

Richfield Stake record book entitled "Record of Richfield Branch of the Church..."¹ (see Feb 1876), apparently written in early 1873. The first few pages of this record (through 1871) is focused on Richfield settlement, not the entire county. Then it restarts with a retrospective history of the whole valley through 1877, followed by stake minutes. All of this record may have been written or copied much later. For example, the entry for May 1 1873 says "some of these [settlers] became notable in the history of the county."

1861

Settlement at Gunnison is first on the Sevier River

1863

Summer: George A. Smith sends a scouting party from Provo to Sevier Valley who decide to settle, leading to a kerfuffle with Orson Hyde, who claims sole authority to direct settlement in the area, corroborated by the first presidency

October: Hyde sends first settlers to Salina from Sanpete [MH]

December: Glenn's Cove settled, led by Robert Wilson Glenn²

1864

January 6: first settlers in Warm Springs [**Richfield**], from Sanpete valley, led by Albert Lewis (but not a branch per se)³

January 8: first settlers at South Bend [Monroe], led by Moses Gifford⁴

January 11: First settlers in (Glenwood) led by Robert W. Glenn.(PE?)

Spring: first settlers at Jericho [Joseph]

Feb 19: Orson Hyde and Bp. H.H. Kearns (Gunnison) visit Salina and "ratified the appointment of Peter Rasmussen as presiding authority."⁵ The settlers had elected him earlier in the month.

Spring: Albert Lewis resigns leadership of **Richfield**,⁶ settlers choose Nelson Higgins to preside, and he chooses counselors⁷

~~May 2: Salina Branch organized with Peter Rasmussen as Bishop (no counselors)~~

~~May 12: Peter Rasmussen ordained Bishop of Salina Ward by Orson Hyde (EH, MH, LDSBE 4:552) conflicts with May 24~~

¹ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.2, Church History Library LR 8243 11

² *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.15

³ William Morrison, *Historical sketch of Richfield, Utah, 1864-1867*, Church History Library MS 2866, 1876, p.2 <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=af71b476-1d40-4733-bddc-2a8ec3d2a9f9>; *Richfield Stake General Minutes* p.15

⁴ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.15

⁵ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.16

⁶ Morrison, *Historical sketch of Richfield, Utah*, p.3

⁷ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.16

May 31: Orson Hyde reports on a trip to the “new settlements on the Sevier.”⁸ Visits “Salt Creek or **Salina**,” sets apart Peter Rasmussen as President (24th); “Glencoe” [**Glenwood**], calls James Wareham as president (20th); Alma [**Monroe**], calls Wiley P. Allred as president (21st); Mary’s Vale (no settlers yet); Circle Valley “at the forks of the Sevier.” confirms Wm Allred as President; Jericho [**Joseph**] (only one or two families, no branch); **Richfield**, set apart Nelson Higgins as president (23rd)

August 2: BY and HCK: “Elder Nelson Higgins has this day been set apart to preside at **70** and has also been ordained to the bishopric, more particularly to officiate as Bishop in Richfield and the region adjacent.”⁹

Nov 3: Orson Hyde reports that he has called 25 families from Moroni to settle in Alma [**Monroe**], and 20 families from Ephraim to settle in Circle Valley [Circleville], plans to call more from Mt. Pleasant and Manti.¹⁰

Nov 12: Orson Hyde reports on visit to nascent Sevier settlements.¹¹ Mentions developments at Richfield, Alma [Monroe], Circleville (“our upper settlement on the Sevier”), Selina, and Glennwood

November: Orson Hyde dictates the name Glenwood

Orson Hyde frequently mentions traveling with “Bishop Bryan.” Who is this? [Bishop of Nephi?]

1865

January 9: Letter from “Nelson Higgins Bishop” to the Territorial Legislature

January: Sevier County organized, including Wm Morrison as probate judge

February: Orson Hyde has authorized a new settlement at “Rocky Ford,” 10 miles south of Salina (Prattville?)¹²

Spring: Orson Hyde ordains James Wareham as president of Glennwood¹³

Spring: Nelson Higgins called as bishop of Richfield with counselors, divided into four wards with a teacher over each.¹⁴

⁸ Orson Hyde, letter to George A. Smith 31 May 1864, *George A. Smith papers, General Correspondence, Incoming Letters, F-J 1864*, Church History Library MS 1322, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/685e0065-336a-4bea-bb7e-2ae861de2304/0/21>

⁹ First Presidency, letter to the inhabitants of Richfield, 2 August 1864, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.7*, p.260, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/867b28d5-f5ea-44bb-b228-516179bc010a/0/546>

¹⁰ Orson Hyde, letter to Brigham Young 3 November 1864, *Brigham Young office files, General Correspondence, Incoming, Letters from Church Leaders and Others, Orson Hyde, 1864-1865*, CR 1234 1 box 40 folder 4, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=09b302eb-127f-47e6-b5d3-e5d0b4e0455b>

¹¹ Orson Hyde, letter to Brigham Young 12 November 1864, *Brigham Young office files, General Correspondence, Incoming, Letters from Church Leaders and Others, Orson Hyde, 1864-1865*, CR 1234 1 box 40 folder 4, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=06feb949-20c6-45c3-b96e-9f1c39060a3d>

¹² Orson Hyde, letter to Brigham Young 13 February 1865, *Brigham Young office files, General Correspondence, Incoming, Letters from Church Leaders and Others, Orson Hyde, 1864-1865*, CR 1234 1 box 40 folder 4, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=8f3a9061-5be3-43dd-a3a9-c003b752a253>

¹³ *James Wareham Journal No. 2*, Brigham Young University Harold B. Lee Library MSS SC 129, p.38

¹⁴ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.1, Church History Library LR 8243 11

April: first Indian attacks in Richfield, starting of Black Hawk War.

May 31: Report from Fillmore mentions "Bishop Nelson Higgins"¹⁵

September 8: A. Milton Musser (with Franklin D. Richards) visits Salina, "Peter Rasmussen Actg. Bp.," Glennwood, "James Wareham presiding," Richfield, "N. Nelson Higgins Bishop," Alma, "Wiley P. Allred presiding" ("sometimes called South Bend")¹⁶

Sep 10: Musser visits Marysvale, "Jno. Beal presiding," and Circleville, "William Jackson Allred presiding"¹⁷

Sept 12: Franklin D. Richards reports on preparations for war. "The most of settlements, pretty strong in numbers, are nevertheless much exposed. Their names are as follows: Salina, 15 miles from Gunnison with about 35 families. 16 miles further up is Glennwood with about 40 families. Then 6 miles nearly west on west side of river is Richfield with about 110 families. This is the county seat of Sevier Co. Alma [Monroe] comes next on east side of river 14 miles from Richfield, some 70 families."¹⁸ mp:700342

Sept 13: More detailed version of Franklin D. Richards report.¹⁹ Visits to:

- Salina (9/8), Presiding Elder Peter Rasmussen
- Glenwood (9/8), Presiding Elder James Wareham
- Richfield (9/9), Presiding Elder Nelson Higgins
- Alma (9/9), Presiding Elder Wiley P. Allred

Nov 19: Orson Hyde reports on visit to Sevier Valley.²⁰ Due to threats of Indian issues, some families are leaving Alma; President Wiley Allred wants to be released, so Hyde calls Frederick Olson to replace him

Joseph abandoned

¹⁵ Home Items, *Deseret News*, V.14 #35 (May 31 1865) p.276, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2597835>

¹⁶ A. Milton Musser, *Diary 1865 Jun-Sep*, p.33, Church History Library MS 8140 box 1 folder 11, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/945df2fe-23c4-4d53-8f21-7f745d320ee6/0/35>

¹⁷ A. Milton Musser, *Diary 1865 Sep-1868 Jan*, p.3, Church History Library MS 8140 box 1 folder 12, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/a769d501-cc29-4d8d-a6bf-6e42a09eb3a5/0/4>

¹⁸ Letter from Franklin D. Richards to Brigham Young, Panguitch Sept. 12 1865, *Brigham Young Office Files: Incoming Correspondence*, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 41 folder 24. <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=dd8f3219-e82a-4c7a-a0fe-e9bf8c4dee85&crate=0>

¹⁹ Franklin D. Richards Report, *Historian's Office collected historical documents, 1851-1869*, Church History Library CR 100 397 (copied in MHC and JHC), <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=1fe75c89-b7b2-445b-b2a0-7739c93f048c&crate=0&index=0>

²⁰ Orson Hyde, letter to Brigham Young 19 November 1865, *Brigham Young office files, General Correspondence, Incoming, Letters from Church Leaders and Others, Orson Hyde, 1864-1865*, CR 1234 1 box 40 folder 4, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/6bbe915-7c24-4e81-a57a-6612125b9f3e>

1866

April-May: Reports to PB Edward Hunter from James Wareham—"Glenn Wood" "Ward," Bishop N. Higgins—Richfield "Ward," President Andrew Hendriksen—Marysvale, F. Olsen—Alma, William I. Allred—Circleville, all part of "Sanpete."²¹

April 18: BY writes Frederick Olsen, Alma about a branch matter.²² *So it isn't abandoned yet*

April 28: First Presidency writes "President Orson Hyde and the Bishops and Saints in Sanpete, Sevier and Piute Counties" about settlement abandonment procedures and other wartime policy.²³

April 29: Alma residents arrive in Richfield²⁴ *Apparently they later returned*

April: Salina abandoned, move to Gunnison; Glenwood, Alma, and Marysvale partially abandoned, families move to Richfield while men build forts²⁵

June 15: Richfield begins building a fort²⁶

1867

Abraham Shaw presiding in Glenwood

21 Feb: BY writes "Bishop Nelson Higgins, Richfield"²⁷

22 Feb: BY writes Orson Hyde, suggesting that the people fort up, but that Richfield, Glenwood, and Alma should be maintained (for now)²⁸

Late February: Orson Hyde visits Sevier Valley with Gunnison Bishop Kearnes to advise them on defending themselves (and read BY's letter): Glenwood (which will move to a more defensible location "on the open plain"), Alma, and Richfield.²⁹

²¹ *Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company outfitting reports, 1866*, Church History Library CR 376 13 box 1 folder 8, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/113df13e-01c6-4df6-93f9-2e176579add0/0/20>

²² Brigham Young, letter to Frederick Olsen 18 April 1866, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.8*, p.306, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=b3c72fee-6f44-4ce6-8a9f-5cf38b6153d1>

²³ First Presidency, letter to Orson Hyde and others 28 April 1866, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.8*, p.342, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=b3c72fee-6f44-4ce6-8a9f-5cf38b6153d1>

²⁴ Richfield Ward Manuscript History, Church History Library LR 8762 2 p.31, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/263d2403-8e59-41e7-9b6f-60b867c0b054/0/30>

²⁵ Morrison, *Historical sketch of Richfield, Utah*, p.3

²⁶ Richfield Ward Manuscript History, Church History Library LR 8762 2 p.33, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/263d2403-8e59-41e7-9b6f-60b867c0b054/0/30>

²⁷ Brigham Young, letter to Nelson Higgins 21 Feb 1867, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.9*, p.387, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 7, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=954ebbd5-0620-40f5-86f3-97fa7dbab8f6>

²⁸ Brigham Young, letter to Orson Hyde 22 Feb 1867, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.9*, p.390, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 7, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=954ebbd5-0620-40f5-86f3-97fa7dbab8f6>

²⁹ Correspondence, *Deseret News*, V.16 #12 (March 20 1867) p.94, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2599130>

April 1: BY telegraphs Orson Hyde "Richfield, Alma and Glenwood move to Gunnison or elsewhere."³⁰

April 5: Bishop Kearns of Gunnison writes Bishop Higgins of Richfield, suggesting that they temporarily relocate in Gunnison when they abandon Richfield.³¹

April 17-18: Richfield abandoned³²

Nov 13: BY writes Nelson Higgins (who appears to be living in Pond Town) about the possibility of resettling along the Sevier River.³³

1868

March 17: BY writes George Crismon, authorizing him to lead a company to resettle in Sevier County.³⁴

March 28: BY writes Orson Hyde, instructing him to take charge of organizing the effort to resettle Sevier County.³⁵

April: a party from Sanpete attempts to resettle Sevier Valley, but is attacked by Indians³⁶

April 25: In first of a series of published Church directories, Orson Hyde is "County President" of Sanpete, Sevier, and Piute Counties, but no wards or branches in Sevier County are listed.³⁷

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1869

Feb 1: status of "wards" in central Utah includes: Gunnison 93 families (Joseph Horne on a "mission" there), Fayette (Warm Creek) 11 families. Nowhere else in Sevier Valley mentioned.³⁸

³⁰ Brigham Young, telegram to Orson Hyde 1 April 1867, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, Telegraph Book V.1*, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 12

³¹ H.H. Kearns, letter to Nelson Higgins 5 April 1867, *Nelson Higgins Papers, 1836-1909*, Church History Library MS 4713 p.51, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=fe8c92ec-313f-440f-83a9-b2312eb8c8d7&crate=0&index=50>

³² Richfield Ward Manuscript History, Church History Library LR 8762 2 p.37, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/263d2403-8e59-41e7-9b6f-60b867c0b054/0/36>

³³ Brigham Young, letter to Nelson Higgins, 13 November 1867, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.10*, p.495, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 7, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=873e43de-f5b9-4a8a-bfaa-be07a5fdf18f>

³⁴ Brigham Young, letter to George Crismon, 17 March 1868, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.10*, p.729, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 7, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=873e43de-f5b9-4a8a-bfaa-be07a5fdf18f>

³⁵ Brigham Young, letter to Orson Hyde, 28 March 1868, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.10*, p.744, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 7, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=873e43de-f5b9-4a8a-bfaa-be07a5fdf18f>

³⁶ Richfield Ward Manuscript History, Church History Library LR 8762 2 p.39, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/263d2403-8e59-41e7-9b6f-60b867c0b054/0/38>

³⁷ Church Directory, *Salt Lake Daily Telegraph*, V.4 #253 (25 April 1868) p.4

³⁸ 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>

1870

April: Glenwood resettled, let by Abraham Shaw (PE?)³⁹

August 2: Brigham Young authorizes William Morrison (county probate judge) to resettle Sevier Valley, but does not explicitly give him any presiding authority.⁴⁰

September 25: Resettlers meet in Spring City to plan efforts⁴¹

Fall: First resettlers arrive in Richfield. Orson Hyde had appointed Wm. Morrison to preside over them (branch?).⁴²

December 18: Wm. Morrison sustained by Richfield settlers as president (of county? Stake? Branch? ward?) with counselors.⁴³

Orson Hyde does not seem to have much to do with the resettled Sevier County; he never mentions these settlements in his frequent letters to Brigham Young during 1870-1874

1871

January 24: Sevier County government reorganized by settlers in Richfield.⁴⁴

February: Bishop Nelson Higgins returns to Richfield (having lived in Pond Town [Salem] and Nephi), resumes his duties according to Brigham Young's instructions⁴⁵

February 28: Abraham Shaw retires from leading Glenwood, Archibald W. Buchanan chosen to preside with counselors⁴⁶ (called a branch by May)

March 5: Richfield settlers meet, approve Nelson Higgins as Bishop of Richfield⁴⁷ "Br. Wm Morrison had hitherto acted as president" Further organized on the 7th and 9th. Four teacher-led wards also reinstated. No congregation type is mentioned.

March: Alma resettled as Monroe; (acting?) Bishop Moses Gifford with counselors⁴⁸

Summer: first settlers in Omni Point/Thompson Springs [Annabella].[MH] Sometime later a ward(?) was organized under bishop Hugh Lisonbee.[KWJ8-83N]

Spring: **Salina** resettled under Peter Rasmussen.⁴⁹ MH says he was presiding again with counselors, 1) John Johnson

³⁹ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.30

⁴⁰ Letter from Brigham Young to William Morrison, 2 August 1870, *Brigham Young Office Files: Letterbooks, V.12, 1870-1872*, p.269, Church History Library CR 1234 1, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/c91a2db1-a2f0-470d-ac3a-324c44e06cd1/0/603>

⁴¹ Letter from William Morrison to Brigham Young, March 27th 1871, *Brigham Young Office Files: Incoming Correspondence*, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 34 folder 7 <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=567ccb69-214c-43f9-adce-fc52b567f71d>

⁴² Richfield Ward Manuscript History, Church History Library LR 8762 2 p.41, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/263d2403-8e59-41e7-9b6f-60b867c0b054/0/40>

⁴³ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.30

⁴⁴ Letter from William Morrison to Brigham Young, March 27th 1871

⁴⁵ Letter from William Morrison to Brigham Young, March 27th 1871

⁴⁶ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.31

⁴⁷ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.2, 30 this is a retrospective account, written in 1872?

⁴⁸ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.31

⁴⁹ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.32

March 27: William Morrison reports to Brigham Young on resettlement efforts in Sevier County.⁵⁰ **Richfield** has 40 families, 70 men; **Glenwood** 20 families, 40-50 men led by Archibald Buchanan; **Alma** 30 men and a few families, led by Moses Gifford; **Salina** about the same, led by John Jansan [counselor?], although Peter Rasumussen has recently returned. Morrison asks Pres. Young for a more complete priesthood organization.

April 25: Report from Richfield says "Bro. Nelson Higgins, who, before was appointed and acted as Bishop... has again been chosen to preside here..."⁵¹

July 26: William Morrison writes a very apologetic letter to Brigham Young about his personal leadership of the resettlement of Sevier Valley, mentioning Richfield by name.⁵² He seems to have been reprimanded for overestimating his authority given by the letter. *It may be that he had been reprimanded for making himself Stake President.*

August: Richfield Bishop's court, Morrison refuses to acknowledge the bishop or other leaders "as his superiors" (apparently, the real issue is Morrison claiming land that the original settlers were now returning and reclaiming)⁵³

28 August: BY writes "Mr. Peder Rasmussen, Salina" about a tithing matter, suggesting that he is acting as a branch president.⁵⁴

Oct 1: Richfield "Ward Clerk" replaced.⁵⁵ First contemporary primary source reference to it as a ward

Oct 11: Bishop Nelson Higgins of Richfield, Sevier Co., reports on "his **diocese**."⁵⁶
Diocese=Sevier County or Richfield Ward?

November 3: first settlers in Cove [Sevier]⁵⁷

1872

3 Jan: BY writes "Elder Archibald W. Buchanan, Glenwood" about tithing in "your branch."⁵⁸

17 Feb: difficulty between Richfield and Central City (Inverury) about competing canal routes⁵⁹

Bishop Higgins says he had appointed Wm A Stewart as "head teacher of Central City" who had

⁵⁰ Letter from William Morrison to Brigham Young, March 27th 1871

⁵¹ Correspondence, *Deseret News*, V.20 #15 (May 17 1871) p.170,
<https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2608476>

⁵² Letter from William Morrison to Brigham Young, Mount Pleasant July 26th 1871, *Brigham Young Office Files: Incoming Correspondence*, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 34 folder 7 p.15
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9138842a-f688-44dc-b821-664bc76bcdd3>

⁵³ *Richfield Stake General Minutes* p.3

⁵⁴ Brigham Young, letter to Peder Rasmussen 28 August 1871, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.12, p.821, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 8,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/c91a2db1-a2f0-470d-ac3a-324c44e06cd1>

⁵⁵ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.32

⁵⁶ Local and other Matters, *Deseret News*, V.20 #36 (October 11 1871) p.420,
<https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2609618>

⁵⁷ *Joseph Ward General Minutes*, V.9 p.5, Church History Library LR 4241 11. This is not a contemporary record, but a retrospective history written about 1891.

⁵⁸ Brigham Young, letter to Archibald W. Buchanan 3 Jan 1872, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.12, p.931, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 8,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/c91a2db1-a2f0-470d-ac3a-324c44e06cd1>

⁵⁹ *Richfield Stake General Minutes* p.7

“promised to obey the council of the authorities of Richfield.” The bishop’s council drops Stewart.

22 Feb: BY writes “Bishop N. Higgins, Richfield,”⁶⁰ mentions that his letter to Morrison was never intended as “giving him any authority to preside,” but he cannot speak for anything Orson Hyde may have said.

Spring: Joseph resettled, Moses Gifford (Monroe President) appoints James Hale to preside at the Cove area (Sevier/Joseph)⁶¹

21 March: Richfield bishop’s council considers the issue of William Morrison. He will not accept charges “for claiming the presidency of Sevier County without proper license” and “for defying the priesthood as organized in this place [the bishopric]” Morrison says “he never claimed the presidency of Sevier County” and that “Pres. B. Young had said that Bp. Higgins had no authority to cut him off.” Higgins claims otherwise, and the meeting ends with not resolution.

May 7: First Presidency calls Joseph A. Young (son of Brigham Young) to “travel in the settlements in Sevier County, and adjacent country between Gunnison and Kanab, to instruct the people ... and to counsel with the local presiding officers in the general management and direction of affairs in their settlements.”⁶² *Sounds like more of an advisory role than a presidential one, probably similar to what the apostles are doing in other counties.*

May 18: Orson Hyde and Joseph A. Young meet with the local priesthood, Young presiding.⁶³ Higgins-Morrison feud is debated. Young is sustained as “President of the settlements of Sevier Valley,” (making the issue moot) *Morrison becomes Young’s clerk*

May 19: Orson Hyde introduces Joseph A. Young to the Sevier saints⁶⁴

July 20: First stake priesthood meeting minutes.⁶⁵ Pres. Young “called for reports from the various **wards**.”

- Richfield, Bp. Higgins, 150 families, four teachers’ wards, school
- Monroe, Counselor Jones, 80 families, 4 teachers; wards, school
- Glenwood, acting Bishop A. Buchanan, 75 families, 4 teachers wards, school
- Salina, Bp. P. Rasmussen, 33 families, school starting in two weeks
- Annabella Springs, no representative, 14 families, no school
- Clear Creek (Sevier/Cove?), 9 families

September 10: JA Young selects site for Joseph City⁶⁶ (named after himself?) Appoints George Wilson to preside

⁶⁰ Brigham Young, letter to Nelson Higgins 22 Feb 1872, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.12*, p.968, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 8, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/c91a2db1-a2f0-470d-ac3a-324c44e06cd1>

⁶¹ *Joseph Ward General Minutes*, V.9 p.5

⁶² First Presidency, open letter 7 May 1872, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.13, 1872-1875*, p.69, Church History Library CR 1234 1, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=d67ba765-d117-4513-aec2-2cdf8cbfd9&crate=0&index=228>

⁶³ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.33

⁶⁴ Orson Hyde, letter to Brigham Young, 23 May 1872, *Brigham Young Office Files, General Correspondence, Incoming, Letters from Church Leaders and others, Orson Hyde, 1870-1874*, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 40 folder 7, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/df4cbd5a-9838-45d5-b2f5-9ff03b915894>

⁶⁵ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.49

⁶⁶ *Joseph Ward General Minutes*, V.9 p.5

Helaman Pratt chosen as president of Glenwood Branch. LDSBE 4:612 says he was acting bishop

Oct 31: BY suggests that Nelson Higgins resign as bishop of Richfield in favor of “young and efficient bishops.”⁶⁷

Nov 11: Nelson Higgins writes BY to resign.⁶⁸

Nov 19: BY acknowledges receipt of resignation of Nelson Higgins as “President and Bishop of Richfield,” asks J.A. Young to appoint a replacement.⁶⁹

Nov 19: BY asks “Prest. Jos. A. Young” to find a replacement for Higgins.⁷⁰

Dec 7: Priesthood meeting, wards represented: Richfield, Bp Higgins; Monroe, Bp Giffords, Glenwood, Bp H. Pratt; Joseph City, Bro. Isaacson [branch]⁷¹

1873

January 25: At a priesthood meeting, Bishop Helaman Pratt of Glenwood “gave a sad account of affairs there.” Pres. Young “proposed to organize a temporary High Council for the benefit of Glenwood and nominated A. Buchanan, H.C. Jacobs, Henry Russell, Walter Jones, Bp. Higgins, & N.M. Peterson, and Pres. Jos. A Young for the 7th.”⁷² *This was almost certainly not intended to be a stake organization as many histories suggest, but an ad hoc independent group to adjudicate the difficulties in Glenwood.*

March 8: At priesthood mtg, “Prest Young recommended establishing small settlements thickly throughout the country as a source of strength in case of Indian hostilities.”⁷³ First mention of “the new place called **Prattville**.” *It is possible that Prattville was formed as a resolution of Glenwood issues, which may have included Bishop Helaman Pratt.*

March 19: List of presiding elders and bishops in Utah lists the following wards/branches with presidents/bishops:⁷⁴

- J.A. Young, presiding bishop

⁶⁷ Brigham Young, letter to Nelson Higgins, 31 October 1872, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.13*, p.255, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 9, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/93fd7376-7e4a-4d1a-a011-b5966c6fd559>

⁶⁸ Brigham Young, letter to Nelson Higgins 19 November 1872, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.13, 1872-1875*, p.262, Church History Library CR 1234 1, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=d67ba765-d117-4513-aec2-2cdf8cbfd9&crate=0&index=616>

⁶⁹ Brigham Young, letter to Nelson Higgins 19 November 1872, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.13, 1872-1875*, p.262, Church History Library CR 1234 1, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=d67ba765-d117-4513-aec2-2cdf8cbfd9&crate=0&index=616>; letter to Joseph A. Young 19 November 1872, p.264, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=d67ba765-d117-4513-aec2-2cdf8cbfd9&crate=0&index=620>

⁷⁰ Brigham Young, letter to Joseph A. Young 19 November 1872, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.13*, p.264, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 9, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/93fd7376-7e4a-4d1a-a011-b5966c6fd559>

⁷¹ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.54

⁷² *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.56

⁷³ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.58

⁷⁴ Presiding Elders and Bishops, *Deseret News* V.22 #7 (March 19 1873) p.103 <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2622070>

- **Salina**, Peter Rasmussen
- **Glenwood**, Helaman Pratt
- **Richfield**, Nelson Higgins (acting)
- **Monroe**, Moses Gifford
- **Annabelle Springs**, Edward Roberts [M3CY-FVQ]
- **Joseph**, Iver Isaacson.

April 13: Higgins officially released by Pres. JA Young, William Henry Seegmiller (brought in from St. George) sustained as “future bishop of Richfield” (not ordained until later)⁷⁵

June 21: George Bean and Albert Thurber arrive to explore Grass Valley⁷⁶

August: First settlers in Grass Valley [Koosharem] led by Albert K. Thurber (fmr Spanish Fork bishop)

Dec 8: Priesthood meeting attended by Brigham Young and George A. Smith⁷⁷ Reports included Richfield (Bp. Wm H. Seegmiller), Monroe **Ward** (Elder Walter Jones), “the bishops of Glenwood, Salina, Joseph, Annabella, & Prattville”

First settlers in Sigurd area

1874

Iver Isaacson appointed acting bishop or President at Joseph, with counselors [MH]⁷⁸

March 14: Priesthood meeting.⁷⁹ Bishop William Seegmiller reported 145 families, 753 residents in Richfield, Bp Gifford-Monroe, Bro Wilson-Glenwood, Bro. Isaacson-Joseph

April 1: Wm H. Seegmiller ordained bishop of Richfield

April 8: New list of wards/branches is same as Dec 1873, with the following differences:⁸⁰

- **Richfield**, W.H. Seegmiller
- **Prattville**, Helaman Pratt
- **Glenwood**, G.T. Wilson

April 18: Priesthood meeting.⁸¹ JA Young discusses plans to organize the United Order, and “we will organize this District into a Stake of Zion.”

April: United Order organized in Sevier County, including orders in Richfield (19th), Monroe (23rd), Glenwood, Prattville, Annabelle Springs; at **Monroe** on this date, Bishop Gifford refuses the Order, resigns, and Prest. Young appoints James Thompson Lisonbee [KWJ1-SLX] as U.O. president and acting bishop.⁸²

⁷⁵ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.35

⁷⁶ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.59

⁷⁷ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.60

⁷⁸ *Joseph Ward General Minutes*, V.9 p.6

⁷⁹ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.62

⁸⁰ 1874-04-08: Presiding Elders and Bishops, *Deseret News* V.23 #9 (April 8 1874) p.151
<https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2634623>

⁸¹ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.69

⁸² *George W. Bean Diary and Account Book*, Church History Library MS 7625, p.22,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/4c2b46c6-f846-4f8a-ac8e-a64b4366c942/0/21>; *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.77

May 21: "Joseph A. Young, President of that *district*."⁸³

May 24: "Sevier Stake of Zion" organized by apostles Orson Pratt and John Taylor: Joseph A. Young president, A.K. Thurber First Counselor; only 8 high councilmen called; presidents of MP quorums.⁸⁴ Young mentions that he had started to organize the stake on his own, but decided to wait for general authority, and asks the visiting apostles (Orson Pratt and John Taylor) to start from scratch.

Gunnison Bishop Joseph Horne remembers "Gunnison and its Branches were added to Sevier Stake of Zion"⁸⁵ *Presumably, this would be branches at Fayette, Mayfield, and maybe Willow Creek [Axtell].*

May 24: Archibald Todd Oldroyd ordained bishop of Glenwood (LDSBE 2:682)

May 27: New list of wards/branches. Same as April 8, except: **Monroe**, J.T. Lisenbee⁸⁶

July 17: JA Young reports on **Salina**; Peter Rasmussen, President and Acting Bishop since 1864 has resigned after some trouble with the members. Suggests Franklin Spencer as a replacement, Rasmussen is called to lead a mission to Grass Valley (Koosharem).⁸⁷

July 19: Glenwood Ward organized, Bishop Archibald T. Oldroyd (Memories of Sevier Stake, CC 92)

August: First settlers in Grass Valley, PE Peter Rasmussen [MH]

August 25: First Presidency authorizes JA Young to direct the colonization of "the region to the east of the District in which you preside" [Grass Valley]⁸⁸

August 25: First Presidency writes Franklin Spencer in Manti: "You are hereby instructed to take charge of the **Salina** Branch of the Church under the Direction of Elder Jos. A. Young."⁸⁹

Sep 5: Priesthood meeting⁹⁰ Includes Bp. Jos S. Horne (Gunnison), Bp. Jas T. Lisonbee (Monroe), Bp. HD Lisonbee (Annabella), Bp. Iver Isaacson (Joseph). Franklin Spencer ordained and set apart as new bishop of Salina, Archibald T. Oldroyd "had been elected" as new bishop of Glenwood replacing Bro. Wilson, Peter Rasmussen to lead Grass Valley settlement/mission.

⁸³ Meetings and Organizations in Sanpete and Sevier Counties, *Deseret News*, V.23 #27 (August 5 1874) p.429, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2612827>

⁸⁴ Sevier Stake Organization Minutes, *Historian's Office Local Unit Minutes and Records*, Church History Library CR 100 589 box 1 folder 42; Meetings and Organizations in Sanpete and Sevier Counties, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/dce50a0b-8e24-4338-ab3f-7ebcd2ddcbb7/0/0>; *Deseret News*, V.23 #27 (August 5 1874) p.429, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2612827>; *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.75

⁸⁵ Joseph S. Horne, *Autobiographical Sketch*, p.17, Church History Library MS 8041

⁸⁶ 1874-05-27: Presiding Elders and Bishops, *Deseret News* V.23 #17 (May 27 1874) p.267 <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2635244>

⁸⁷ Joseph A. Young, letter to Brigham Young 17 July 1874, *Brigham Young Office Files*, Incoming General Correspondence, Letters from Young Family Members, Joseph A. Young 1870-1874, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 45 folder 13, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/f6d1a546-ee5c-4d97-b714-5248b1000077/0/0>; *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.76

⁸⁸ First Presidency, letter to Joseph A. Young 25 August 1874, *Brigham Young Office Files*, *Letterbooks*, V.13, p.621, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 9, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/93fd7376-7e4a-4d1a-a011-b5966c6fd559>

⁸⁹ First Presidency, letter to Franklin Spencer 25 August 1874, *Brigham Young Office Files*, *Letterbooks*, V.13, p.621, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 9, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/93fd7376-7e4a-4d1a-a011-b5966c6fd559>

⁹⁰ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.80

Sep 29: Joseph A. Young visits **Fayette**, where they complain about being part of Gunnison; a separate branch is organized, Pres. John Bartholemew.⁹¹ *Are Fayette and Gunnison part of Sevier Stake?*

Fall: some Richfield members receive permission from Joseph A. Young to make a new settlement on U.O. farmland “up the ditch”; he suggests the name Elsinore after the city in Denmark.⁹²

Oct 9: Joseph A. Young visits **Joseph**, presiding elder Isachsen is accused of something but exonerated.⁹³

Oct 23: James or Joseph K. Rogers called to preside at Prattsville, as Helaman Pratt has been called to Mexico

Nov 7: Priesthood meeting⁹⁴ “Bishops reported their wards” *they are regularly being called wards now, but some of the smaller ones may still be uncertain*

Late Dec: U.O. organized for new settlement of Elsinore by Young and Seegmiller, Pres. C.H. Nielsen.⁹⁵

1875

During this year, several new settlements: Redmond and Gooseberry from Salina, Willow Bend (Aurora), Central named Inverury, Annabella (Bishop Hugh Lisonbee), Joseph pres. Iver Isaacson. At Glenwood, Geo J. Wilson placed in charge. Koosharem settled by Peter Rasmussen, who was replaced at Salina by Bishop Franklin Spencer.⁹⁶

January 6: New list of wards/branches. Same as October, except: **Salina**, Franklin Spencer; **Annabelle Springs**, H.D. Lisenbee; **Glenwood**, P.T. Olroyd⁹⁷

January 7: BY’s secretary writes to “Bp. Seegmiller, Richfield” and “Bp. H. Pratt, Prattville.”⁹⁸

January: JA Young calls R[asmus] Raphaelseon to lead **Elsinore** (no mention of ward/branch/UO)⁹⁹ He is subsequently presiding over Sunday meetings

March 13: JA Young appoints Alonzo L. Farnsworth to preside in Joseph in place of Iver Isaacson¹⁰⁰ (branch of Monroe Ward)

⁹¹ *George W. Bean Diary and Account Book*, Church History Library MS 7625, p.30, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=4c2b46c6-f846-4f8a-ac8e-a64b4366c942&crate=0&index=29>

⁹² *Elsinore Ward General Minutes*, V.9b p.9, Church History Library LR 2592 11

⁹³ *George W. Bean Diary and Account Book*, Church History Library MS 7625, p.32, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=4c2b46c6-f846-4f8a-ac8e-a64b4366c942&crate=0&index=31>

⁹⁴ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.83

⁹⁵ *Elsinore Ward General Minutes*, p.11

⁹⁶ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.42

⁹⁷ 1875-01-06: Presiding Elders and Bishops, *Deseret News* V.23 #49 (January 6 1875) p.782 <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2614880>

⁹⁸ A Milton Musser, letters to W.H. Seegmiller and Helaman Pratt 7 Jan 1875, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.13, p.676-676, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 9, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/93fd7376-7e4a-4d1a-a011-b5966c6fd559>

⁹⁹ *Elsinore Ward General Minutes*, p.12

¹⁰⁰ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.94

March 25: First settlers from Provo arrive in Willow Bend [Aurora].[MH] At some point, branch (dependent on Salina Ward) organized with Daniel Morgan as Presiding Elder. MH says this was in 1880.

Spring: Vermillion settled, PE Peter Gottfredson, a dependent branch of Glenwood

Spring: First settlers at the Red Mound [Redmond] [MH] It was never considered part of Salina Ward.

July 11: Conference in Orderville with Bishop Howard O. Spencer, Joseph A. Young (Sevier President), John R. Young (Kanab president?). Joseph A. appears to be presiding.¹⁰¹

August 5: Joseph A. Young dies; not replaced as president, but counselors and high council appears to have continued to act.

Albert K. Thurber acted as "President pro tem of the Sevier Stake until 1877" (LDSBE 1:520)

31 August: BY writes "Bishop J.T. Lisenbee, Monroe"¹⁰²

13 October: BY writes "Elders Thurber and Seegmiller" (presidency counselors) about matters of "the United Order in Sevier District."¹⁰³ *In several documents like this, they seem to avoid calling it a Stake.*

23 October: in stake leadership meeting, BY letter is read, "copies were ordered to be sent to all presidents of branches in this stake of Zion."¹⁰⁴ Presumably, it is accepted that they are temporarily in charge. In this and subsequent meetings, Thurber frequently refers to all the settlements collectively as "branches." Joseph K. Rogers appointed to preside at **Prattville**, Bp. Helaman Pratt called on a mission to Mexico.

Nov 8: Prattville Ward organized, Bishop Joseph K. Rogers [CC] *Branch or Ward??*

Nov 18: A.K. Thurber reports on the situation after Young's death, "Since our appointment to the temporary presidency of this district by Bro. Wells while in-[?] for St. George...", mentions visits to Richfield, Glenwood, Monroe, Joseph City, Salina, Mayfield, Panguitch, Gunnison, Prattville, Salina.¹⁰⁵ *[Are Panguitch and Gunnison in Sevier Stake?]*

December 29: New list of wards/branches. Same as June, except: **Joseph**: A.L. Farnsworth; **Prattville**, Jos. L. Rogers¹⁰⁶

Inverury [Central] surveyed

¹⁰¹ *Orderville United Order History*, p.84, Church History Library LR 6543 53, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/8bc40185-4afe-475e-b5b5-1ad8eeb000ea/0/58>

¹⁰² Brigham Young, letter to JT Lisenbee 31 August 1875, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.13, p.825, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 9, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/93fd7376-7e4a-4d1a-a011-b5966c6fd559>

¹⁰³ Brigham Young, letter to A.K. Thurber and Seegmiller 13 Oct 1875, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.13, p.904, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 9, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/93fd7376-7e4a-4d1a-a011-b5966c6fd559>

¹⁰⁴ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.106

¹⁰⁵ A.K. Thurber, letter to Brigham Young 18 November 1875, *Brigham Young Office Files*, General Correspondence, Incoming, General Letters, St-To 1875, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 36 folder 5, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/8dd54238-8403-4819-8771-e45cb8f8e74a>

¹⁰⁶ 1875-01-06: Presiding Elders and Bishops, *Deseret News* V.23 #49 (January 6 1875) p.782 <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2614880>

1876

6 Feb: Branch organized at **Inverury** “until Bishop Thurber or the presiding authority of the county meet with us and dictate further.” Pres. Wm A. Stewart¹⁰⁷

15 Feb: Richfield Ward General Minutes book entitled “**Richfield Branch** Record, Sevier Stake of Zion 1876”¹⁰⁸ Does not contain any entries until 1880

4 Mar: Bishops reports at stake priesthood meeting:¹⁰⁹

- Monroe, Bp. JT Lisonbee
- Glenwood, Bp AS Oldroyd
- Salina, James C. Anderson (not bishop)
- Prattville, **Bp** Jos K Rodgers
- Annabella, Bp HD Lisonbee
- Joseph, Bp AL Farnsworth
- Elsinore, Jem S Jensen (not bishop)
- Inverury, Wm A Stewart (branch pres)

18 April: BY writes “Bishop P.A. Oldroyd, Glenwood”¹¹⁰

Spring: first settlers in Redmond

May 6-7: Sevier Stake Conference.¹¹¹ Sustains include Thurber and Seegmiller as “Temp President of Sevier Stake of Zion” and full high council. “Bishops JT Lisonbee [Monroe], AL Oldroyd [Glenwood], F Spencer [Salina], Jos K Rogers [Prattville], HD Lisonbee [Annabella], AL Farnsworth [Joseph], R. Raphaelson [Elsinore], Wm A Stewart [Inverury]” and representatives from Gunnison and Fayette.

29 July: BY writes “Bishops Thurber & Seegmiller”¹¹²

July: Jos K. Rodgers released from presiding over Prattville¹¹³

14 Sep: Rasmus Raphaelson released from presiding over **Elsinore Branch**.¹¹⁴

16 Sep: Letter included in minutes from Thurber:¹¹⁵ “Joshua Sylvester, with the approval of President Brigham Young, you are appointed to take charge of the settlement of Elsinore as Pres’t & acting bishop.”

16 Sep: “Pres. Thurber” visits Elsinore, J.W. Sylvester sustained as “Bishop of the **Elsinore Ward**” with counselors.¹¹⁶

September: BY releases Seegmiller as an acting stake president [Hamblin’s Thurber bio]

¹⁰⁷ *Inverury Ward General Minutes*, V.11 p.1, Church History Library LR 1569 11

¹⁰⁸ *Richfield Ward General Minutes*, V.1 p.1, Church History Library LR 8762 11

¹⁰⁹ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.109

¹¹⁰ Brigham Young, letter to P.T. Oldroyd, 18 April 1876, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.14*, p.304, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 10, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/8ee2bf6f-8a90-4bd6-943d-532c27f3aae2>

¹¹¹ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.112

¹¹² Brigham Young, letter to A.K. Thurber and Seegmiller, 29 July 1875, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.14*, p.400, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 10, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/8ee2bf6f-8a90-4bd6-943d-532c27f3aae2>

¹¹³ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.121

¹¹⁴ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.121

¹¹⁵ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.121

¹¹⁶ *Elsinore Ward General Minutes*, V.9b p.17

November: Vermillion branch of Glenwood Ward organized, Presiding Elder Peter Gottfredson
December 22: Final published list of Bishops and Presiding Elders, same as 1875.¹¹⁷

Inverury and Annabella combined into one ward. Bishop William A. Stewart

Burrville Branch organized, Presiding Elder Charles C. Burr

YE 1876: "During President Young's late visit to this place on _____ 1876 Wm H Seegmiller was released from assisting in the presidency of this stake."¹¹⁸

Branch organized in New London (south side of Mayfield) by Sevier Stake Presidency, Pres. Ole C. Olsen [EH]

1877

January 20: BY writes AK Thurber, answering several questions he has asked.¹¹⁹ *In what ways did this situation foreshadow BY's thoughts on the Reorganization? In what ways might it have motivated them?*

- The Sevier Stake may extend to Circleville, not to Panguitch
- A branch can be organized in Circleville if there are enough members
- There is still a stake, even though only the high council is fully organized; "you will in all the settlements have ordained bishops as soon as we can get to it." Thurber is to "take charge of the district for the present" but does not have authority to ordain bishops.
- The acting bishop of Richfield has resigned; BY says he can't officially resign, because he was never officially ordained, but suggests L.P. Christensen to take his place. A new "presiding officer for Monroe" is also needed, BY suggests Thurber "find as good a man as you can there and let him take charge for the present."

Feb 5: HC Jacobs appointed Presiding Elder & Acting Bishop of Prattville, Jos K Rogers removed to Glenwood.¹²⁰

~~February 6: Inverury Branch organized: Pres. Wm S Stewart (see 1876)~~

28 February: Acting president Thurber organizes "Redmond," "acting President and Bishop John Johnson."¹²¹ "Bro. Thurber stated that there was not an ordained bishop in this district, but Prest Young had stated there would be some apostles here before long, and ordain our bishops." MH says it became a ward, but probably a branch

23/24 April: BY ordains Franklin Spencer as Bishop of Salina Ward

April 27: BY ordains William Seegmiller as Bishop of Richfield

6 May: Acting President Thurber calls William King as Presiding Elder and acting bishop for Kingston Branch¹²²

¹¹⁷ Presiding Elders and Bishops, *Deseret Evening News*, V.10 #27 (December 22, 1876) p.4, <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=23166497>

¹¹⁸ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.121

¹¹⁹ Brigham Young, letter to A.K. Thurber, 20 January 1877, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.16, p.14, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 10, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/79ed6fe2-0ede-4497-9c04-a49c4cd82785/0/64>

¹²⁰ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.123

¹²¹ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.123

¹²² *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.124

July 3: *Deseret Evening News* reprints its bishop/presiding bishop directory, as in 1876, which is out of date given that most of the stakes have been reorganized into a different structure.¹²³ For Sevier:

- A.K. Thurber and W. Seegmiller, Presiding
- Salina, Franklin Spencer
- Richfield, WH Seegmiller
- Monroe, JT Lisonbee
- Annabella Springs, HD Lisonbee
- Joseph, AL Farnsworth
- Prattville, Jos L. Rogers
- Glenwood, PT Olroyd
- New London [Mayfield], O.C. Olsen

July 15: Stake reorganized.¹²⁴ Will include the east part of Piute and all of Sevier County.

- President Franklin Spencer, counselors, high council, MP quorums
- Richfield Ward divided: 1st Ward, Bishop Paul Poulson, 2nd Ward, Bishop Tarleton Lewis
- Glenwood Ward, Bishop Archibald T. Oldroyd
- Elsinore, Bishop Joshua W. Sylvester
- Monroe, Bishop Dennis L. Harris
- Central, Bishop Wm. A. Stewart
- Vermillion, Bishop Peter Gottfredsen
- Salina, Bishop Ezra Curtis
- Redmund, Bishop John Johnson
- Grass Valley, Bishop Joseph H. Wright
- Joseph City, Bishop Gideon A. Murdock
- Prattville attached to Glenwood (dependent branch or disorganized?)
- Annabella attached to Central (dependent branch or disorganized?)

24 Nov: Stake conference.¹²⁵¹²⁶ Leaders same as July, except Central is called Inverury,

16 December: Rabbit Valley [Loa] Branch organized, Pres. Jeremiah Stringham [CC]
Prattville Branch of Glenwood

Annabella Branch of Inverury/Central Ward, PE Tora Thurston [MH]

Grass Valley renamed Koosharem about the time the ward was organized [MH]

¹²³ Presiding Elders and Bishops, *Deseret Evening News*, V.10 #189 (July 3, 1877) p.4,
<https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=23167307>

¹²⁴ Conference and Organization, *Deseret News* V.26 #27 (August 8 1877) p.429
<https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2627721>; *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.125

¹²⁵ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.138

¹²⁶ Richfield Stake Conference, *Deseret News*, V.26 #46 (December 19, 1877) p.727,
<https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2629378>

1878

15 Jan: List of wards and bishops, including "Richfield Stake" ¹²⁷ mp:700350

- Paul Polson, 1st ward, Richfield
- Tarleton Lewis, 2nd ward, "
- William A Stewart, Invernary
- Joshua W Sylvester, Elsinor
- Gideon Murdock, Joseph
- Dennison L Harris, Monroe
- Archibald S Oldroyd, Glenwood
- Peter Gottfredson, Vermillion
- Ezra Curtis, Salina
- John Johnson, Redmund
- Joseph R Wright, Grass Valley

2 March: Stake Conference. ¹²⁸ mention of bishop of Vermillion in addition to other wards

¹²⁷ 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>

¹²⁸ *Richfield Stake General Minutes*, p.145