization set up.

October 7: In general conference, several bishops and many others are “called to go on short missions to the Eastern States” (probably to do business for the cooperative mercantile program), including Bishop C H Bryan of Nephi.⁷⁴ *Counselors will likely be serving as “acting bishops” in their place.*

28 October: Mention of “Salt Creek Ward.”⁷⁵ *Is it really still being called this? Is the ward name still Salt Creek while the city is Nephi?*

14 November: Reported in the Deseret News that the meetinghouse in Levan was a few weeks away from being finished.

27 Nov: BY writes Jacob G. Bigler, calling him to take charge of the tithing at Nephi while Bishop Bryan is on a mission.⁷⁶

1870

June 15: Letter from Levan to Deseret News mentions president Samuel Pitchforth (DN 19:236 6/27/1870)

⁷¹ Brigham Young, letter to Samuel F. Lee 27 Nov 1868, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.11*, p.185, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 8,

<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=967db140-f060-437f-b583-794f7affa2d0>

⁷² Brigham Young, letter to Samuel Pitchforth 4 Dec 1868, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.11*, p.205, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 8,

<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=967db140-f060-437f-b583-794f7affa2d0>

⁷³ J.G. Bigler to George A. Smith, December 16, 1868, *George A. Smith papers, General correspondence, Incoming letters*, Church History Library MS 1322 box 7 folder 4 image 4, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/03df1c89-a34f-421f-951c-8dc2114065d3/0/3>

⁷⁴ Thirty-Ninth Semi-Annual Conference, *Deseret News*, V.18 #36 (13 Oct 1869) p.426, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2604075>

⁷⁵ *Presiding bishopric meetings minutes, 1862-1879*, p.195, Church History Library CR 4 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/e9b0c4cc-2d99-497a-b4ce-f5afe97ea098/0/0>

⁷⁶ Brigham Young, letter to Jacob G. Bigler 27 Nov 1869, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.11*, p.898, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 8, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=967db140-f060-437f-b583-794f7affa2d0>

1871

Jan 31: Letter from Levan to Deseret News mentions Pres. Samuel Pitchforth (DN 20:3)

March 26: Conference at Levan [MH]

April: Conference at Nephi “of that Stake of Zion,” Prest. J.G. Bigler presiding. Branch conferences had been held at Mona and Levan the previous Sunday.⁷⁷

5 April: BY writes “Bishop J.G. Bigler, Nephi”⁷⁸

November 10: Joel Grover is ordained a bishop by the first presidency, and “set apart to preside over the Saints in Juab Co. and act as Bishop at Nephi.”⁷⁹ *This sounds very un-stake-like*

1872

24 March: According to DUP source and MH (not always reliable), after a schoolhouse was built at Little Salt Creek, a branch was organized there with Adam White as presiding elder. They were under the authority of the Levan branch.⁸⁰ MH says it didn't last long. I haven't found anything else confirming this yet, and as far as I can tell there was no one named Adam White living in the area at the time. There was a John Chambers White living in Levan, but none of the stuff written about him ever mentions him being a branch president. I haven't found anyone with first name of Adam living there. According to the biography of Edwin Taylor, it sounds like at least after 1877 members in Little Salt Creek attended meetings in Levan.⁸¹

Spring: Elmer Taylor succeeds Samuel Pitchforth as president of Levan Branch [MH]

April 27: Stake Conference, President Grover⁸²

July 26-27: Two days meeting at Levan with President Grover [MH](DN 21:393?)

1873

19 March: List of Presiding Elders and Bishops lists:⁸³

- Joel Grover, Presiding Bishop
 - **Mona**, Edward Kay
 - **Nephi**, alias Salt Creek, Joel Grover
 - **Levan**, Elmer Taylor

⁷⁷ Conference at Nephi, *Deseret News* V.20 #10 (April 12 1871) p.117

<https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2608251>

⁷⁸ Brigham Young, letter to Jacob G. Bigler 5 April 1871, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.12*, p.625, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 8, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/c91a2db1-a2f0-470d-ac3a-324c44e06cd1>

⁷⁹ Daniel H. Wells, letter to the saints in Nephi, 17 November 1871, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.12, p.901, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 8, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/c91a2db1-a2f0-470d-ac3a-324c44e06cd1>

⁸⁰ A History of Levan (D.U.P.), 27

⁸¹ *Edwin Erastus Taylor & Alice Ann Taylor: Their Life Story*, https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?from=fhd&dps_pid=IE1667777&6

⁸² Home Missionaries, *Deseret News*, V.21 #17 (May 29 1872) p.235

<https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2611188>

⁸³ Presiding Elders and Bishops, *Deseret News*, V.22 #7 (March 19 1873) p.103.

<https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2622070>

Later lists in Deseret News report the same situation.

22 May: Joel Grover listed as “president of this stake of Zion”⁸⁴

22 Nov: “Joel Grover, Bishop of Nephi and Juab County” visits Farmington Ward.⁸⁵

1874

April 19: Nephi United Order organized by Brigham Young, Bishop Grover elected president.⁸⁶

1875

Dec 29: New list of Presiding Elders and Bishops, recent change:⁸⁷

- **Mona**, John W. Haws

1876

October 9: Levan Branch meets, Elmer Taylor is released as president, Christian Christiansen appointed president [MH]

Oct 14: First Presidency writes Christian Christiansen in **Levan**:⁸⁸ “Elder Elmer Taylor has been released from presiding over the Ward, and you are hereby appointed to succeed him as the presiding Elder ... under the direction of Bishop Joel Grover.” *It is called a ward several times in this letter and the simultaneous one to Taylor, but neither is ever called a bishop.*

December 22: Final published list of Bishops and Presiding Elders, changes in 1876:⁸⁹

- **Levan**, C. Christiansen

1877

June 30: Conference to reorganize “Juab County Stake.” Pres. George Teasdale, quorums, high council. Nephi Ward divided: South Ward, Bp. Joel Grover; North Ward, Bp. Charles Sperry; Mona Ward, J. Madison Haws; Levan Ward, Bp. Neils Aargard.⁹⁰

⁸⁴ Deseret News 22 May 1873

⁸⁵ *Farmington Ward general minutes*, V.13 p.256, Church History Library LR 2816 11

⁸⁶ Brigham Young, Jr., *Journals*, V.15 (1872-1875) p.84, Church History Library MS 1236, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/5802005f-e23f-4658-99ef-4a4afd79e1d7/0/93>

⁸⁷ Presiding Elders and Bishops, *Deseret News*, V.24 #48 (December 29 1875) p.755, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2643418>

⁸⁸ First Presidency, letter to Christian Christiansen 14 Oct 1876, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.14, p.573, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 10, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/8ee2bf6f-8a90-4bd6-943d-532c27f3aae2>

⁸⁹ Presiding Elders and Bishops, *Deseret Evening News*, V.10 #27 (December 22, 1876) p.4, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=23166497>

⁹⁰ Juab County, *Deseret News*, V.26 #22 (July 4 1877) p.344 <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2627308>

October 20: Stake Conference.⁹¹ Sustainings same as June, except “Nephi First Ward, Bishop John Andrews. Second Ward, Bishop Charles Sperry” [South and North have been numbered, Grover replaced]

1878

15 Jan: List of wards and bishops, including Juab Stake⁹² mp:700350

- John Andrews, 1st Ward, Nephi [South]
- Charles Sperry, 2nd Ward, Nephi [North]
- Neils Aasgard, Levan
- John M. Haws, Mona,
- Geo. Teasdale, President of Stake

⁹¹ Juab Stake Conference, *Deseret News*, V.26 #39 (October 31, 1877) p.691, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2628775>

⁹² Names of Presidency and Bishops of the Organized Stakes of Zion, *Deseret Evening News*, V.11 #45 (15 Jan 1878) p.6, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=23168119>

19 March 1873:

"JUAB COUNTY.

JOEL GROVER, Presiding Bishop

Mona, Edward Kay.

*Nephi, alias Salt Creek, Joel Grover.

Levan, Elmer Taylor."

9 June 1875:

"[JUAB COUNTY]

JOEL GROVER, Presiding Bishop

Mona, Edward Kay.

*Nephi, alias Salt Creek, Joel Grover

Levan, Elmer Taylor"

29 December 1875:

"JUAB COUNTY.

JOEL GROVER, Presiding Bishop.

Mona, John W. Haws.

*Nephi, alias Salt Creek, Joel Grover.

Levan, Elmer Taylor."

12 January 1876:

"JUAB COUNTY.

JOEL GROVER, Presiding Bishop.

Mona, John W. Haws.

*Nephi, alias Salt Creek, Joel Grover.

Levan, Elmer Taylor."

"Nephi Dec. 16th 1868

President G A Smith

Dear brother...

Bro. Pitchforth has been appointed President at Levan, considerable prejudice against him there, as well as here, but I think he will get along pretty well, I will send a few good brethren with him to make homes there, according to President Youngs council, which will be some help to him.

It takes most of my time to look after matters in this county...

I remain your bro. in the Gospel

J G. Bigler"

MS 1322/b0007/f0004, starting on image 1

Autobiography of Jacob G. Bigler (MS 10735/f0001):

"After remaining in the city a short time, I left for Nephi, Juab County, Utah, arriving there October 18, 1852, where I have lived ever since until the present time (1907). This settlement was commenced in 1851. In November, 1852 [p.2] I was ordained Bishop of Juab County by Apostle George A. Smith which position I held until 1861, when I was called on a mission to Europe...

In 1863, I was called and set apart to preside over the Juab Stake... I held the Presidency of the Juab Stake until October, 1871, when President Brigham Young came along and requested me to join him and company on a trip South. I expected to go to Old Mexico, therefore I resigned the Presidency of the Stake..."

Excerpts from Jacob G. Bigler journal (<https://familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/18668483>):

3 June 1855: Describes a Bishop's Court held by him and his counselors. He also had to "attend to general business of the branch" (3-4)

17 June 1855: "George Staples acknowledged him Self Guilty of the Charge of Killing a Calf and that he had lied to the Bps Court and this branch of the Church and was Restored to the Church by Bapism the same day" (5)

24 June 1855: "Andrew Hooper Confessed that he had Stolen & killed brother Ockey's Calf... it was voted by the branch to forgive him and to receive him into the Church again by baptism" (6)

26 June 1855: "Repairing my Wagon and attending to business of the branch" (6)

16 July 1855: Mentions a school house in Nephi. (9)

30 July 1855: This and some previous entries mention the 70s quorum in Nephi. After conflict over leadership in the quorum, Joseph Young wrote instructions that "Bros Meeks and Hatch to not presume any further authority in Nephi as presidents in Nephi, Said they had disobeyed his Council said the **Provo Conference** had Counteracted his Council in Meddling with Bros Meek & Hatch as they did, I returned home on Thursday the 2nd of August found the people anxiously waiting to hear the result of our Mission" (12-13)

23 September 1855: "we met in Semianual Conference... acknowledged that I was a weak Mortal Man and without the attestance of the Spirit of the Lord and their faith & prayers I was not Capable of doing much good and as to the Presidency of Nephi I had never saught for it I had tried to do good to all manKing but now they ware at liberty to Choose them another President and by so doing they Should not gain my ill will... Samul Pitchforth was then appointed Clk for the day (the branch Clk not being present) I was then sustained by a unanimous Vote as President Josiah Miller & T B Foot my Councillors I was also Unanimously Sustained as Bishop and C H Bryan my first Councillor and R Benty [Bentley] My second Councillor with about 12 apposing Votes Wm. Cazier was sustained as Patriarch Saml Pitchforth appointed Clerk of the branch and David Webb leader of the Choir... I then laid before the Conference of the after noon which was to... make some preperations for building a Meeting house" (22-23)

25 September 1855: Joseph Young and some other general authorities visit Nephi. "President J Young Spoke on the organization of the Church & branches their duty &c... Bro. Joseph Showed the duty [of the] People towards their Bishop in a very Clear manner showed the

course of Bro Meeks & Hatch so clearly telling them that they had gone Estray had abused me in the branch and had Misrepresented Me at the Provo Conference" (24)

Journal History index for "Nephi" dates to look at:

1 March 1867 (p.2)

<https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=259913>:

"Elder Erastus Snow on the 11th of February [1867] accompanied by Bp. Chas. H. Bryan, Judge Jacob G. Bigler, Presidents of Seventies, Samuel Pitchforth, J. Piper, and Timothy S. Hoyt and other Elders visited the saints at Chicken Creek; two good meetings were held and a branch of the Church organized there. Elder Abraham Palmer was appointed presiding Teacher, and Elder J. Wilson and W. Morgan his assistants... He instructed the bishop and president of Seventies at Nephi to visit them and send Elders often to hold meetings with the saints at Chicken Creek also with those who reside at Mona (Willow Creek). The 49th and 71st quorums of Seventies meet together once a week and have good meetings."

Deseret News 6 April 1871:

"CONFERENCE AT NEPHI.--Hon. Samuel Pitchforth, of Juab Co., informs us that a conference of that Stake of Zion was held at Nephi on Sunday last, Prest. J. G. Bigler presiding.

Representatives were present from Levan and Mona... Branch conferences had been held at Mona and Levan the previous Sunday."

Deseret News 22 May 1873:

"LEVAN, Juab Co., U.T.,

May 19th, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

Two days' meetings were held here on Saturday and Sunday, May 17th and 18th. The following named Elders were present: Orson Hyde and James H. Allred, of Spring City, Joel Grover, President of this Stake of Zion... Our Bishop, E. Taylor, expressed himself highly pleased with the instructions of the Elders present..."

Journal History 16 Nov 1873: Describes conference held at Levan. Mentions "our president Elmer Taylor."

Journal History 11 August 1866:

"The settlement at Clover Creek is being built up under the management of Elder Edward Kay, and I am pleased to report that the inhabitants of that place have built a large and substantial school house, which is so far finished as to be of use."

History of Edward Kay (by daughter?)

(<https://familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/27166591?p=12672754>):

“Next they were called to move eight miles north to make a settlement. It was called Willow Creek or Clover Creek... Edward came in January 1860, intending to make his home there... Due to the hard winter and continued Indian troubles, they were advised to leave their dwellings and move to Nephi. This they did. Later on, a townsite was surveyed at Clover Creek, after which the place became known as Mona... Edward Kay made adobe molds and made adobes and the first building to be erected was a building just across the street from where they eventually lived in Mona. It was their church, schoolhouse and place of amusement, and also where all other meetings were held... The Saints of Mona belonged to the Nephi Branch until 1862. Edward Kay was appointed to preside over the little settlement and from that time on meetings were held regularly every Sabbath Day.”

Andrew Love diary (https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE2106196).
Read through image 13. Confirms that saints on Clover Creek originally attended church in Nephi.

Autobiography of George Washington Bradley

(<https://familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/27345146?p=1330062>):

“In the year 1851... I returned with the company by way of Nephi, then called Salt Creek Settlement or was about to be made into one, under the presidency of Elder Joseph Heywood... By appointment I returned to Salt Creek to labor conjointly with Brother Heywood in the forming of another settlement which I subsequently did. I assisted in procuring from the legislature a charter to incorporate Nephi as a city. I held the position of first councilor and Father Miller, second councilor to President Heywood. I remained there seven years... Brother Jacob Bigler being called to succeed Brother Heywood, I was again called to return to Sanpete.” (