

1847

BEGINNING OF RECORD BOOK 1 (LR 12388 23 f3)

1847-02-05 In a meeting of the Twelve at Winter Quarters, “decided to write I.A. Shelton that we approve of his nomination of Elder Felt to the presidency at St. Louis”¹

1847-02-14 Nathaniel Felt chosen as president of St. Louis Branch²

1847-03-21 St. Louis Branch divided into 6 wards,³ under the jurisdiction of the branch president, with “acting bishops” to “superintend his ward according to the order of the Church, that is to look after the sick and lay on hands and minister to their necessities . . . and to see that there was no iniquity in their respective wards injurious to us as a people, and every other duty pertaining to the Temporal & Spiritual welfare of this people under the direction of the president and council, and subject to their decision in all things.”

1847-04-17 Each ward directed to have separate prayer meetings, “under the superintendence of the presidents of the wards”⁴

1847-05-06 Each ward president is given a single councillor⁵. Also addresses given for ward presidents:

- 1st: George Norval, #56 Cedar St [in 1st civil ward]
- 2nd: Thomas Forrester, Centre & Clark Av [in 2nd civil ward]
- 3rd: William Standing, Wash’n Ave & alley b/w 1st & 2nd [in 4th civil ward]
- 4th: John Barker, 13th & Orange St [in 4th civil ward]
- 5th: James Beck, Franklin Av & 10th-11th [in 5th civil ward]
- 6th: Samuel Musick, East Mounds b/w 1st & 2nd [in 6th civil ward]
- *So ecclesiastical wards probably roughly align with civil wards*

1847-12-26 Orson Hyde (visiting from Iowa) is collecting funds to assist emigration to the mountains; recognizes the branch council as authoritative, not crucial to leave “in the preset case of emergency.”⁶

1848

1848-02-13 Branch Conference.⁷ Branch presidency and Ward Presidents sustained, Brigham Young and Council of the Twelve sustained

- St. Louis Branch 685 members

¹ Willard Richards, *Journal V. 17*, February 5 1847, Church History Library MS 1490 box 2 vol. 17 p.183 https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE583181

² *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1848*, p.1, Church History Library LR 12388 23 document 1, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/568eab82-55e6-4abd-944b-7e7d95fcb5ff/0/0>

³ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1848*, p.5

⁴ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1848*, p.6

⁵ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.8, Church History Library LR 12388 23 document 2, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/fdbb6281-1248-4a63-8ad3-db225b2ba4dc/0/0>

⁶ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1848*, p.15

⁷ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1848*, p.25-26

- Alton Branch, 36 members (reorganized Feb 4th 1848, Richard H. Withnell president, President Felt had been present)
 - Gravois Branch, 51 members
- 1848-02 Major topic of council meetings is preparing to send a delegation to represent the branch at Council Bluffs (mainly to inquire whether the branch's donations were getting to the intended emigrants)
- 1848-08-12 Felt is leaving (temporarily--where?), C.H. Wheelock to temporarily take his place⁸
- 1848-11-04 Felt has returned. Report from Alton Branch, 58 members⁹ Another group 6 miles from Alton wishes to organize as a branch, but they are joined to Alton. *So this council has authority over Alton?*
- 1848-11-18 Representatives from Dry Hill (about 30-40, doesn't appear to be organized) and Gravois Branch (about 50 or 60) are present and report. *Does the Council have any authority over these nearby areas?*¹⁰
- 1848-12-17 Dry Hill asks the St Louis council for advice (apparently not permission) on whether to organize as a branch, says they probably will the next Sunday. Alton branch is represented. Also, the council asks if the counselors to the ward presidents are equal to the presidents; President Felt "said that he thought they were, and did not understand any difference"¹¹

1849

- 1849-01-15: Amasa Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Erastus Snow visiting¹²
- 1849-02-11: Conference at St. Louis for "this and surrounding branches."¹³ N.H. Felt sustained as "President of this Conference" [just the meeting, or is the conference being organized?] with 2 counselors. Reports from branches: Alton Branch 72 members, Gravois Branch 53, Dry Hill Branch 30.
- 1849-06-09: council members appointed to visit Alton, Gravois, and Dry Hill Branches¹⁴ [appears to be acting as a conference now]
- 1849-06-10: report from Alton Branch by elders sent there "according to appointment of President N.H. Felt of Saint Louis Branch (of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints)"¹⁵ [was he president of the conference or the branch??]
- 1849-08-25: Alton and Gravois seems to be part of the council (sort of), attending this and many subsequent meetings and reporting.¹⁶

⁸ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.52

⁹ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.66

¹⁰ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.68

¹¹ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.71

¹² *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.74

¹³ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.79

¹⁴ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.97

¹⁵ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.102

¹⁶ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.119

1849-09-22: Orson Hyde present at the meeting¹⁷ *No evidence of anything more than a friendly visit*

1849-11-10: New clerk "of this Branch" sustained.¹⁸

1849-11-17: Report of delegation to Gravois Branch, who visited "on Sunday last" and divided the branch into four divisions, including one Welsh-speaking. Regular meetings to be held in each division.¹⁹

1849-12-22: council excommunicates someone who appears to be a member in Alton.²⁰

1850

1850-1 Many Church leaders, including apostles, visit council meetings on their way to open new missions in Europe.²¹ Approve of the "organization" in St. Louis.

1850-2-9 Boundary adjustment: "that part of 6th ward running from Biddle to Cherry Street, and from Broadway to the River be hereafter annexed to the 5th Ward, thus making the Boundary on Biddle Street."²²

1850-02-17 St. Louis Branch Conference.²³ "Representation of the Wards and surrounding branches:" 1st 40, 2nd 100, 3rd 119, 4th 258, 5th 450, 6th 167, total St. Louis Branch 1134; Alton 150, Gravois 141. Felt sustained as president with counselors and officers, and two [equal] presidents of each ward [but not Alton and Gravois]. And a presidency of the lesser priesthood [never called a bishop]. Sustain First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve. Pres. Felt speaks, encouraging members to "go to the Valley or at least to the Bluffs." Wishes his views "to go abroad to the neighboring branches in Alton & to Gravois." [thus not under his direct jurisdiction]

1850-04-20 Felt resigns as president as he is emigrating; nominates his counselor Alexander Robbins as president, sustained by council²⁴

1850-04-21 Public worship meeting; Felt again resigns, Robbins sustained.²⁵

END OF RECORD BOOK 1; apparently, Felt took it with him.

NO BRANCH RECORDS EXIST 1850-05 through 1852-04

Alexander Robbins serves as President until ???

1851

By June: Thomas Wrigley serving as President²⁶

¹⁷ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.123

¹⁸ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.134

¹⁹ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.137

²⁰ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.151

²¹ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.153-161

²² *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.169

²³ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.172-179

²⁴ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.200

²⁵ *St. Louis Branch Record 1847-1850*, p.204

²⁶ Recommend for John Mackland, 1851 June 27, signed by St. Louis Branch President Thomas Wrigley, Church History Library MS 24806

August 26: President Thomas Wrigley writes to the Deseret News.²⁷

September: Alexander Robbins emigrating to Utah²⁸

[when is the St. Louis Conference first mentioned?]

1852

15 Feb: Conference.²⁹ President Thomas Wrigley. **Information about wards and branches.**

1852-spring William Gibson [of later Hawaii infamy] replaces Wrigley as Conference/Branch President, called by Orson Pratt of NYC

BEGINNING OF RECORD BOOK 2³⁰

1852-05-08 "council" meets weekly, appears to consist of President Wm Gibson and "Presidents" of the 6 wards³¹

1852-06-12 . . . 1853-07-22: Bremen Branch mentioned along with wards, seems to be under jurisdiction of Elder Gibson. Bremen was a suburb just north of the city limits inhabited mostly by Germans. After the first month, they only appear to come to the council meeting once a month³²

1852-07-24, 07-30 council refers to itself as "St. Louis Conference" rather than a branch³³

1852-08-15 send representatives to visit Alton and Gravois to remind them of the "necessity of assisting to support the presidency" (Wm Gibson).³⁴ *Seems like they are trying to assert regional authority*

Sep 13: Open letter from the First Presidency: "Elder Horace S. Eldredge . . . has been duly appointed to preside over the branch of said Church in the city of St. Louis and is fully authorised to perform all the duties of President in said Branch."³⁵

1852-11-21 A meeting of the "St. Louis Branch of the St. Louis Conference."³⁶ Orson Pratt announces that Horace Eldredge has been appointed "to preside over the **St. Louis Conference.**" *presumably under Pratt as new president of the Church in the States* seconded by Gibson "and carried by vote of the Branch."

²⁷ Thomas Wrigley, St. Louis to *Deseret News* editors, 1851 August 26, *Deseret News Editor's Files*, Church History Library MS 2054, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/857ead36-c3f5-4aa7-8adb-f6074aa2393d/0/43>

²⁸ Captain John Brown's Company Report, 1851 September 19, *Brigham Young Office Emigrating Companies Reports* CR 1234 5, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/8c30aa35-1976-4439-b186-34251f92f3ff/0/6>

²⁹ *Report of the St. Louis Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, St. Louis, Mo., February 15, 1852*, Church History Library M204.6 S145r 1852

³⁰ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, Church History Library LR 12388 21, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/a627690d-69ef-4686-bc14-e90ac5a36c2b/0/0>

³¹ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.1

³² *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.11

³³ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.23,24

³⁴ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.27

³⁵ Brigham Young, open letter 13 Sep 1852, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.1*, p.65, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=f7d18c09-51a0-42c6-8c73-10960c772d45>

³⁶ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.50

1852-12-03 Eldredge is now presiding at the weekly “council of presidents” meetings, which carry on as usual with reports from the 6 wards and other business.³⁷ Elders are sent to Alton to have them sustain the new president.

1852-12-06: Wm Gibson is reassigned to be a counselor to Pres. Eldredge;³⁸ is this the effective end of the single St. Louis Branch, or was it already gone?

1852-12-17: Alton has sustained Eldredge, is clearly part of the conference³⁹

1852-12-31: John Gerber charged to try to raise a German Branch;⁴⁰ 1853-03-04 still preaching in German

1853

1853-03-18: report from saints at Lasalle (no branch organized?). Moved for the creation of Bellefontaine Branch: everything north of Bellefontaine Cemetery⁴¹ *Is Lasalle the Norwegian La Salle/Ottawa/Fox River Branch in northern Illinois that was such a big deal in the mid-1840s? It seems to be mostly composed of British converts, likely raising money for emigration to Utah. It's never mentioned again*

1853-03-25: Gravois branch first reported in weekly council meeting; elders sent to Bellefontaine to organize a branch⁴²

1853-04-03: St. Louis Conference, Orson Pratt presiding.⁴³ St. Louis 1st Ward 62, 2nd 102, 3rd 68, 4th 130, 5th 178, 6th 287, Gravois 171, Alton 116, Bellefontaine 20, Bremen 21, Lasalle 19, Bellvue [Belleville] 23, scattered 61; Orson Pratt sustained as “President over all the saints in the United States & Canada,” Horace Eldredge as President of St. Louis Conference, counselor William Gibson, ward and branch presidents (not co-presidents); no St. Louis Branch mentioned.

1853-05-13: elders sent to Dry Hill to [re]organize a branch.⁴⁴ *So what happened to the branch organized in 1847/1851?*

1853-05-27: Bellefontaine reported in weekly meeting, Dry Hill has been organized⁴⁵

1853-07-22: Bremen branch “disannulled” because they lost their meeting place, merged into 6th Ward⁴⁶ (thus the 6th ward was the north end of the city)

1853-09-30 Intends to move meetings from Jefferson Hall to room over Alexander’s livery stable in Chestnut St⁴⁷

1853-10-28 Dry Hill reported in conference council (didn’t attend very often)⁴⁸

³⁷ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.53*

³⁸ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.54*

³⁹ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.56*

⁴⁰ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.58*

⁴¹ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.69*

⁴² *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.70*

⁴³ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.72*

⁴⁴ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.83*

⁴⁵ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.86*

⁴⁶ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.98*

⁴⁷ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.110*

⁴⁸ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.114*

1853-11-04 Belfontaine reports; council considering re-taking the concert hall for meetings⁴⁹
1853-12-16 2nd-3rd Ward boundary set to Myrtle St between 7th and the River⁵⁰ (not sure what it was before)

1854

1854-01-01: General conference (none in October).⁵¹ Branches represented: 1st-6th Wards, Gravois, Alton, Belfontaine, Pecan [Point] AR, Calhoun, Dry Hill, Keokuk, scattered, total 1388 members. Orson Pratt "President over the saints in the United States and British provinces of America," Horace Eldredge as president over the St. Louis Conference. Presidents sustained for 1st-6th wards, Gravois, Alton, Dry Hill. Belfontaine to be "broken up" and added to 6th Ward [but it never is broken up].

1854-01-06 "resolved that german brethren be organized as a branch as soon as possible"⁵²
1854-01-27 German Branch has been organized Pres. Frederick Loba, 8 members⁵³
1854-02-10 some members in Caseyville Illinois not organized as a branch, matter is laid over⁵⁴
1854-03-17 proposal to divide 2nd Ward between 1st and 3rd Wards; will ask members for their opinion (apparently the president needed to resign)⁵⁵
1854-03-24 2nd Ward generally wants to join the 3rd Ward; president Fleming resigns, 2nd ward "dis-annuled" and attached to 3rd Ward⁵⁶
1854-03-31 2nd & 3rd reported together but still called two things (as opposed to just being called the 3rd ward with no mention of the 2nd)

1854-04-06 General Conference.⁵⁷ Calls "Orson Pratt and Orson Spencer to Cincinnati to establish a gathering place for the saints. Erastus Snow to St. Louis to establish a gathering place for the saints...Milo Andrus to stay in St. Louis to preside there under the direction of Erastus Snow." In Wilford Woodruff: "Erastus Snow was appointed to go to St Louis to take charge of the Saints in that Land & O. Pratt & O. Spencer to take charge of the Stake in Cincinnati...the above brethren were to establish stakes and gather the saints to them"⁵⁸

Orson Pratt (in April 1856):⁵⁹ "I believe that two years ago this day a mission was appointed me while I was yet in Washington to return here, and then go back to Cincinnati to assist brother Spencer and others in establishing a stake of Zion in that country; and I came home with that expectation, to return again the following spring: I had no other idea,

⁴⁹ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.115

⁵⁰ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.120

⁵¹ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.123

⁵² *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.127

⁵³ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.130

⁵⁴ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.132

⁵⁵ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.139

⁵⁶ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.140

⁵⁷ Minutes, *Deseret News*, V.4 #11 (13 April 1854), <https://newspapers.lib.utah.edu/details?id=2580233>

⁵⁸ Wilford Woodruff, *Journal 1854-1859*, p.19, Church History Library MS 1352, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/ed47e448-2936-4a1d-a4d8-4b5f96a8d1ac/0/20>

⁵⁹ Orson Pratt, The Advantages of the Latter-day Saints, *Journal of Discourses*, V.3 p.306, <https://archive.org/details/JoDV03/page/n313>

- when I came home, nor until the word came from the Presidency, saying, brother Pratt you need not go to Cincinnati.”
- 1854-04-08 Erastus Snow is appointed to be the president of the Church in St. Louis and “establish it as a gathering place for the saints.”⁶⁰ Orson Spencer called to preside in Cincinnati, Milo Andrus to preside in St. Louis.
- 1854-04-21 6th ward has been divided into “sections,” probably because it is so large geographically⁶¹
- 1854-05-12 last time German Branch is mentioned in weekly council meetings⁶²
- 1854-06-02 Milo Andrus is sustained as new conference president, replacing Horace Eldredge; clarifies that council of branch presidents does not have authority to call other presidents, only the conference president.⁶³
- 1854-09-01 Erastus Snow has arrived “to preside here over this section of country,” along with O. Spencer, B. Clapp and other missionaries from Utah. Snow says “the time had come to offer the Gospel once more to the States.”⁶⁴ Clapp has organized a branch at Kanessville [Bluff Branch]
- 1854-09-05 Andrus proposes that Erastus Snow be president over “this Stake,” which carries. Proposal to begin a publication is approved. Minutes signed by Snow and Andrus as “presidents”⁶⁵
- 1854-09-08: chapel at Washington & 4th is chosen for future meetings; Snow & Andrus both presiding at weekly meetings⁶⁶
- 1854-10-06: Sunday school organized⁶⁷
- 1854-11-04 Conference⁶⁸
- St. Louis Stake organized; Erastus Snow as “president over the church in these United States.”
 - Milo Andrus “preside over this stake,” along with 2 counsellors and high council of 12 new high priests.
 - Heber Worley as bishop (of entire stake?) with councillors; presidencies of elders, priests, and teachers quorums
 - Reports from branches: SL 1, 2&3, 4, 5, 6, Belfontaine, Keokuk, Bluff City Iowa, Fairfield Indiana, Centerville Ill, Gravois, Maquaketa Iowa, Alton Ill, Dry Hill, 1320 total members

⁶⁰ First Presidency, open letter 30 October 1854, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, Miscellaneous Letterbook*, p.179, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 15, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/a23115d4-adad-4c37-ae9-7b1fbb4fe552/0/412>

⁶¹ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.144

⁶² *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.147

⁶³ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.149

⁶⁴ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.167

⁶⁵ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.170

⁶⁶ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.172

⁶⁷ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.179

⁶⁸ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.189

1854-11-10: High priests called to take charge of each ward, oversight of its lesser priesthood, subject to the stake bishop. 6th E. Holdsworth (2nd C stake bishopric), 1st Wm Lowe (HC).⁶⁹

1854-11-24: High council organized with seniority by age; from here on, stake records are primarily meetings of high council, not the earlier council of ward presidents.⁷⁰

1855

1855-01-28: City wards are divided into “sections,” with teachers assigned to take care of the saints.⁷¹

- 1st Ward: 1 section
- 2nd & 3rd Wards: 1st: from the levee to 7th, south of Locust and north of Walnut. 2nd: from 7th to 12th, north of Locust to Clark. 3rd: 12th to Prairies. 4th: Levee to 7th, Walnut to Choteau. 5th 7th to Prairies, south of Clarke Ave.
- 4th Ward: 1st: Levee to 4th; 2nd: 4th to 8th; 3rd: 8th to 11th; 4th: 11th to prairies
- 5th Ward: 1st: Levee to 5th; 2nd: 5th to 9th; 3rd: 9th to 12th; 4th: 12th to prairies
- 6th Ward: 1st: Levee to 3rd, Biddle to Howard; 2nd: 3rd to 12th, Howard to Biddle; 3rd: 12th to prairie, south of Howard; 4th: Howard to Labaume; 5th: Labaume to Market; 6th: Market to Palm; 7th: Palm to Harlaarlem [Haarlem?] House; 8th: Harlaam [Haarlem?] House to Morhard?
- This corroborates that the wards were generally laid out the same as the municipal wards, from 1 in the south to 6 in the north. However, maps I have show different muni ward boundaries for 1844 and 1855; the latter seems to match these sections better; which was it?

1855-02-24: decide to purchase a map of the city to use in meetings, to help visiting members and better understand the wards and sections⁷²

1855-03-31: Ward leaders called “Acting Bishops” for the first time?⁷³ Publishing a circular on the church in St. Louis for visitors, 1000 copies. One in the CHL?

1855 April 6 Conference:⁷⁴

- Erastus Snow sustained as “President of the Church in the Western and Southern States.” Snow sends out missionaries and calls for organization of the Texas Conference, basically functioning like a mission president.
- Milo Andrus as Stake President. Branches in MO, IL, and IA. Seems to be little distinction between the stake and Snow’s jurisdiction
- Stake bishop is sustained, along with presidencies of each priesthood quorum
- Official bishops sustained for each ward; 2nd & 3rd wards have one bishop and statistics reported together. Some bishops are called from the high council, so new councillors are called

⁶⁹ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.195*

⁷⁰ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.196*

⁷¹ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.229*

⁷² *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.239*

⁷³ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.242*

⁷⁴ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856, p.244*

- Gravois and Dry Hill Branches merged into Gravois Ward with a bishop; Alton Branch “and places adjoining” (Calhoun?) reorganized as Alton Ward with a bishop
- A branch to be organized in St. Charles (but did it ever happen?)
- Branches reported: St. Louis (together), Alton, Gravois, Bluff City, Fairfield, Bellefontaine, Centreville, Maquoketa, Dry Hill, Burlington

1855-06-30 wards reported in stake records, first time since it was organized in November. 1st, 2nd&3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th.⁷⁵

1855 Summer: Orson Spencer tours the Indian Territory mission; does he now have authority over Indian Territory?

1855-08-18: After several emigrations this season, including Pres. Milo Andrus, new high council called, James H. Hart appointed as stake president by Erastus Snow by letter from Mormon Grove⁷⁶

1855-08-22: general priesthood meeting, new officers sustained. 1st ward “turned over to the jurisdiction of the second and third wards until further changes were necessary.” Henry Eyring as president of Priests quorum.⁷⁷

1855-09-29: reports from Gravois and Alton wards

1855 October Conference:⁷⁸

- Orson Spencer sustained as “President of the Church in this part of the United States.” James H. Hart as stake president. No stake bishop sustained, but Bishop Harris is still functioning
- Hart states that Erastus Snow gave him authority to collect tithing in St. Louis and adjacent branches; Banks for Cincinnati Conference” (reporting it to Spencer, not the stake); Orson Spencer from “Cincinnati and all other places connected with this Stake,” which appears to include Texas and Tennessee (it states they failed to represent their branches). *Is there a limit to the stake proper, and the extended jurisdiction of the “Western States President?” How does this compare to what is going on in New York and in California?*
- Hart is presiding at meeting (Spencer is probably too ill to attend and preside). Hart calls for Cincinnati conference to be formed, sends out missionaries. Probably just temporarily performing Spencer’s functions.
- “1st, 2nd, and 3rd wards be divided,” with Bishop Edward Cook over 1st and 2nd, and Bishop William Lowe over 3rd.
- Reports from Bellefontaine, Platten, and Calhoun Branches, even though they didn’t report statistics
- Wards: 1st-2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, “Gravois or 7th,” “Alton or 8th”
- Missionaries called to work within the stake (stake missionaries?) to IL, TX, Cherokee Nation, MO, NE, OH, IA

⁷⁵ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.265

⁷⁶ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.272

⁷⁷ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.274

⁷⁸ Minutes of the Conference, *St. Louis Luminary*, V.1 #47 (13 Oct 1855) p.186, <https://archive.org/details/StLouisLuminary18541855/page/n187/mode/2up>; *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.285

- Branch Memberships: St. Louis 973 [is it still considered a single branch?], Gravois 243, Alton 123, Dry Hill 23, Keokuk 30, Calhoun 20, Bluff City 90, Indian Creek Iowa 15, Cincinnati 98, Cannelton Ohio 13, Pomeroy Ohio 39, Fort Riley Kansas 20, Centreville Ill 12, Fairfield Ind 14, Quincy Ill 15, Springfield Ill 15, Belfontaine Mo 39, Maquoketa Iowa 11, Mormon Grove Kansas 28, Jacksonville Ill 12, Burlington Iowa 13, Platten Mo 8, Sullivan Ill 7, St. Louis Mo (Danish) 63, Mormon Grove Kansas (Danish) 39, Weston Mo (Danish) 40

October 15: Orson Spencer dies, called the “President of the Church ... in the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys.”⁷⁹

November 14: John Taylor arrives from Utah, on his way to NYC. Apparently his original call was only to preside over the eastern states, but with the death of Orson Spencer, “the charge of this, as well as the eastern country, necessarily devolves upon me.”⁸⁰

December 15: *Luminary* is shutting down because Erastus Snow isn’t coming back soon and because the *Mormon* (ed. John Taylor) will be covering all the United States

1856

1856-01-09: in discussion of emigration, “. . . a hand cart company formed **in this branch** . . .”⁸¹
Was St. Louis still considered a single branch consisting of multiple wards, or is this just the generic use of the term?

1856-03-06: In relation to stake high councilors facing disciplinary courts, “the Pres’t said, all high councilors were under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of the ward [in which they live], the Bp being the local authority. . .”⁸²

1856-03-29: letter from John Taylor (NYC) to James Hart on various stake matters. Clearly the NYC apostle still has authority over the stake. Cincinnati and Texas Conferences mentioned, but it is not clear whether Hart has any authority over them or just helping. Erastus Snow still expected to return; replace officers to keep stake organized⁸³

1856-04-05 Priesthood meeting; reports from St. Louis wards, Gravois Ward (including Dry Hill), Alton Ward, Branch at Kingston mines, Burlington Danish, Springfield. Mention of Brewsterism and Gladdenism creeping in some branches⁸⁴

1856-04-06 Stake Conference⁸⁵

- John Taylor, “President of the Church in these United States,” James H. Hart as stake president, counselors, high council

⁷⁹ Obituary of Orson Spencer, *St. Louis Luminary*, V.1 #48 (20 Oct 1855) p.190

⁸⁰ To the Saints in the United States and Canada, *St. Louis Luminary*, V.1 #51 (25 Nov 1855) p.202, <https://archive.org/details/StLouisLuminary18541855/page/n204/mode/1up>

⁸¹ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.327

⁸² *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.343

⁸³ John Taylor, letter to James H. Hart 29 March 1856, *James H. Hart papers*, Correspondence, p.35, Church History Library MS 1223 folder 1, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/5c678831-b6a4-4a54-99c4-b7431b6c8e9e/0/34>

⁸⁴ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.356

⁸⁵ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, pp.362-382; *The Mormon* V.2 #11 (May 3 1856) p.1, <https://archive.org/details/TheMormon18551857/page/n249/mode/1up>

- Bishops: stake presiding bishop, 1&2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 [Gravois], 8 [Alton]. 9th (Danish) *Danish is now a ward!*
- Organized Burlington Conference for Danish branches in eastern Iowa
- Missionaries sent to Council Bluffs, Iowa; new president of Cincinnati conference “recommended to John Taylor”
- Charles Edwards replaces Thomas Harris as bishop of the Stake
- Presidents called for Danish saints in Alton, Keokuk/Montrose/Quincy neighborhood (no conference name given), Cincinnati Conference, Pomeroy Branch, Belfontaine Branch, Kingston Branch (Peoria Co. Ill.)
- Reports from Bellvue Branch (Calhoun Co. Ill.), Otto Creek Branch (Mich.), Cherokee Nation
- Membership: St. Louis (6 wards) 1063, Gravois 244, Dry Hill 62, Alton 133, Centreville 10, Burlington IA 10, Quincy IL 25, Cincinnati 177, Pomeroy OH 43, Cannelton IN 8, Fairfield IN 15, Springfield IL 24, Belfontaine 37, Keokuk 54, Calhoun Co. IL 19, Bluff City 100, Indian Creek IA 12, Kingston IL 17, Maquoketa 7, Atchison/Mormon Grove 28, Jacksonville IL 7, Platten MO 2, Sullivan IL 3, Pecan Point AR 9, Savannah MO 8, Rockport MO 5, Nishnabotna IA 16, St. Joseph MO 27, Sipsy AL 49, Cold Water TN 4, Duck River TN 12, Cedar Grove IA 13, Alquina IN 8, Carisco WI 8, Marion IL 25, Otto Creek MI 10, St. Louis Danish (Ward) 123, Alton Danish 78, Mormon Grove Danish 28, Keokuk Danish 31, Burlington Danish 38, Union Township Danish (IA?) 26, Channel Creek Danish (IA?) 12, St. Louis Italian 21

1856-05-17: Gravois and Alton still have bishops⁸⁶

END OF RECORD BOOK 2

BEGINNING OF RECORD BOOK 3 (LR 12388 23 f3)

1856-06-04: Priesthood meeting lists 1&2, 3, 4, 5, 6 wards, plus “Danish Saints” with a bishop; new members of high council include men from Gravois and Alton⁸⁷

1856-06-23: letter Hart to BY. Erastus Snow returns to assume regional presidency; branch organized at Caseyville.⁸⁸

1856-07-02: Priesthood meeting, report of recent organization of branches in “Pomeroy and vicinity,” [Ohio] combating influence of Strangism there. Branches not itemized (*I have some evidence of 4 branches in that vicinity: Pomeroy OH, Minersville, OH, Syracuse OH, Mason City WV*). Report of organization of Crab Orchard Branch (Kentucky? Tennessee?) of 7 rebaptized members⁸⁹

1856-10-05: Stake Conference⁹⁰.

⁸⁶ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1852-1856*, p.398

⁸⁷ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.2 Church History Library LR 12388 23 folder 3, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/2e90bfe7-6c3d-4dd1-b7a3-9b0b9b5677e3/0/0>

⁸⁸ James H. Hart, letter to Brigham Young 23 June 1856, *Brigham Young Office Files*, Incoming Correspondence, General Letters, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 24 folder 20, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d2fc7362-d9ad-4127-ace0-8f1dd4b80924/0/0>

⁸⁹ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.11-12

⁹⁰ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.22; St. Louis Stake, *The Mormon*, V.2 #37 (1 Nov 1856) p.2, <https://archive.org/details/TheMormon18551857/page/n354/mode/1up>

- Erastus Snow “President of the Churches in the Western States”, Hart as SP with counselors, Charles Edwards Presiding Bishop
- Branches not itemized in The Mormon, but bishops sustained for 1st & 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th (Danish). Presidents sustained for Cincinnati and Burlington Conferences.
- Membership: St. Louis 628, Gravois 201, Dry Hill 58, Alton 119, Keokuk 50, Atcheson 5, Quincy 14, Caseyville 29, Cincinnati 101, Delaware 14, Cannelton 8, Bellfontaine 21, Saint John’s 20 [represented by bishop of Gravois and Dry Hill], Crab Orchard 18, Fairfield 13, Calhoun 10, Florence 66. DANISH: Omaha 25, Burlington 52, Keokuk 35, Union Township 23, Alton 25, Atcheson 30, St. Louis 66. Total 1643

1856-12-03: Priesthood meeting⁹¹ P.P. Pratt visiting, on his way to the Southern States; Caseyville Branch reported

1857

30 January: Brigham Young writes Erastus Snow, informs him “we have deemed it proper to release you from the onerous duties of your position, and have again nominated **????**”

1857-02-07 Priesthood meeting: “Bishop Brindley reported the Alton Branch...”⁹²

March 2: First Presidency announces “we hereby nominate and appoint Brother Horace S. Eldredge to the presidency of the Church in St. Louis and district, to preside in said city.”⁹³

1857-04-01 Priesthood meeting: Elders sent to “visit the Alton, Gravois, and Dry Hill Branches”⁹⁴ possibly just an oversight.

1857-04-04 St. Louis Stake Conference:⁹⁵ (Mormon 3:11:3, LR 12388 23 V.2 p.71)

- Apostle George A. Smith visiting, along with several missionaries from Utah; first preaching of the Reformation
- Erastus Snow as President of the Churches in the Western States, James H. Hart as president of the St. Louis Stake, Charles Edwards as Presiding Bishop. Wards and 8 ward bishops (not itemized). John Allen appears to have replaced John Yates as bishop of 7th/Gravois Ward. Missionaries sent to Tennessee and Georgia
- Acknowledges several vacancies will soon occur as leaders leave for the west, but when President Snow’s “successor from the Valley” arrives [Horace Eldredge], he will settle any unfinished business.

Stake records book stops abruptly in the middle of sustainings, followed by 5 blank pages. Next entry is August 5th 1859

⁹¹ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.44

⁹² *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.57

⁹³ Brigham Young, open letter 2 March 1857, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks*, V.3, p.446, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/99279f54-9c69-41a1-ac5d-e6069f9a2920/0/945>

⁹⁴ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.70

⁹⁵ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.71; Minutes, *The Mormon*, V.3 #11 (May 2 1857), p.3, <https://archive.org/details/TheMormon18551857/page/n456/mode/1up>

April 27: Horace S. Eldredge arrives in St. Louis⁹⁶ Snow is still in town.

May 19: Erastus Snow leaves for Keokuk.

June 9: Council mtg for Alton? Branch, pres. Thomas Hunt.⁹⁷ *This may be Coal Branch, not Alton. The fact that it has a chapel and Pres. Hunt seems to match the Coal Branch mentioned on October 31*

1857-06-11 James Hart, Erastus Snow, and John Taylor depart St. Louis for Utah.⁹⁸ [all replaced by Eldredge]

During his second administration, Eldredge appears to travel around a lot to oversee the emigration routes, starting with a trip in June 1857 to Florence.

July 19: Eldredge preaches at service in the 6th Ward (so they are having separate meetings)⁹⁹

July 24: Horace Eldredge (new regional president) writes BY: "The few saints that remain here are getting along very well, and are endeavoring to live their religion; they hold their small meetings in their respective wards, having no place for general meetings at present."¹⁰⁰

August: Eldredge travels to Washington DC and NYC

August 8: BY writes Horace Eldredge about the threat of war.¹⁰¹ "I wish you brother Horace, as soon as possible to close our business operations in St. Louis...Instruct the Saints to 'gather' while they have the opportunity...You are at liberty to come home." *Apparently, he does not leave for a while*

August 23: Eldredge attends services in 3rd and 6th Wards¹⁰²

August 28: Eldredge visits members in Bellefontaine, attends meeting in 4th & 5th Ward¹⁰³ [now combined?]

August 30: Eldredge preaches at services in Gravois and Dry Hill (separate)¹⁰⁴

Sep 6: Eldredge attends service in 6th Ward¹⁰⁵

⁹⁶ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1856 October -1857 July*, p.60, Church History Library MS 1210, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/be0111ac-8cc7-44aa-ab9e-288b6276027a/0/59>

⁹⁷ *Alton Branch Minute Book 1857-1859*, p.1, Church History Library LR 10602 21, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/b8da7a94-9c43-471d-bd5b-fee20c3299cf/0/2>. This book never mentions the name of its branch.

⁹⁸ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1856 October -1857 July*, p.74, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/be0111ac-8cc7-44aa-ab9e-288b6276027a/0/73>

⁹⁹ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1856 October -1857 July*, p.99, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/be0111ac-8cc7-44aa-ab9e-288b6276027a/0/98>

¹⁰⁰ Horace Eldredge, letter to Brigham Young 24 July 1857, *Brigham Young Office Files, Incoming Correspondence, General Letters, Dr-E 1857*, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 25 folder 15, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=6badb88b-d83a-467e-a19c-b05d5d70f964>

¹⁰¹ Brigham Young, letter to Horace Eldredge 8 August 1857, *Brigham Young Office Files, Letterbooks, V.3*, p.770, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 6, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets?id=99279f54-9c69-41a1-ac5d-e6069f9a2920>

¹⁰² Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1857 July-1858 March*, p.26, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/25>

¹⁰³ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1857 July-1858 March*, p.27, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/26>

¹⁰⁴ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1857 July-1858 March*, p.27, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/26>

¹⁰⁵ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1857 July-1858 March*, p.30, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/29>

Sep 12: Eldredge visits a “branch at DuQuoin Ill. 100 miles away”¹⁰⁶ (DuQuoin)
 September-October: Eldredge takes a trip to Council Bluffs
 Oct 18: Eldredge meets with saints in Iowa City (no mention of branch)¹⁰⁷
 Oct 31: Eldredge visits saints at Alton and the nearby “Coal Branch” (pres. T. Hunts)¹⁰⁸ *Coal Branch is the name of a creek north of Alton, and possibly a village along it, but this is clearly referring to it as a church branch that has its own chapel.*
 Nov 6: Eldredge returns to DuQuoin¹⁰⁹
 Nov 28: Eldredge mentions meetings at Dry Hill, 5th Ward, 6th Ward¹¹⁰
 Dec 6: Eldredge visits Keokuk, mentions a few members but no branch¹¹¹ Also Nauvoo and Carthage. Visits a couple members in Quincy but no mention of branch
 19 Dec: Eldredge speaks in 5th Ward and Dry Hill¹¹²
Eldredge is working most closely with John Coward, who is also visiting outlying branches. Is Coward the Stake/Branch/Conference president, or just his secretary/clerk?

Sometime between June 1857 and August 1859, the St. Louis Stake is discontinued, and the 6 wards are merged into a single St. Louis Branch.

1858

Jan 20-21: Eldredge visits Gravois Branch, pres. Allen¹¹³
 Jan-Feb: Eldredge travels to Chicago, Buffalo, New York (Wm Appleby), Philadelphia (Angus M. Cannon), Washington (Bernhisel), Cincinnati (Branch Pres. Bean)¹¹⁴
 March: Eldredge travels to Independence
 21 March: Eldredge attends services in 4th and 6th wards¹¹⁵
 28 March: Eldredge visits Duquoin Branch (70-80 members)¹¹⁶

¹⁰⁶ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1857 July-1858 March*, p.33,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/32>

¹⁰⁷ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1857 July-1858 March*, p.49,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/25>

¹⁰⁸ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1857 July-1858 March*, p.53,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/52>

¹⁰⁹ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1857 July-1858 March*, p.56,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/55>

¹¹⁰ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1857 July-1858 March*, p.60-61,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/59>

¹¹¹ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1857 July-1858 March*, p.64,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/63>

¹¹² Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1857 July-1858 March*, p.74,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/73>

¹¹³ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1857 July-1858 March*, p.81,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/80>

¹¹⁴ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1857 July-1858 March*, p.84-108,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/83>

¹¹⁵ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1857 July-1858 March*, p.122,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/121>

¹¹⁶ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1857 July-1858 March*, p.124,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/123>

April 13: On a trip to Iowa, Eldredge reorganizes the Iowa City Branch, replacing Pres. Williams with John Taylor¹¹⁷

May 16: Eldredge visits the 4th and 6th wards¹¹⁸

June 6: Eldredge meets with saints in Genoa Nebraska (a pioneer staging point), but no mention of an organized branch¹¹⁹

July-September: Eldredge temporarily returns to SLC then back to St. Louis

October 1: JW Coward writes Horace Eldredge.¹²⁰ *Contents are almost exclusively financial and business related, nothing ecclesiastical, suggesting that Coward is still more a clerk than a president.*

October 3: Conference:¹²¹ John W. Coward presiding. Local authorities sustained but not itemized, 24 branches including “what was called the Cincinnati Conference,” 1164 members, not itemized. *This suggests that the St. Louis Stake is gone, but the current organization is unclear.*

November: Eldredge visits Chicago

November 12: John W. Coward writes Brigham Young, mentions that Horace Eldredge is on a trip to Chicago.¹²² Signs “H.S. Eldredge & J.W. Coward” *This makes it unclear if Coward is president or just pro tem for Eldredge*

December-March: Eldredge goes east to Cincinnati, Buffalo (family), NYC (TBH Stenhouse), Philadelphia (GQ Cannon, speaks in the branch), Chicago

1859

Feb 4: John W. Coward writes Brigham Young, mentions Horace Eldredge, suggesting that he is still presiding, but seems to be traveling a lot.¹²³

¹¹⁷ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1858 April-July*, pp.15-17,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/14>

¹¹⁸ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1858 April-July*, pp.28,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/27>

¹¹⁹ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1858 April-July*, pp.42,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/9a2d4137-51e1-49de-9f86-b518f7a61ee9/0/41>

¹²⁰ John W. Coward, letter to Horace S. Eldredge 1 Oct 1858, *Horace S. Eldredge papers*, Correspondence, Church History Library MS 1210 box 3 folder 6,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/2f1b1b8d-6df2-4cd8-8677-3cd80efaead1/0/0>

¹²¹ John W. Coward, letter to Brigham Young 21 Oct 1858, *Brigham Young Office Files*, Incoming Correspondence, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 26 folder 7,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/34570307-aa4a-4f77-90b1-9774ad8e6ccc/0/2>

¹²² John W. Coward, letter to Brigham Young 12 Nov 1858, *Brigham Young Office Files*, Incoming Correspondence, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 26 folder 7,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/145e6099-39ef-498d-8842-5382d85f2a3e/0/0>

¹²³ John W. Coward, letter to Brigham Young 4 Feb 1859, *Brigham Young Office Files*, Incoming Correspondence, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 26 folder 19,
<https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/d9065b3d-424c-4355-afa1-e1c5ae7a0cca/0/0>

April 9: John W. Coward writes Brigham Young, mentions his plans to emigrate, necessitating a "good sound man to preside here, with two counsellors, for the St. Louis Branch," "Thomas Salisbury will be the new president of Branch."¹²⁴

April 23: Horace S. Eldredge leaves St. Louis for Salt Lake¹²⁵

July 16: last Council mtg in Alton/Coal Branch book, still pres. Thomas Hunt.¹²⁶

BOOK RESTARTS 1859-08-03

1859-08-05 "Council Meeting" of the St. Louis **Branch**.¹²⁷ Branch is reorganized with new president Thomas Salisbury (former bishop of 1st&2nd Wards) and counselors as previous president J.W. Coward (former stake clerk) has emigrated. Elders (not bishops) sustained to "preside over the saints meeting in the" 1st Ward, 2nd Ward, and 3rd Ward. Are these still ecclesiastical wards, or just municipal wards?

1859-08-29 Council Meeting.¹²⁸ Wards are divided into sections: 1st into 2, 2nd into 4, 3rd not divided, with Elders presiding over each.

Next several months, council meetings have report from the 7 ward-sections, no mention of any place outside St. Louis.

1860

1860-01-30 Council Mtg.¹²⁹ mentions visiting "the saints at Belville." George Cannon (not present) sustained as "President of the Eastern & Western Mission."

1861

1861-05-12 St. Louis Branch reorganized, as the presidency were emigrating; Charles J. Cram new president¹³⁰

1861-09-19 visitor from Bellville reports on the "Saints at that place"¹³¹

1861-10-01 Branch is re-subdivided into 5 Sections with 2 visitors or teachers each; no more "Wards"¹³²

1861-11-24 "Elder Wareham said he was appointed by the President of the States, Bro. McAllister, to preside over this the Saint Louis Conference"¹³³

¹²⁴ John W. Coward, letter to Brigham Young 9 April 1859, *Brigham Young Office Files*, Incoming Correspondence, Church History Library CR 1234 1 box 26 folder 19, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/62e58cb1-27f8-469b-94d0-3300b72bd1eb/0/2>

¹²⁵ Horace S. Eldredge, *Diary 1858 September-1859 May*, p.69, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/fad7d2a9-48bc-440c-b2f3-c233810b0580/0/68>

¹²⁶ *Alton Branch Minute Book 1857-1859*, p.52, Church History Library LR 10602 21, <https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/assets/b8da7a94-9c43-471d-bd5b-fee20c3299cf/0/51>. This book never mentions the name of its branch.

¹²⁷ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.80

¹²⁸ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.81

¹²⁹ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.88

¹³⁰ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.116

¹³¹ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.122

¹³² *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.123

¹³³ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.126

1861-12-22 Elder Wareham went to Gravois, found a few willing to be rebaptized, and organized it as a district of St. Louis Branch with a president.¹³⁴

1862

1862-01-12 President of Gravois District reports¹³⁵

1862-06-12 encouraging everyone to emigrate, ends with "The rest of the saints was left in charge of Bro. Isaac Dunford who was appointed President of the Saint Louis Branch by Elder James Wareham and the sanction of said Branch."¹³⁶

END OF RECORD BOOK 3

James Wareham Journal #2: (HBLL MSS SC 129)

"Saturday the 15th 1862 St[.] Louis Mo[.] Went to visit the gravois Branch..."

"Friday 28th went to the coal Branch..."

"...went to the gravois to visit that Branch Sunday Met with the Branch and preached..." (pg. 21)

There are dozens of pages in this journal that cover the two years James Wareham spent on a mission. I only briefly skimmed through a few of the pages. There was also mention of Saints in Pittsburgh and Alma. -Kyle Burgess

1863

1863-09-12: St. Louis and Alton Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints ((R)LDS) created, but branches not listed

1864-02-07: St. Louis Branch of (R)LDS organized with 18 members after reconverting some of the Brighamite branch. Also holding meetings in Carondelet, Gravois, and Blue Ridge [which is just south of Dry Hill].

1864-04-06: General Conference of the (R)LDS in Amboy, Illinois, reports St. Louis Conference: Blue Ridge, Dry Hill, St. Louis Missouri, Alton, Caseyville, Illinoistown, Ill. 68 members. Henry Cuerdon says that when he first came to St. Louis in December 1863, preaches at the Brighamite branch, converts many, enough to organize a branch of 7 wards there. Also organized branch in Blue Ridge (Welsh); suggests that LDS branch. (*The True Latter-Day-Saints' Herald*, V. 5 #8, p.121 <http://latterdaytruth.org/pdf/100141.pdf>)

July 1864 (R)LDS branch organized in Bellville, Ill. 10 members, mostly welsh reconverts

25 June 1864: Conference of (R)LDS St. Louis Conference. St. Louis 61, Blue Ridge 42, Caseyville 13, Belleville 8 (*Herald* V.6 #3 p.44 <http://latterdaytruth.org/pdf/100173.pdf>)

1864 August? (R)LDS branch of 16 organized in Gravois (*Herald* V.6#6 p.95).

1864-09-24: Conference of (R)LDS St. Louis Conference. St. Louis 88/117, Blue Ridge 31/40, Gravois 18/23, Belleville 10/16, Dry Hill 20/26, Alton 5/7 (not sure if "members" includes

¹³⁴ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.129

¹³⁵ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.130

¹³⁶ *Saint Louis Stake historical record, 1856-1860*, p.140

priesthood offices or not). (*Herald V.6#12 p.181*). Also mentions Caseyville, Alma Mines, Bethalto, but not as branches per se.

1864 Fall: David M. Stuart sent to St. Louis to reorganize the St. Louis LDS Branch (Woods 65)

1866-November: St. Louis Conference and Branch reorganized (*Deseret News V.16* (1867-02-13 p.53 "Report of Elders Lorenzo D. Rudd and E.W. Tullidge")

Branch continues through ups and downs until today (Woods)