

1849

May 20, 27: Twelve discussing "C.C. Rich's mission to Walker's Ranch near Los Angeles," to "Leave in July"¹

October 8: Charles C. Rich "left my home on a mission to Upper California having been appointed to assist Amasa Lyman in the Presidency of that country." several in the company, guided by Jefferson Hunt who had made the trip in 1847.²

December 10: the company arrives in the Los Angeles Basin "at the cocomango Ranch"

December 15: arrive at the Los Angeles pueblo.

1850

February 15: arrive at San Francisco, "visited the brethren" (meets Amasa Lyman here)

Spring, Summer: takes several trips to gold camps visiting members and back to San Francisco.

October 5: departs for Salt Lake

November 12: arrives in Salt Lake

1851

March 15: C.C. Rich leaves Salt Lake again, participates in organization of stake at Provo

April 13: visits new settlement at Little Salt Lake (Parowan) where the main settlement company is assembling

July 5: conference held at "the Mouth of Cajon," led by apostles Charles C. Rich and Amasa Lyman. David Seely sustained "to preside over this Branch of the Church." Counselors, High Council and acting bishop (William Crosby) with counselors also sustained. *So this is a branch-stake*³

September 6: "First General Conference for the State of California" held at "the Mouth of Cajon." CC Rich and Lyman presiding. Same officers of "this branch" sustained as in July. Also received a report from San Francisco Branch, 53 members, P.P. Pratt president pro tem.⁴

Nov 20: beginning of *Branch Journal*⁵

¹ *Historian's Office General Church Minutes*, Church History Library CR 100 318 box 2 folder 1 image 21,22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=cb05e9e1-514a-4517-88fc-e48ef009b6e6&crate=0&index=21>

² Charles C. Rich Journal Volume 8, 1849 October 8-1851 September 22, *Charles C. Rich Collection*, Church History Library MS 889 box 1 v. 8, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=29f0479b-c38f-4df9-a095-c94caa189eda>

³ California Conference Reports 1851-1855, *Historian's Office Local Minutes and Records*, Church History Library, CR 100 589 box 1 folder 28, p.1. <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/ca9eb782-227e-4dfe-97e0-46226fb7f05e/0/0>; Charles C. Rich Journal v.8 p.91, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=29f0479b-c38f-4df9-a095-c94caa189eda&crate=0&index=96>

⁴ California Conference Reports, p.6

⁵ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.56, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/62>

Dec 11: Amasa Lyman leaves for San Francisco⁶

1852

29 Feb: Lyman returns⁷

24 Mar: Rich leaves for GSLC⁸

April 6: "General Conference for the State of California" held at San Bernardino. Amasa Lyman and Charles C. Rich sustained as "Presidents of the Church in Western California;" David Seely as president of the "San Bernardino Branch;" high council and acting bishop "of this Branch of the Church" also sustained Branch Reports: San Bernardino Branch: 437, San Francisco Branch: 59, San Jose Branch: 32⁹ *Branch Journal only discusses it in general terms*

Aug 20: Rich returns.¹⁰ Parley P. Pratt is also visiting.

Sep 6: Conference.¹¹ No details of business.

Nov 16: Lyman and Rich leave for Salt Lake¹²

Dec 19: mention of President Seely and Bishop Crosby¹³

1853

Feb 11: First mention of "the president of the stake" in the *San Bernardino Journal*¹⁴

April 6-7: Conference.¹⁵ No details of business.

May 15: Lyman and Rich return¹⁶

May 26: Lyman and Rich, after working on the sawmill in the canyon (now Waterman Canyon), "they stopped at San Bernardino and ordained N.C. Tinney Bishop of that place, O[rlando] H.

⁶ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.66, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/71>

⁷ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.76, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/81>

⁸ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.80, Church History Library LR 1594 85, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/27>

⁹ California Conference Reports, p.8, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/f4131a4f-f376-4b9d-a06c-34b88e73f045/0/1>

¹⁰ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.99, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/103>

¹¹ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.103, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/107>

¹² *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.113, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/117>

¹³ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.119, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/123>

¹⁴ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.127, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/131>

¹⁵ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.132, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/136>

¹⁶ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.135, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/139>

Carter and J[ohn] S. Harris his councillors.”¹⁷ *Some sources state that this was the San Bernardino Asistencia, now on Barton Road in Redlands.*¹⁸ It was often called the Mission or Old San Bernardino. So Tenney’s “San Bernardino Mission Ward” was separate from the main settlement. But this was not at all between Waterman Canyon and downtown San Bernardino.

July 2: Newly created San Bernardino County organized, dominated by Mormons.¹⁹

August: end of *San Bernardino Journal*

October 6: General Conference of the Church for the State of California. Lyman and Rich sustained as “Presidents over the Church in California.” Same branch officers sustained, including Seely as president, William Crosby as “presiding Bishop of this Branch of the Church” with counselors, and “Nathan C. Tinney as bishop of San Bernardino Ward” with counselors.

Branch Reports: San Bernardino Branch 878, San Jose 32, San Francisco 26.²⁰

1854

April 6: General Conference. Lyman and Rich not mentioned as officers except that they are presiding over the meeting. Still David Seely as branch president and other officers same as last October. 810 members, no other branches reported.

1855

April 6: “General Conference of the San Bernardino California Branch,” President Amasa Lyman presiding. Sustained Lyman & Rich as “Presidency of the Church in Southern California,” same officers of the “San Bernardino Branch of the Church.” David Seely as “President of this stake,” high council, William Crosby as “Presiding Bishop of this Stake,” Nathan Tinney as bishop of San Bernardino Ward, and a recorder and historian “of this stake.” Report of the “branch” membership: 996 members *this is the first usage of the term “stake” in this source, but it is still interchangeable with branch.*²¹

July 23: Special Conference of “San Bernardino Branch of the Church.”²² Disciplinary case against David Seely, “president of this stake,” whereupon he is dropped but forgiven. No replacement mentioned. Missionaries sent to the rest of California, partially to preach and partially to raise money to pay for the ranch, with Amasa Lyman presiding over the missionaries to northern California (he moves to San Francisco), and Charles C. Rich over the southern.

August: some apostasy in the church here

¹⁷ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.137, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/141>

¹⁸ John Hedges McCall, *Redlands Remembered: Stories from the Jewel of the Inland Empire*, Arcadia Publishing, 2012, p.15, https://www.google.com/books/edition/Redlands_Remembered/tCd_CQAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&pg=PT15

¹⁹ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.143, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/142>

²⁰ California Conference Reports, p.13

²¹ California Conference Reports, p.25

²² *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.1, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/4>

October 13: "Bishop Crosby" returns from a mission throughout the state.²³

Oct 21: Conference led by Lyman and Rich (returned from state missions)²⁴ "Wm. J. Cox was accepted as president of this Stake" with counselors and new high councilors

Nov 11: CC Rich meets with "President of this stake & council[ors], Bishop and council[ors] & High Council."²⁵ "It was his determination to make an effort to purify this **branch** of the Church..."

Nov 25: Stake presidency and high council meets with CC Rich.²⁶ "W. Cox set apart as president of this stake" by CC Rich. His councilors and new high councilors set apart

Dec 16: new counselors to Pres. W.J. Cox and Bishop Crosby set apart.²⁷

During the time of the Branch Journal (LR 1594 22), starting in July, Bishop Nathan C. Tinney is never mentioned.

1856

March 15: Special Conference of the San Bernardino Branch. "Amasa Lyman and Charles C. Rich as Presidents of the Church in Southern California." Officers "for this Branch": William J. Cox as President, rest same as before, Nathan C. Tinney as bishop of "San Bernardino Mission Ward." Missionaries called to California, Oregon & Washington, Society Islands, Australia.²⁸
meeting barely mentioned in Branch Journal (LR 1594 22)

23 March: Conference continues.²⁹ NC Tinney (bishop) appointed on a mission to the local Indians.

25 March: mail arrives with instructions that Rich is to remain until Fall, and Lyman to remain at SLC this summer.³⁰

May 15: end of *Branch Journal*?³¹ Next page jumps back to November 1851

1857

April 6: General Conference of the San Bernardino Branch, President Amasa Lyman presiding (but he and Rich were not sustained to any office). "Wm J. Cox as president of this stake," other

²³ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.23, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/26>

²⁴ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.24, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/27>

²⁵ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.27, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/30>

²⁶ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.30, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/33>

²⁷ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.34, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/37>

²⁸ Minutes of a Special Conference, *The Western Standard*, V.1 #10 (April 26, 1856), p.2

²⁹ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.50, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/53>

³⁰ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.51, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/54>

³¹ *San Bernardino Branch Journal 1851-1856*, p.56, Church History Library LR 1594 22, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/12c1b4e9-61db-407b-8694-e612e9304bb2/0/61>

“stake” officers same as before. Lyman and Rich are about to return to Utah to leave on a mission to Europe. Bro. Hanks sustained as their agent in San Bernardino [mission president?].³²

July 1: Branch/Stake disorganized?

5 Nov: BY writes “President W.J. Cox, San Bernardino, California,” suggesting that the settlers return to Utah (but not forcefully)³³

4 Dec: BY writes “President William J. Cox,” strongly encouraging them to abandon San Bernardino.³⁴

Dec 15: Branch/Stake disorganized?

1858

January: Mormons abandon San Bernardino; some decide to stay, mostly those drifting away from the Church.

³² California Conference Reports, p.34

³³ Brigham Young, letter to W.J. Cox, 5 Nov 1857, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.3*, p.920, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=99279f54-9c69-41a1-ac5d-e6069f9a2920>

³⁴ Brigham Young, letter to William J. Cox 4 Dec 1857, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.3*, p.929, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=99279f54-9c69-41a1-ac5d-e6069f9a2920>