1999

A New Town in the Valley: The Centennial History of Newton, Utah 1869-1969

Larry D. Christiansen

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A NEW TOWN IN THE VALLEY

The Centennial History of

Newton, Utah

1869–1969

Larry D. Christiansen

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Logan, Utah
In 1969 Newton celebrates its centennial and in commemoration of its first hundred years this history is intended. This work salutes the citizens of this small Mormon town, past and present, for their accomplishments.

The author has tried, to the best of his ability, to use contemporary accounts as the foundation for this history, and using secondary works to supplement the information found in primary works or to fill gaps when no other information was available. The author is aware of contradictions between this work and the diverse accounts written by other townspeople. Some of the contradictions are covered in detailed form. The author found early in his research that histories written many years after events occurred were interesting and informative but suffered from omissions and in many cases were inaccurate.

A word of caution is also extended, the names found in this work were not the only ones who did things worthy of noting, but the author was restricted in gathering all accounts and had to rely on the available accounts. This also accounts for some events being covered in greater detail than others.

The author has used a combination chronological-topical approach in order to give the work greater depth than a mere series of dates or chapters on one particular subject such as reservoir or school. But in two or three cases the author has covered the same topic in two different ways, first as part of the main story; then feeling there was some justification for a topical approach, he wrote an account just on topic, covering it from beginning to end. In this second account there is a little duplication, which the author feels is necessary. The last section of the book entitled "Miscellaneous," includes the topical coverages plus numerous stories of Newton people and events.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I express sincere gratefulness to my grandfather who joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints over the objections of his parents and migrated to Utah while a youth of ten years of age. This boy, disowned by his parents, came to make Newton his home after a short stay in Richmond. Newton became the home of his son, and thus as a grandson, I too call Newton home.

I would like to thank the members of the staff at the Church Historian's Office in Salt Lake City for their co-operation and patience. Special thanks are rendered to those who wrote the biographies of the bishops, making this worthy contribution to the book.

Appreciation is extended to those who assisted me in confirming dates, identifying pictures, and giving me access to materials in their possession. Special recognition is given to Alvin Christiansen, Eva Benson, Jack and Ella Benson, Grant Larsen, and Maud B. Jorgensen.

Finally, my thanks is expressed to my family for their patience and support while writing this history.
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CHAPTER I

THE PIONEER ERA

Introduction

The settlement of Utah began in 1847 by a large group of people seeking religious freedom. This group, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, suffering persecution and being forced to leave Illinois, decided to find and establish their "kingdom" in a region so barren and desolate that no one else would want it. Upon reaching their "promised land," they found an arid and isolated area but visualized a Mormon "kingdom" extending far beyond their settlement in the Salt Lake Valley. This "kingdom" needed to be extensive due to the limited agricultural possibilities to the area and the desire of the Mormons to be entirely self-sufficient.

The expanding "kingdom" suffered a setback when misunderstandings arose between the Federal Government and the Mormons. The dispatching of a United States Army to Utah in 1857 caused the Mormons to call in their outlying settlements to defend the central portion of their "kingdom."

After the Utah War, many Mormons, who had given up their homes during the war scare, sought greener pastures for settlement. Some of these settlers emigrated to Cache Valley in the early 1860's. This rush of colonists was intermixed with new emigrants from Europe who were sent by the Church to inhabit the same region. The valley's population rapidly increased, the new settlers needed land, and the Indians considered them as trespassers. The more they encroached upon Indian lands, the more dangerous the situation became. When the Indians began to steal or drive away the settlers' animals,

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1 Hereafter the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be called either the Mormon Church or the Church. Members of this Church will be referred to by the commonly accepted nicknames of "Mormons" or "Saints;" non-Mormons will be frequently referred to as "Gentiles." The writer assumes that the reader of this paper will be familiar with the ecclesiastical terms used herein.

mutual distrust led to several clashes. The predicament worsened to the extent that the Mormons, fearing Indian attacks, did not dare settle some of the more remote areas of the valley. But the continuing influx of people pressed upon the land in established areas. Inevitably, the Indians resorted to force, killing a number of Mormon men. In 1863 the government dispatched 500 soldiers to Battle Creek, near present day Preston, Idaho. Here the Indians were soundly beaten, receiving over 360 fatalities with some escaping. 3

The defeat of the Indians loosed the pent up ambitions and hopes of the settlers. They began to select and occupy locations previously considered unsafe. In quick succession settlements were established at Clarkston, Oxford, Weston, Clifton, and Dayton. This left Cache Valley with a string of settlements on both the East Side and West Side of the valley. The availability of water flowing out of the mountains encouraged this pattern of settlement. The areas not adjacent to the mountain streams were the last to be settled. Newton became one of the first settlements in this final phase of colonization in Cache Valley. 4

A new town in the valley

The genesis of Newton is inseparably connected with that of her neighbor and parent to the north—Clarkston. The first settlement of the Clarkston area followed the same pattern found generally in Cache Valley. The people in Richmond were attracted by the rich meadows along the bottomlands adjacent to the Clarkston Creek and recognized the possibilities for better grazing land and more area for farming. In the summer of 1864, a townsite was surveyed and dedicated, and Israel J. Clark was "called" to take a small group of settlers to form the new village, later named in his honor. In the next four years, Clarkston experienced both achievements and setbacks. The pioneers erected a log church

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and schoolhouse in 1865, but their crops froze and many of their cattle died from poisonous weeds. In 1866 the Indians appeared to be more threatening and forced the settlers to move to the East Side of the valley for protection. Groups of armed men returned to farm their lands until the Indian threat had subsided the next year allowing Clarkston's reoccupation. But being more cautious, the settlers abandoned the old townsite and built their dwellings in the form of a fort. The Clarkston Fort, being located on bottomland, was subjected to frequent flooding as spring runoff and thunderstorms caused the creek to overflow its banks.

In spite of the repeated setbacks and hardships, the settlers remained undaunted and determined to make a success of their settlement. In the spring of 1867, Israel J. Clark was appointed as an Indian interpreter and moved to Logan. His son Jesse took his place as the ecclesiastical leader of the settlement. By fall Clarkston, having grown to the sufficient size, was organized into a ward. William F. Rigby, who played a major and controversial role in the relocation of the Clarkston settlers, was called to leave his home in Wellsville, Utah, and became the first bishop of Clarkston. He was born in England in 1833, joined the Church when fifteen, and immigrated to Utah when twenty. The relatively young bishop began to expand the community under his charge. In 1868 with the support of his people, he had more land surveyed and made it available for new settlers to build up and "strengthen the place." In the latter part of November, the schoolhouse was repaired, and a month later, a tax of 1 per cent was levied on all taxable property to "fit up" the school and make it ready for the winter session. It appeared from all their improvements that they were not anticipating a move to a new location but were preparing for

5 Ricks, The History of a Valley, pp. 60-61.

6 William F. Rigby went by his mother's name--Littlewood--until 1877 when he changed his name to Rigby. The people of Clarkston continued to call him Littlewood for several years after he changed his name. A family story relates that Brigham Young encouraged him to change his name. In 1884 he moved into the Snake River country of Idaho and became an influential man in the area. The town of Rigby, Idaho, was named in his honor.
the further growth of Clarkston.  

Between the last of December, 1868, and February, 1869, something happened to change the sentiments of the settlers and made them want to change locations. In late February of 1869 it was decided that Clarkston would have to be relocated and that preliminary steps be taken to locate a better place. Accordingly, during the last week of February the men from Clarkston began breaking a road south from their settlement. After two days of breaking road through drifts of snow, they reached the southern slope of the benchland south of Clarkston. On Sunday afternoon, February 28, the men from Clarkston journeyed to a promising site that they had located. Here Bishop William F. Rigby presided at a meeting attended by most of the Clarkston men to discuss the possibility of moving the settlement to the present site now occupied by Newton. After discussing the issue, a vote was taken in which 29 men favored relocation while only three opposed. Those in favor of the move noted that in the spring there was usually 29 inches of snow at the Clarkston Fort while the south slope of the area under consideration was free of snow and the fields were beginning to turn green. The apparent cause for moving to Newton involved the earlier melting of the snow, but underlying causes included such factors as dissatisfaction with the illness and floods experienced at the Clarkston Fort, remoteness which would be lessened somewhat by a move to Newton since Clarkston was virtually cut off by drifting snow much of the winter, and the strong

7 Clarkston Ward Historical Record Book "A" (in LDS Church Archives, Salt Lake City, Utah), pp. 28-30. Hereafter referred to as Clarkston Book "A." The minute book has no entries from January 3, 1869, to March 14, 1869, so no insight is given as to the reason for the move.

leadership of Bishop Rigby who took the lead in all decisions and plannings that dealt with the relocation. His successor, Bishop Smith of Clarkston, suggested that Rigby was fully responsible for making the choice to move and in persuading the people to accept the new location.  

On March 4 the men met again at the recommended location and since those present were still of a mind to move, they decided to get the consent of their leaders in the Cache Stake. The stake authorities were notified and a meeting was arranged for the end of the week. On March 6, under the direction of Stake President Peter Maughan and Presiding Bishop William B. Preston, the people of Clarkston turned out "in mass" and located a new settlement for the people of Clarkston Fort. The clerk of the Clarkston Ward recorded the visit as follows:

President Peter Maughan and Bishop W. B. Preston had been over and fixed upon a new location for Clarkston City situated about 5 miles south of the present city and it was also determined that the new location shall be called Newton. Bishop W. B. Preston gave it the new name.

On March 9, another meeting was held at the proposed site for "Newton;" those in attendance having agreed to move to the new place. The bishop was directed to select the townsite, and the location of the public square was determined and marked off with stakes. The following Monday, James H. Martineau, the county surveyor, began his work. For three weeks he laid out the townsite—a number of five-acre lots in the North Field, ten-acre lots in the South Field, and five-acre lots along the meadow land on the banks of Bear River.

Preparatory to moving anyone to Newton, on March 14 a regulation was

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10 In the early days there was a presiding bishop over Cache Valley who resided in Logan and presided over all the other bishops in the valley. He served the smaller geographical area much the same as the Presiding Bishop of the Church serves all the bishops today. W. B. Preston became the fourth Presiding Bishop of the whole Church in April of 1884.


12 Rigby, p. 256.
passed by the settlers of Clarkston with respect to the land and water policy to be followed. As an added inducement to relocate themselves, the settlers were promised more land at Newton. Each settler who would give up ten acres in Clarkston would receive five acres in the North Field and ten acres in the South Field at Newton. Likewise, anyone giving up fifteen acres at the old settlement would receive five acres in the North Field and twenty acres in the South Field. They also unanimously resolved that the people would give up their claim to water in the Clarkston area, and the water would be diverted to Newton. Any surplus of water could still be used at the old settlement. 13

The Clarkston area was intended as a reserve "for pasture and to try dry farming." The reserve area was to be held and run as a communal project under the direction of the Church leaders. No man would be allowed to own more land then he could profitably farm. 14

With an established base at Clarkston consisting of homes, church, schoolhouse, and farm land either already planted with fall grain or ready for spring crops, it was decided to have some people move to Newton and some remain in Clarkston--both groups working to accomplish a gradual relocation of the community to the new townsite. The leaders felt this would alleviate hardships that could arise if the whole settlement moved to a new area with only a few months time to break ground and plant crops to provide their food, dig ditches to get the water to their fields, build homes for their families and provide facilities for Church and school large enough for the whole settlement. 15

The movement of the entire settlement from Clarkston to Newton was supposed to be accomplished by the end of 1870. Those settlers who were not changing their residency in 1869 went to Newton and dug the "main water ditch" in May and June. The June 9, 1869, entry in the Clarkston Church record stated: "Resolved that we go and finish the Newton water ditch tomorrow." The men at Clarkston also examined all the springs in the region to ensure the maximum

14 Rigby, pp. 253–256.
amount of water for the new settlement. This work by the men at Clarkston was not an act of charity but the following year they, as well as everyone else, were supposed to benefit from their efforts.16

The establishment of the sawmill was much the same story. John Stoddard and William Haslem brought a sawmill from Wellsville and set it up in Block 27 of the townsite (north of Wesley Peterson's). It was to be powered by the water in the slough; however, the mill itself was not in the slough bed but placed in a hollow east of the slough depression. Now a mill dam to store water and a mill race to bring the water to the mill with a fall had to be constructed. Once again Bishop Rigby called on his Clarkston brethren to go down to Newton and assist in digging the mill race for the sawmill. A "great number" of the Clarkston men worked on the mill race in November of 1869. On December 8, 1869, the owners of the newly completed mill offered it for sale. Bishop Rigby had a committee appointed "to purchase the sawmill for the brethren of Clarkston." The mill was purchased and made a part of the Clarkston Co-operative store--store founded May 7, 1869. Again all of this occurred because Newton was to be the settlement for all the people. When the Clarkston people did not relocate themselves, they retained the controlling interest in the sawmill, but the mill was never a benefit to them. As early as February 6, 1871, they resolved themselves to "sell or dispose of the mill if possible" for it "was altogether unprofitable and had already injured the store to a great extent." In fact, the Clarkston people blamed the sawmill for the partial failure of their Co-op store.17

Just to finish the story about the sawmill, for a nominal fee Clarkston induced Newton to take it off their hands. The Newton sawmill was also run as a co-operative affair but never very successful. When it worked, it did cut a little lumber and the first floors and doors that graced the log cabins came from its efforts. As far as the mill itself, the following two quotes sum it up:

16 Ibid., pp. 39-42. The record is not clear as to whether the Clarkston men dug the water ditch by themselves or if those who had moved to Newton helped them. Possibly those who were changing locations at this time had all the work they could handle in building homes, breaking a little ground and getting crops planted.

17 Ibid., pp. 45, 49-50, 70-71.
We had a mill dam that formed a sort of reservoir around the mill. The saw went up and down rather than around so a pit was dug. (One man would stand in the pit with a man above him, but it was a regular saw mill).

It was an upright mill run by water power, but as there was insufficient water it was soon abandoned. The settlers called it 'up today and down tomorrow' because of the slowness of the saw, owing to insufficient power.

By 1875 the Newton Saints had given up on "up today and down tomorrow" and were seeking a sawmill where there was plenty of water power. They favored a site in the mountains of the east side of the valley and a number of men promised a donation of livestock "towards purchasing a sawmill for Newton." When they were unable to purchase one, they lowered their sights and in 1877 decided on taking only "an interest in a sawmill." It soon became evident that Newton did not need a sawmill or an interest in one. There were over 15 sawmills in the valley and they could and did supply the needed sawed lumber. A number of Newton men, including Bishop Rigby, did go into the sawmill business for themselves, but they largely served the railroads or other businesses and not Newton. 18

The residents of Clarkston passed school taxes, for both 1869 and 1870, to provide funds for a new schoolhouse in Newton the next year. A committee of five was designated as the "Newton Building Committee for the Building of the Newton School House," with Franklin W. Young, Josiah Barker, William Bell, James Myler and Hyrum Curtis as members. With the taxes and the number of people involved, an impressive rock schoolhouse was planned. In February of 1870, the residents of Clarkston agreed to two more policies that prepared the way for the complete abandonment of Clarkston and removal of all settlers to Newton. The first policy concerned obtaining a meeting house at Newton. They determined that the labor due on the canyon road for the years 1868, 1869, and 1870 would be made up by working on the proposed building. The second policy established part of the Newton South Field as a community farm. After holding

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a meeting with the settlers at Newton, thirty-six men from Newton and Clarkston agreed to farm 254 acres on the co-operative system. 19

Names of the brethren at Clarkston and Newton who agreed to cultivate land in the Newton Co-op Farm, 20

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In the spring of 1869 a few families moved from Clarkston and settled on the newly surveyed townsite. 21 New settlers to the region were encouraged to construct their homes in Newton since the Clarkston settlement would be abandoned in due time. Some of the new settlers went to Clarkston and stayed in their wagons or other temporary quarters until they could cut enough timber in the mountains above the town to build a log house at Newton. 22

Since the settlement was a planned affair, the more adventurous persons and those with the fewest ties in the old settlement moved during the first year. Some were sent whose services were needed in establishing a new settlement. Such

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20 Ibid., p. 54.
21 See Appendix A for list of settlers who moved the first year.
22 Interview with Meda Parker (Daughter of John Jenkins, one of the first settlers of Newton), October 23, 1966.
was the case of Amos Clarke who came from Salt Lake and built a blacksmith shop in the new settlement. His services were very important in building and repairing implements and equipment essential to breaking the land, digging ditches, constructing a sawmill and building homes. His work in the new community did not allow him to build a home immediately, and his family lived in the shop until a home was provided the following year. With the coming of spring in 1870, more settlers moved out of Clarkston and resettled in Newton along with several families from other locations. These settlers created the essentials of a community that could give aid and comfort to the larger group expected before fall. 23

The relocation did not come about without some objection. An element of protest arose as early as May of 1869 when four Clarkston men—George Davis, Simeon Smith, Andrew Heggie and John Godfrey—wrote a strong letter to the bishop objecting to the abandonment of Clarkston. The tone and content of the letter insulted the bishop who showed the letter to Apostle Ezra Taft Benson24 and Stake President Peter Maughan who were in turn much displeased with the letter and the brethren who wrote it. To resolve the problem, the bishop took time in Sacrament Meeting to read the letter to the congregation and to express the sentiments of Apostle Benson and President Maughan. Bishop Rigby called upon the letter writers to defend their positions and elaborate their criticism. They insisted they had not meant to insult the bishop but to show that "they were anxious to remain in Clarkston." Then the bishop required them to "make a public confession and acknowledgement and ask forgiveness for the wrong they had done" at the next Sacrament Meeting. The four brethren preferred not to wait and asked "to make the matter right with the bishop and people" at that time. They asked forgiveness and it was granted. From the original opposition to the move by the three men who voted against the move in February of 1869 until the letter of protest, it is


24 Apostle Benson lived in Cache Valley and presided over the Church in the valley. President Maughan was second in authority, being over the Cache Stake.
apparent that some contrariness existed. 25

On November 6, 1869, the previously described policy for land distribution in Newton was adopted, with apportionment scheduled by a public drawing. When the day came for the first selection of land in the new settlement, Bishop Rigby informed the people that further investigation had revealed an insufficient amount of "good land" to supply all the applicants under the original policy which favored those who gave up the most land in the Clarkston area. Instead, it was determined that no man would be allowed to hold more than twenty-five acres of farming land in Newton. 26

When Bishop Rigby reversed the land allotment policy by restricting the maximum amount of land, several of the Clarkston men had second thoughts and questioned the wisdom and desirability of moving. Why should a man who had more good land under cultivation in Clarkston give it up and compete with new settlers for twenty-five acres of land in Newton. Also, Newton did not have any lush meadows like Clarkston, and if some gave up their land to move to Newton, others might take over the rich meadows. While it was true that the lower part of the settlement would have to be abandoned, they still had much to show in homes and improved farming land for their five or six years in Clarkston. What would happen if they moved to Newton and some other group should settle on the Clarkston Creek between their new home and the mountains, jeopardizing their water supply. There were also promising lands for dry farming around the Clarkston area. With little prospects of owning more than twenty-five acres of good land in Newton, many saw that it was to their advantage to remain in Clarkston and keep their lands and let the future take care of itself. 27

During the spring of 1870, President Brigham Young and a party of Church leaders were traveling among the northern settlements giving encouragement and instructions. They came into Cache Valley and held a meeting at Newton in the bowery constructed for the occasion on June 8, 1870. President


26 Ibid., pp. 46-47.

Young was on an extended visit of the northern settlements and had not been called up to settle any dispute between Newton and Clarkston. Only Lorenzo Snow and John Taylor spoke to the people at Newton. Wilford Woodruff, one of the President's party, recorded that the instructions given at Newton were similar to those given to the Saints in other settlements. At this first meeting at Newton, the discussion did not concern the relocation or division of the Clarkston settlement.  

From Newton President Young and his group went to Clarkston and held a meeting. Some of the Clarkston men, not favoring the relocation of their settlement, chose to challenge the decision of their bishop and stake leaders. When they brought the issue before President Young, he upheld them in their desire to remain in the old settlement. He gave "permission" for some to remain in Clarkston but advised them to move to higher ground. He felt that the area could support both settlements. When the meeting was over, the President's party returned to Newton and held another meeting where President Young again delivered his opinion in regard to the two settlements. President Young and his party spent the night at Newton and early the next day they continued their journey north.  

Bishop Rigby had remained in Clarkston with the majority of his congregation during 1869 and 1870. After Brigham Young's visit determined that Clarkston was not to be abandoned, and since Bishop Rigby desired to move to Newton, he was released as Bishop of Clarkston on July 10, 1870, and with others relocated at Newton. Several who had moved to Newton returned to Clarkston.  

The settlers were an industrious lot. They built homes, a reservoir; dug irrigation canals for the community and water ditches to their own fields; planted, cultivated and harvested their crops; hauled wood for cooking and for

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28 The Deseret News, June 22, 1870.

29 Ibid. Clarkston Book "A," pp. 58-59. Rigby, p. 256. According to President Young's instructions, a committee was appointed at Clarkston on June 12, 1870, to locate the new part of the settlement.

winter; herded stock on the ranges; and constructed roads and bridges. In addition to providing for individual necessities, they were called to build a schoolhouse and meeting place. They were directed to live in towns, thus communal living fostered their religious and social activities and goals. They attempted to be self sufficient, because of both geographic necessity and religious direction. The settlement of Newton is typical of the basic Mormon pattern which highlighted the principles of communal living, co-operation and self sufficiency. These three principles are all related to and dependent upon one another, but for clarity they will be considered separately.  

Communal living

The establishment of Newton was accomplished by a religious group of people not by or for private gain but rather for the society. It was hoped that the new location would alleviate many of the problems that plagued them in the old settlement. When only a portion of the Clarkston settlement moved to Newton, the settlers did not make individual claims upon all the land, but reserved the unclaimed portion in anticipation of additional settlers who would arrive later.  

The residents of the community relied on their own muscle along with the faith and hope that they were doing the "Lord's work." Although experiencing hardships and failures, the people slowly but surely built a solid and lasting establishment. The residents of the West Side of Cache Valley soon discovered that their closest sources of timber, the Clarkston Mountains and the Clifton Basin, were inadequate for constructing buildings for several communities. The settlers of this area were forced to use the canyons on the East Side of the valley for timber and then haul it to their communities.  

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31 Ricks, Forms and Methods..., pp. 75, 93-96.
32 Rigby, pp. 255-256.
The first residences were of a mixed variety, some lived in dugouts, a couple in tents and a few claimed they spent their first winter in buildings designed for their animals. However, the most common home was a log house or cabin. They were usually one room and most of them had dirt floors and roofs. Quilts were more often than not used for covering windows and doorways. John Jenkins described his 1869 cabin as follows: "When the house was completed, it consisted of the rough log walls, dirt roof, and mother earth for a floor." Like most of the early houses the walls were not plastered and in many cases, mortar was not put between the logs. When the people got around to plastering the inside walls of their houses, they used willows in place of regular lath.\(^{34}\)

Heat for cooking and for warmth was provided by burning logs, but Newton experienced several years when an insufficient supply of logs had been carried out of the canyons so the people had to resort to burning sagebrush and willows, the two most abundant sources of fuel that could be obtained in Newton. Artificial light for the first cabins came from home made candles prepared from beef or sheep tallow. In the days before refrigeration the food was simple and much of it had to be smoked, cured, or dried. A favorite storage place for preserved foods was to hang the food from the rafters, here could be found bacon, cured hams, dried beef, and dried squash. The early years in a new settlement were rough whether they are judged by 1869 or 1969 standards, but the people went ahead and worked to improve their situation. One man in 1872 saw that their sacrifice and effort would not be in vain for he said:

After a settlement has been made a few years, homes built, fields fenced, roads made and orchards begin to bear fruit, the people have a little better time and are able to live a little easier.\(^{35}\)

Changes came as wooden floors began to replace mother earth under the feet of the settlers in their homes, and shingles replaced dirt on their roofs. Candles were replaced by coal oil lamps. Food came to be stored more and more in potato pits, shanties or cellars. But changes came slow in the nineteenth century


\(^{35}\) Barker, Letter, January of 1872.
and so settlers could still be urged to make improvements after the turn of the century. In 1903 Apostle M. W. Merrill came to Newton and exhorted her citizens to "improve their fences and do away with brush and wire fences around their homes. To plant lawns and improve their homes." In 1909 a Newton man wrote to the Logan newspaper stating that in Newton "log houses with dirt roof and willow fences are a thing of the past."  

Bishop W. F. Rigby, preparing to move his family to Newton, commenced a house in the summer of 1870. The house was constructed of logs, stood "one story and a half high" and was large for the times being eighteen by fifty-four feet. When the mason had just finished the chimney and only had to lay the hearth to complete the house, the mason decided to try the chimney to see if it would draw. The fire caught in the dry grass under the floor and the house burned down on Saturday, September 25, 1870. On the following Monday the Bishop commenced to erect a rockhouse upon the same location.  

A source of good building stone was discovered west of Newton. The Scandinavian and English settlers knew the art of building with stone, and this building material eased the demand on the short supply of timber. Bishop Rigby constructed the first rock house and in the spring of 1871, the Bishop was able to move his family into a substantial and commodious home across the road from the northwest corner of the Public Square. Soon several other settlers quarried stone, hauled it to town and constructed their houses from the sandstone of the Newton Quarry. Many of these houses stand today and have been continually inhabited. The rock houses were a big advancement over the small log houses. They were larger and more substantial than the log houses, giving better protection from the elements. They had wooden floors and shingled roofs instead of the dirt floors and sod roofs as were common in the log houses.  

38 The Utah Journal, September 22, 1882. Andrew Jenson, "History of Newton," (In the LDS Church Archives, Salt Lake City, Utah) Hovey, pp. 70, 111-112.
On July 18, 1870, Clarkston and Newton were organized into separate precincts for elections and government. The county court created the Newton Precinct with boundaries as follows:

To commence at a point due N. of and distant from the N. W. corner of the Newton public square 1 3/4 (one and three fourth miles); thence E. to Bear River; thence following the middle of the said river to where it passes through the Kanyon [sic] and then N. along the ridge dividing Cache & Box Elder Counties to the N. side of what is known as Maple Creek Kanyon [sic]; then E. to the place of beginning.39

With the establishment of a precinct, the inhabitants of Newton in August of 1870 elected a Justice of the Peace, a Constable, three Fence Viewers and three School Trustees. The court had previously appointed a Road Supervisor and a Pound Keeper. The Justice of the Peace, as principal official in the precinct, had the authority to examine all civil and criminal cases where the amount in controversy did not exceed one hundred dollars. This was later raised to three hundred dollars. His major responsibility was to keep order by prosecuting lawbreakers. The Constable served as the peace officer and assisted the Justice of the Peace in maintaining law and order. The Fence Viewers kept public fences in repair and supervised private fences to prevent cattle from wandering. The Pound Keeper established the precinct's estray pound, and it was his duty to place all stray animals in the pound and then advertise a description in a common meeting. If unclaimed, animals were sold at public auction.40

The Newton Precinct elected Franklin W. Young to serve as the first Justice of the Peace. He served until 1873 when Thomas Beck was elected. In 1874 William H. Griffin took over and in 1876 William Bell was chosen. For Constable Newton's voters chose William Ricks for 1870 and 1871, then Foster Curtis

39 Cache County Probate Court Record Book "A." (typescript copy in the Utah State University Library), p. 153. Hereafter referred to as County Book "A."

served in 1872 and 1873. Swen Jacobs served from 1873 to 1876 and was replaced by John Griffin who served during the years of 1877 and 1878. Those chosen as Fence Viewers were as follows: for 1870 and 1872 Swen Jacobs, William Ricks and Thomas Beck; for 1873 and 1874 John Griffin, Peter Larsen and Joseph Wilson; after 1874 John Griffin, Peter Larsen and P. Jensen. The county court appointed the Road Supervisor and Poundkeeper and the records of these offices are traceable to 1891. The court appointed John Jenkins as Road Supervisor in the summer of 1870 and he served in this capacity until April of 1882. He was replaced by Peter Larsen, who was replaced by John Griffin in 1884. In 1885 James Parsons was appointed, and in 1886 John H. Barker Jr. took over and served until 1889 when James Parsons resumed the office and served at least through 1891. If Newton had a Poundkeeper before 1872, he is unknown, for in that year the court appointed Hyrum Curtis who served through 1875. Next John Jenkins took over and served until April of 1882. Moroni Jenkins took over in 1882 and was replaced in 1884 by Peter E. Benson, who in turn was replaced by Lysander Curtis in 1886. In 1888 Jonas N. Beck was appointed and in 1890 James Parsons was assigned and served through 1891. 41

When civil government was extended to Cache Valley and its communities, the Church's domination remained unaffected. For one reason, the county and precinct leaders were also prominent Church members. The precinct government had very limited authority and few cases came before it. This meager system of government proved sufficient for the times because of the Mormon belief that members of the Church should avoid the courts if possible, and if two disputing parties were unable to settle their disputes, they generally asked the bishop's advice. The Justice Courts in Newton, as well as other small communities, were not self supporting because of the small number of cases they handled. The county court granted the Justice of the Peace and the Constable of Newton, Petersboro, Trenton, Clarkston, Benson and Cove pay from the county since these offices received "little if any compensation" from

their portion of fines collected. 42

The citizens of Newton relied primarily upon their Church leaders to provide the necessary administrative and judicial action. In Church sessions or meetings held immediately afterward, the people established general regulations for the town and land, planned irrigation projects, discussed school matters and provided other community necessities such as taxing property and establishing co-operatives. While members of the Church helped to establish regulations and policies, it fell upon the bishop to carry them out. He issued land to new settlers, settled disputes over the use of water and land, directed co-operative efforts, as well as settling family difficulties. Those matters that could not be settled by the mediation of the bishop were transacted by Church courts. 43

These courts performed an important service for the community. Their services were rendered without charge to the litigants, and in general, did an acceptable job of bringing the disputants together and settling their differences. The Probate Court records, until statehood, included only a few divorce cases and land title disputes. As society became more complex, the Church courts played a lesser role in civil jurisdiction. The official courts of law gained greater stature among the people after 1900 when they were more consistently utilized. 44

The political influence of the Church is illustrated by the nearly unanimous election of precinct officers in Newton as well as other communities in the valley. In Newton there appeared to be no opposition for the precinct officers, and in the elections between 1872 and 1877, there were only two occasions when the vote was not unanimously given to all candidates. Political parties played no role in Utah

42 Woodsides, pp. 27-28, 50. Cache County Probate Court Record Book "B," (Located in Cache County Clerk's Archives), p. 491. Hereafter referred to as County Book "B."


until Non-Mormons (or Gentiles) became more numerous in the 1860's. When the parties did come, they were formed on strict religious lines--Mormon and non-Mormon or anti-Mormon. The non-Mormon elements formed the Liberal Party while the Mormons founded the People's Party. The Liberal Party gathered very little support in Cache Valley and even less in Newton since it was almost entirely Mormon. In 1890 just prior to the formation of the Republican and Democratic Parties in Cache Valley, the Liberal Party received only one vote in Newton.45

Throughout the Pioneer Era, civil and ecclesiastical responsibility was centralized in the bishop's hands in order to minimize controversy and to ensure that long range goals were not sacrificed in favor of immediate desires. There was no formal bestowal of civil authority upon the bishop, but when a man was "called" to be bishop, he was looked upon by the great majority as the leader in all things, both temporal and spiritual.

The first religious services in Newton were held in private homes. The meetings during the summer and fall of 1869 were infrequent and when held were probably spontaneous affairs where a man invited his neighbors. This was corrected on January 9, 1870, when Bishop Rigby came to Newton and held meeting in William Bell's home. The Newton Saints were instructed "to hold a meeting every Sunday and the settlement was divided into "four wards." These divisions or wards were on an East, West, North, and South basis and a man was appointed to be responsible for his ward. Amos Clarke was assigned the "First Ward," William Bell over the "Second Ward," Paul Larsen over the "Third Ward," and Jonas N. Beck had the "Fourth Ward." Furthermore, Jonas N. Beck was appointed to take charge of the teachers and the Church meetings in the settlement during the absence of the bishop. Brother Beck was to report to the Teacher's Quorum Meeting held in Clarkston. The first official Church meetings were then held in the home of William Bell and Jonas Beck. In 1871 a few meetings were held in Bishop Rigby's new rock house until the Franklin Young house was completed. This building served as the Young home, as a schoolhouse, and for Church

functions. Most of the Church meetings and dances were held in this building until 1874 when the rock schoolhouse was ready for such activities. This did not rule out some meetings and even social gatherings in other homes. Bishop Rigby had a living room that measured twenty feet square so his home was used when the Young home could not be used. After the rock schoolhouse was built, it was used for Church functions until the first Meeting House was ready for use in 1891.46

Sometime after June of 1870, Church functions were no longer controlled from Clarkston, and Newton was organized as a Ward and became a member of the Cache Stake. William F. Rigby, after being released as the Bishop of Clarkston on July 10, 1870, moved to Newton and in November was ordained as the first Bishop of Newton by President Peter Maughan.

The first auxiliary organization came into existence late in 1870 when the Sunday School was organized with Jonas N. Beck as superintendent. At first the organization was attended primarily by young people who were referred to as "Sunday School Scholars." After a few years the Sunday School began to attract more of the adult members of the Church. The next organization to be established was the Female Relief Society on May 21, 1871. Mrs. Isadore Beck served as the first president with Mrs. Mary Rigby as first counselor and Mrs. Maria Gasberg as second counselor. The Society was concerned with the spiritual welfare of its members and worked under the direction of the bishop to relieve the poor, sick, and needy. Another important service was performed in preparing bodies for burial and making burial clothes. The Relief Society report for 1873 shows that for the year the Society by their labor and donations had collected $57.00 which was "all spent for the poor and the Indians." One of the ways they obtained means to assist those in need was to go and glean wheat from the fields that had been cut. The members of the Society were to glean wheat in mid August of 1880, and the bishopric invited the people to co-operate by sending their children to assist in the gleaning. The Relief Society sisters gave the wheat collected to help the poor and kept the excess in a storage bin for future use. In the years when people no longer traded commodities, the storage of wheat was changed into a "Wheat Fund"

which was a certain amount of money reserved to purchase wheat if need be. In 1925 the "Wheat Fund" had $1,227.03 in it. Newton's Relief Society is also largely responsible for most of the locust trees that came to Newton when the Society thought of raising silk worms. In the 1890's the Society had constructed the Relief Society House for its meetings and belongings. 47

In the fall of 1876 the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association or YMMIA was organized with Moroni Jenkins as president, Swen Jacobs and Steven D. Parsons as first and second counselors, and Ezekiel Jacobs as secretary. Early in 1879 its counterpart, the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association or YLMIA, was organized with Mrs. Martha Ann Jenkins as president, Miss Elizabeth Clarke and Miss Jane Bell as first and second counselors, and Miss Sarah A. Clarke as secretary. The YMMIA and the YLMIA held separate weekly meetings with a "conjoint monthly meeting" on the first Sunday evening of each month. The monthly conjoint meetings continued into the 1930's. Both organizations were set up to serve the religious, educational, and social needs of the young men and women of the ward. At first the organizations served their own groups but later became service organizations for the ward as well and took charge of the drama association, sports and festivals, and other social functions. 48

The last auxiliary organization to be organized was the Primary Association. It was organized on May 27, 1882, with Mrs. Elizabeth A. Griffin as president, Miss Mary Larsen and Mrs. Mary Clarke as first and second counselors, Miss Eliza Welchman as secretary, and Miss Emma Anderson as treasurer. This organization supplemented the religious guidance of the young children of the ward.

The first priesthood meetings in Newton were termed "Mass Quorum Meetings" and were attended by High Priests, Seventies, and Elders and probably members of the Aaronic Priesthood. The High Priests Quorum was organized on November 25, 1872, with Amos Clarke appointed to preside locally and Alfred J. Atkinson as clerk. In 1877 Brother Clarke was given two assistants, Arthur P.


Welchman and Christian Anderson. Amos Clarke served as group leader for many years, serving in that capacity for several years into the twentieth century. The Mass Quorum Meetings were presided over and conducted by the High Priests plus holding their own separate meetings. Little is known about the Seventies except that Bishop W. F. Rigby was a Seventy until 1877, and in 1888 and 1889 there were fourteen Seventies in Newton. The Elders were organized into their own quorum on June 14, 1877, when the Tenth Quorum of Elders of the Cache Stake was set up. John Griffin became president with Peter Larsen and Moroni Jenkins as counselors. 49

The Aaronic Priesthood was the last to be organized. Stake President Brigham Young, Jr. and Bishop W. B. Preston of the Cache Stake came to Newton on February 5, 1875, and "requested the bishop to collect all the boys over 14 years of age and ordain them Elders and Priests and those between 12 and 14 to the office of Teachers and Deacons and place them in the harness." When President Mose Thatcher was in Newton to set apart the first counselors to Bishop Rigby on June 14, 1877, he instructed the bishop to organize the "Lesser Priesthood as soon as convenient." On the following Sunday, June 17, the Aaronic Priesthood was organized. Only the Teachers and Deacons were organized at that time. The following were called to fill offices in the "Lesser Priesthood:"

Amos Clarke--President of Teachers Quorum
Jonas N. Beck--1st Counselor
A. P. Welchman--2nd Counselor

Hans Simonsen--President of Deacons Quorum
John Seiter--1st Counselor
William Jensen--2nd Counselor

An explanation followed the appointment of these men which said, "All these brethren are holding the High Priesthood and are called to act in the above positions of the Lesser Priesthood for the time being only." The oldest Quarterly Statistical Report taken April 20, 1878, showed Newton with 13 High Priests, 10

49 Priesthood Minute Book 1873-1886, pp. 1, 2, 4, 16-19.
Seventies, 19 Elders, 6 Priests, 9 Teachers, and 6 Deacons. This was out of a ward that had 48 families and 287 people, 119 of whom were children under the age of eight. The same report taken in January of 1889 showed 14 High Priests, 14 Seventies, 35 Elders, 10 Priests, 24 Teachers, and 12 Deacons. In 1889 the ward had 69 families and 470 people, 170 of whom were under eight years of age. On April 3, 1899, in a discussion in a Church meeting over giving the priesthood to boys, "Bishop William H. Griffin added that our young boys should be ordained when they are ten or twelve years of age." The record is not clear as to whether or not ten year olds were given the priesthood but shortly after 1877 the notion that the priesthood was to be given only to older men was replaced as young men and boys were granted this privilege. 50

Attendance at priesthood meetings was somewhat a problem in the 1880's. In 1885 Christian Anderson was pleasantly surprised at the attendance at the meeting held March 22nd and "thought the Edmund's bill was doing some good as there was more of the brethren present." Fifteen months later Brother Chris Anderson was speaking about some in their midst who were "entertaining the spirit of apostacy" when a "good deal" of noise occurred around the schoolhouse. The disturbance was being made by some boys. When the noise continued, Brother Anderson sat down and J. H. Barker, Sr. was called upon to speak. He stated that there was too much noise to allow him to speak and suggested that "there was a better field of labor outside than inside" and then sat down. 51

The primary social institution in the Utah Territory was the Church. It was organized to take care of the social as well as the spiritual needs of its people, regardless of age. The Church led the way in providing amusement and recreation. The early settlers enjoyed singing and instrumental music, amateur theatricals performed by the home town dramatic company, and community socials. But the favorite entertainment was dancing. The first dances were held in private homes and after 1871 they were held either in the log house that served


51 Priesthood Minute Book 1873-1886, pp. 106, 149.
as Franklin W. Young's home and schoolhouse or in Bishop Rigby's rockhouse which had a large living room.  

Although dancing in a home was considered better than no dances, most Newtonites were extremely anxious to move into the new rock schoolhouse so they could have some real "good dances." In the fall of 1874 the schoolhouse was near enough to completion that dances were held there. Dances continued in the schoolhouse until 1892 when the Meeting House became the main "dance hall." The dances in the larger hall of the new schoolhouse were great successes for a couple of years, but trouble was on the horizon with the increased popularity of round dances (waltzes or any dance where a man put his arm around his partner's waist). The Church took a stand against such dances and established an earlier closing time. The results of this policy were described on January 17, 1876 as follows:

Not quite as many dances this winter as usual, because we have stopped all round dances and close at 10 o'clock which does not suit some of the young folks.  

A "Ward Deacon," later called a "Floor Manager," was assigned to care for the dance and one of his responsibilities was to put off the floor anyone who engaged in a round dance or any man who put his arm around his partner. The acceptable dances were square dances, plain quadrille, Danish Tucker, Virginia Reel and others. Finally the Church consented to one round dance an evening. In a priesthood meeting held in May of 1896 it was decided that two round dances could be held at each dance. It was further decided that all dances stop at midnight or before, and that no dances were to be held on Saturday evenings. To ensure that dances with concessions on type and closing time did not get out of hand, a "Committee to Control Dances" was appointed. It acted under the direction of the bishopric to supervise and control the dances held in the Newton


53 Barker, Letters, January 17, 1876.
Ward. Not all the dances were under the sponsorship of the Ward, for it would lease its "hall" for one-half of the proceeds from a dance.  

Music for the first dances was provided by single individuals. John Jenkins played his fiddle for many of the early dances. Later a small group, usually consisting of a couple of violins and maybe a banjo, played until the Newton Orchestra was organized or outside groups came in to play. After the organ was installed in the Meeting House, it was used for dances. One man from Newton reported that when the music was right, "the old gray-beards" nearly swung the girls off their feet. Dances were held frequently in the winter and were almost always the culminating event of holiday celebrations. On many of these occasions a children's dance was held in the afternoon, with an adult dance in the evening. In 1880 Newton was portrayed as having "a dance very often." When the dances moved into the new Meeting House in 1892, Newton began to boast of having the best dances in the valley. It is impossible to judge the validity of this claim, but it can be assessed that dances were held often and many must have participated because the floor in the Meeting House was worn out by 1898 "due to too much dancing." The Y. M. M. I. A. had a ready solution to the problem of the worn out floor though, that of having three more dances as soon as possible with the proceeds going to put in a new floor.

The Newton Dramatic Association or company was organized in the winter of 1876-1877. It was under the direction of Moroni Jenkins, and by February 15 it was described as "quite a success, having rendered plays in a very credible manner." A stage had been constructed in the rock schoolhouse where the performances were presented. Peter Benson and William Bell built some of the earliest scenery and Jonas Beck willingly painted it, often while the actors were practicing their parts. In the early 1880's William Bell conducted several of the early dramas. The frequency of plays varied as some winters the group would dramatize two or three plays, some years none. In the winter of 1880 a Newton man, describing the various activities in Newton,
stated that they had dances "very often" but theaters only "now and then." 56

The Newton Dramatic Company was given a big boost when Alfred Goodsell returned to Newton in 1880. Alfred, a natural born leader, actor, singer and comedian, soon had the dramatic group in high gear. One person writing of early Newton history wrote, "In 1880 Newton hadn't improved much, still had hard times and hard work. No recreation hardly ever. Then Alfred Goodsell came to town. He was a natural comedian and actor and always full of fun. It seems people began to wake up from a long sleep, a good deal like Rip Van Winkle. The people decided it was necessary to have some recreation." It is related that the crowd was small the opening night of the first show directed by Alfred Goodsell. But the word spread that somehow the old drama company was greatly improved and subsequent performances saw capacity crowds. As the company improved their talents, they began to take their shows to surrounding towns. 57 By 1890 the Newton correspondent to The Journal could proudly write the following to the newspaper:

Saturday night last the Newton Dramatic Co. gave us an entertainment for the benefit of the Y. M. M. I. A. which was a great success. The drama was one written by our lively manager Alfred Goodsell entitled, "Trapped at Last! One in Love." It was a three act drama. It was well rendered and gave everyone satisfaction. Mr. Goodsell showed himself master of his play and was ably supported by Miss Lily Barker and W. F. Rigby and other members of the troupe. In short the whole company did their best. Which was the cause of the success of the piece. The drama was followed by a laughable farce "The Artful Dodgers." Messrs. Goodsell and Rigby showing they were capable of impersonating more than one character. . . . Being an eye witness and having seen lots of plays I say (as) most on the onlookers said, "It is a play Mr. Goodsell and his company might play anywhere and the people learn a lesson from it, it having a good moral. 58

In 1910 the dramatic company did not get the same kind of praise that it


58 The Journal, February 5, 1890.
had in 1890, possibly the company was not performing as it had in the past or maybe the many professional troupes that stopped at Newton made the critic who wrote to the newspaper dissatisfied with amateur productions. Anyway he stated:

Our own home dramatic company played "The Girl From Porto Rico" to a crowded house Wednesday. The acting was rather weak and lacked the life and animation which are necessary to make a comedy interesting; but as nearly all the members are inexperienced on the stage, we can bear with them and encourage them to keep on and in time they will no doubt give better satisfaction.

In the early years after 1900 the company began to dramatize only one play a year. The last performance of the Newton Dramatic Company came when they presented a play in Mendon in February of 1913. Shortly thereafter the company came under the direction of the Mutual Improvement Association and was known as the "Mutual Dramatic Company."59

Co-operation and self sufficiency

Co-operation proved to be the key to economic success in the small Mormon communities. Almost every economic problem was tackled by collective effort. Outside of Cache Valley the co-operative movement in merchandising and manufacturing was pushed by the Church to strengthen the Mormon economy and to isolate the Gentile sector of Utah. However, in Cache Valley the co-operative movement played a more important role in the production and marketing of large quantities of commodities. The co-operatives were joint stock corporations under Church sponsorship, but owned and supported on a public basis. Cache Valley had its first co-op by March 15, 1869, and within a few years, every ward in the valley had organized a similar institution. Each co-op was under the direct control of the ward leaders, who were under the directions of the Church hierarchy. The business was owned by stockholders, who made the general rules of conduct for the business. A board of directors elected by the stockholders directed daily affairs of the co-op.60

59 The Journal, March 24, 1910; February 20, 1913; January 17, 1914.

Probably the first co-operative venture entered into in Newton was the purchasing of a "Ward Bull." It was not feasible or desirable for the small settlement to maintain several bulls as winter feed was scarce and most of the settlers could not afford the extra expense of maintaining their own bull to service the one, two or three cows they owned. So the Ward joined together and purchased a Devon Bull. Several persons took turns caring for the bull and were reimbursed for their efforts. It appeared that a small fee was charged for the bull's servicing the settlers' cows. In March of 1873 the bull was either getting old or had some other problem for a committee was appointed by the Ward "to inquire into the condition of the Ward Bull." On August 31, 1873, the committee reported back to the Ward that the bull should be cared for until fall and then be killed and "sold out for beef." The committee's recommendation was accepted, and it was assigned to see that the recommendation was followed and when everything was done as planned, the committee was to pay all claims against the ward bull and to deposit the remaining money to the credit of the Newton Ward. The records do not indicate where the money was deposited, but it was probably with the Co-op store. 61

The next co-operative and first business venture was the establishment of the Newton Co-operative Mercantile Institution. Newton had a small store owned by Alfred Atkinson and operated out of his home. This first store was located directly south of the southeast corner of the public square. Mr. Atkinson procured his merchandise from Corinne and hauled it to Newton by wagon and ox team. On one of his trips for merchandise, he had an accident and was run over and his injury turned to cancer which caused his death. The Co-op store was organized on March 2, 1872, and had a capital stock of $428.00. Stock in the store sold for $5.00 a share, and it originally had twenty-five shareholders. Someone either purchased three-fifths of a share or the stock that purchased from Mr. Atkinson accounted for the odd three dollars of capital. Mr. Atkinson ran the newly established Co-op store for a few months out of his home. 62

In July of 1872 John H. Barker was keeping the store in his home. The store

61 Newton Ward Historical Record Book 72529, pp. 24, 29.

62 Ibid., p. 158.
was the "only one in this place" of Newton. Mr. Barker in a letter stated, "I have taken charge of the Co-operative Store belonging to this place for 6 months. I go to Ogden every 2 weeks with my team to buy goods." By January of 1873 he built a small room to his home and kept the store in it. In January of 1876 he "moved the store out of . . . [his] house" and into a small building he had constructed on his property. John H. Barker operated the Co-op store through 1877. In 1878 the store passed under new management and finally came into the hands of William H. Griffin. 63

The Co-op purchased its goods from Ogden and Corinne until the railroad was built into Logan, then the Logan Branch of Zion's Co-operative Mercantile Institution (ZCMI) became the distribution center for the smaller co-op stores in the valley. In 1873 John H. Barker said he was away from home half of the time "traveling to Ogden and Corinne, selling and buying for the store." And in July of 1875 he related this account:

Wednesday loaded my wagon and went to Corinne. . . . Thursday sold my load, made some small purchases, loaded a mowing machine to bring home, went to the R.R. Depot for goods for our store from Ogden. Coming home very much mixed up with dust, wind, gnats, and mosquitoes and camped for the night at the foot of the mountain, having too large a load to pull up. Friday a team came out to help me up the mountain. 64

The manager of the local co-op had to engage in buying and selling because purchases at the Newton Co-op was conducted by the barter system due to the short supply of money. Such goods as wheat, eggs, and butter were exchanged for finished products from the store. The store then had to carry the items it collected to a place where they could be exchanged for cash or the goods which the store needed. The store was open three days a week by 1877 and kept the store manager very busy when he had to drive a team to Ogden or Corinne to sell and buy for the store. Sometime after 1875 this burden was lightened when Logan became the selling and buying point. Although the barter system continued for many years, it was later

63 Barker, Letters July 13, 1872; Oct. 6, 1872; Jan. 20, 1873; Jan. 17, 1876; April 28, 1878.
64 Barker, Letters, Jan. 20, 1873; July 4, 1875.
supplemented when the Co-op issued scrip or a promissory note that could be negotiated at co-op stores. This scrip provided a medium of exchange that helped overcome some of the problems of the barter system. The Newton Co-op also extended a great deal of credit because of repeated setbacks of the local economy; this placed the store in serious financial trouble on two occasions. The indebtedness became so acute the second time that officials from the chief creditor, ZCMI of Salt Lake, came to Newton to close the store. The store was saved when John Jenkins, one of the stockholders, donated his sheep herd and a few personal items to place the store back on a sound economic footing.  

Another co-operative business venture was the procurement of the "co-op threshing machine." On July 13, 1873, thirteen men--W. F. Rigby, J. Hansen, J. Jenkins, P. Benson, F. Curtis, R. P. Anderson, W. Griffin, J. Griffin, J. Wilson, J. Christensen, J. Seiter, H. Perry and P. Larsen--promised to contribute $310.00 to assist in buying a threshing machine. With this start the Ward appointed a committee of two--John H. Barker and Chris Anderson--to visit other members of the Ward to solicit subscriptions for the thresher. The subscriptions were forthcoming and by the fall of 1873, the threshing machine was bought. The machine arrived in Newton and was ready for the 1874 harvest. The owners of the co-op threshing machine established the policy of charging "nine bushels on the hundred for thrashing [sic] and furnish hand cutter, 5 men to run it." The five men who operated the thresher for 1874 were W. Griffin, J. Christensen, J. N. Beck, P. Larsen, and C. Peterson. This thresher was horse driven and a small machine. It was the first and only machine in Newton for several years. In 1879 the Church records stated that the co-op threshing machine purchased in late 1873 "has had the patronage of the settlement since."  

The co-operative movement proved so successful initially that it encouraged

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66 Newton Ward Historical Record Book 72529, pp. 28, 77, 80, 158.
a more complete collective living experiment known as the United Order. After the initiation of the co-operative movement, Brigham Young said, "This co-operative movement is only the stepping stone to what is called the Order of Enoch, but which is in reality the Order of Heaven." The depression years that followed the Panic of 1873 gave the Church the signal to try the "stepping stone" to correct the causes for the panic as well as strengthen the Mormons socially and economically. It was expected that each ward would set up a branch of the Order in their settlement. The Order took the form of a stock company wherein the community banded together in labor, manufacturing and commercial endeavors. 67

The Newton Ward set up a form of the United Order in 1874. It consolidated the grazing and farming operations with the Co-op store. The Order was voluntary, and those who joined were rebaptized to show their acceptance into the Order. The Order in Newton never expanded like it did in some other areas; it merely combined the Co-op store with the communal farm and left an open invitation to others to add their farms to the Order. The Order continued to function after 1877 in only a few isolated areas. The Newton branch of the Order, while never very successful, continued to exist into the 1880's, due to the need for co-operative financing to develop agriculture in the area. By the late 1880's most of the farming land had been taken out of the Order and only the Co-op store remained. 68

The elected officers of the United Order in Newton which was set up late in the year of 1874 asked the county court on December 30 of the same year to grant them a "herd ground east of Newton to the River." The herding operations were later expanded as all the dry stock was taken to Promontory at $1.00 per head. In February of 1876 in an effort to get Newtonites to move ahead with their efforts and possibly to get more people to join the United Order, Brother A. P.


68 Hovey, p. 112. Pike, p. 266. Arrington, Great Basin Kingdom, p. 537.
Welchman spoke in Priesthood Meeting. He exhorted the brethren "most solemnly not to dally with the principles of plural marriage and of the United Order, but to go forth in faith practicing these cornerstones of the Kingdom of God." The Newton brethren needed encouraging for in 1875 only fifteen men had put their land into the co-operative farming operations, and the Newton branch of the United Order did not get any stronger. At its height the Order included the co-op store, a co-op farm, a co-op threshing machine and a co-op dry stock herd. The Co-op store was combined with the Order on November 28, 1876. In 1879 after the Order had been in operation for over four years, an elder on assignment from the stake could declare "that the U. O. must yet be established." 69

In October of 1875 John H. Barker tried to explain to his sister in England what was occurring in Newton and Cache Valley. The following part of his letter explains his feeling about the Order:

The people in Utah Territory are uniting themselves in farming, manufacturing and other enterprises to encourage home producing of all we need and use. This county is now building a Woolen Factory at Logan, a Tannery at Smithfield, a Broom Factory at Millville, all kinds of sawmills at Hyrum, and we are trying to make and keep the benefit of our labor among ourselves the working classes and not make some man that has a little money rich because he uses it. I have worked with 15 other men this summer in Farming in Co-operation. 70

Martin C. Rigby, born in 1868, remembered the United Order and how part of its operations were conducted. He recalled:

We formed a sort of United Order to get hay for the winter. I remember when John Jenkins . . . and Joe Wilson . . . would run the mowing machines. They would pick out the best pieces of grass and cut them. I ran a sulky rake with a pair of little yellow ponies . . . and raked the hay after the two mowing machines. Then other people who worked


70 Barker, Letter October 24, 1875.
in the United Order would come and haul the hay and stack it. (It was wild hay.) They divided it to each one accord­
int to the animals he had. 71

In most areas the failure and abandonment of the United Order caused the co-op stores to disappear. With the contractions of the Order, the stock fell into a few hands and the business lost its co-operative characteristics and became a private enterprise. In 1883, the last year of operation for the United Order in Newton, it paid a school tax that was only 11 per cent of what it had paid in 1877 even though the assessed tax rate was the same. The Co-op store was separated from the United Order and erected a new building in 1883 and continued to function into the second decade of the twentieth century. While the United Order slowly liquidated its assets and ceased to exist. The last record of the United Order occurs on March 18, 1884, when it sold twenty acres of its property to the Ward at $4.00 an acre for a Missionary Farm. 72 The United Order's school tax account for 1876 to 1883 was as follows: 73

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dr.</th>
<th>Cr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td>by lumber furnish, 45 ft.</td>
<td>$ 1.35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>to tax</td>
<td>$42.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 20</td>
<td>by order on Treasurer of Newton U.O.</td>
<td>42.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>by bal. carried down</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>43.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>43.60</td>
<td>43.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>to tax</td>
<td>42.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>by Treasurer's order</td>
<td>42.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>by credit brought from Co-op store acc. now closed</td>
<td>.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 14</td>
<td>tax of 1877</td>
<td>17.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>to J. Griffin</td>
<td>17.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

71 M. C. Rigby, "Life Sketch of Martin C. Rigby." Edited by Annie Cowley (a copy in the possession of the author).


1879
to tax of 1878 on Co-op
June 30 by a/c in store

1879
to tax
Dec. 1 by a/c in store

1880
tax of 1880
Nov. 15 to J.H.B.
Tax of 1881 by cash
Tax of 1882 Cash
Tax of 1883--Paid

The major co-operative effort of the Newton settlers centered in constructing a reservoir to collect and store water for irrigation. The decision of many of the Clarkston inhabitants to remain in the old settlement and to use their water rights there, left Newton with only one-third of the water from Clarkston Creek. It was doubtful whether this amount of water could support a settlement. Before the summer of 1870 passed, the settlers of Newton were seriously short of water, and most of the crops perished. Lack of suitable irrigation water has always been one of the major problems in the semi-arid West, and the West Side of Cache Valley had few streams that did not dry up by the late summer. 74

Although the early Mormon pioneers were the first white men to practice large scale irrigation in this country, they had only dammed streams and diverted the water to their fields, and built canals to carry the water to fields further away. In much of the territory there was not enough water for all of the land or only enough for one or two waterings. Albeit the summer supply of water was insufficient, considerable amounts of water were wasted during the spring runoff and after heavy rainfall. The next logical step in the development of Mormon

74 Andrew Jenson, "History of Clarkston," (In the LDS Church Archives), Clarkston Book "A," p. 58. Kate B. Carter, Heart Throbs of the West. (Salt Lake City, Utah: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1945), Vol. VI, pp. 110-111. For more extensive coverage see section on "Newton Dam and Reservoir."
irrigating practices was to impound and store the excess runoff water.  

The Newton settlers were among the first to grasp and utilize the idea of storing water from an entire watershed for irrigation purposes at a later time. Acting in a typical New England and Mormon manner, they held a public meeting to discuss and resolve their problem regarding insufficient water. They decided to build a dam on the Clarkston Creek to form a storage reservoir. The bishop called for the men to work together in constructing the dam. The people met at the proposed site and held a celebration on the first day of work. With the scrappers, a rock and earth dam was built across a narrow neck of land just below a natural depression in the ground. It was finished enough to hold water for the next season. Work continued on the dam for several years and three times the dam had to be replaced as it washed out when spring floods came. This dam was "one of the first" storage reservoirs in Utah and the United States.  

Although the reservoir was small and spring floods repeatedly washed out the dam, the principle of impounding and storing water became the spring of life for Newton and many other settlements. With this innovation, larger groups of settlers could inhabit each settlement, and more settlements could be established in areas with small streams. With this solution, future needs of water could be met by enlarging the reservoir.

The next step was to build a system of irrigation ditches necessary to convey and distribute the water to the land. The canals were built by the cooperative effort of those who would receive water from them, and the ditch from the canal to the individual's field was dug by the owner. The major canal from the Newton Reservoir was begun in 1871 and not completed until 1886.  

The county court was given responsibility for regulating the water in the county; it appointed watermasters in each precinct to assist in controlling the


water. Sensing the importance of their reservoir and canal system to their livelihood, the inhabitants of Newton petitioned the court to create an irrigation district in their precinct. In September of 1874 the court set up the first irrigation district at Newton, giving the local area the authority to administer their own irrigation policy subject to review by the county court. The court created districts in Clarkston, Wellsville, Hyrum and Paradise in December of 1874 and in other precincts of the county the following year. 78

In accordance with the wishes of the Church leaders, each settlement strived for self sufficiency, not only in producing their own food but also the other necessities of life. In Newton a sawmill was established early in the settlement stage to provide sawed lumber for constructing buildings. A flour mill was attempted, but its operation was of short duration due to inconsistency of the water supply. The Newton Branch of the United Order operated a dairy where Cache Junction is presently located. Those who joined the Order left their cows in care of the dairy during the summer months in return for butter and cheese. 79

In Newton each family generally provided its own needs; there was very little of the specialization and division of labor that earmarks complex economies. In 1872 a Newton resident, John H. Barker, described life in the town as follows:

There is not a family in this town (35) but what has a cow, chickens, pig, live in their own house, (perhaps only one room and built of logs) on their own land. The bulk of the people farm their own land for a living. We live all in a little town, and fence our farms in one big field by cooperation. We sell grain to get supplies for family use, do not live very rich but plenty of butter, milk, vegetables, and plain food. I have not yet known a family where the little ones did not have all they could eat, but the other side of the picture is that we are all hard working, no one lives on their wit. . . 80


79 Phyllis Larsen Hunter, "Notes on Newton."

80 Barker, p. 89.
The farmer produced almost all of the goods the family needed, and his wife made nearly all the things that the family used. The co-op stores brought in a few manufactured items from Salt Lake City or the East for purchase by the settlers. Although the co-op stores ended the long famine for manufactured goods, it did not appreciably effect the self sufficiency concept. Country people continued to produce their own goods, only now and then seasoning their labors with a few store bought goods. 81

The school is another prime example of co-operation and self sufficiency by the people. From 1869 to 1890 the town had the primary responsibility of establishing and maintaining a school. In 1890 free schools came to Utah; then the territory, and later the state, gave more aid.

The first school in Newton was divided due to a lack of facilities large enough to hold the students. Elizabeth T. Griffin took part of the students and taught them in one house, while Franklin W. Young or Jonas N. Beck taught the remaining students in another home. Sometime during 1871 the school moved to the house of Franklin W. Young where one teacher directed all of the students. The Young house was located on the lot diagonally across the street from the northwest corner of the public square. The settlers had helped Mr. Young, a nephew of Brigham Young, build a large log house with a room 16 by 22 feet, on the condition that the school would be held there until a regular schoolhouse could be constructed. This log structure, although a home also was Newton’s first schoolhouse. 82

In 1870 when the Newton Precinct was established, the Newton School District was also created covering the same area as the precinct. On August 1, 1870, the Newton voters elected Franklin W. Young, Ole Anderson, and Thomas Beck as the first trustees of the school district. The trustees were responsible for creating and maintaining a school system in Newton. The big problem that


faced these trustees and the ones that followed them was finances. Funds were needed to pay a teacher, to purchase supplies, and to eventually build an adequate building in which to hold school. The school district had the power to tax and this was the primary way the necessary funds were obtained. 83

Financing came entirely from the local people until 1874. At this time every property owner was expected to pay a building tax of 3 per cent plus an "educational tax" of 1 per cent on the assessed value of all his land, animals, vehicles, machinery, buildings and "clocks and watches." A tuition charge at "$0.05 and 2 mills" per child per day was also collected for the actual attendance of each pupil. For example, Bishop Rigby had to pay $61.87 for education during the 1875-76 school year, slightly over half the amount being for tuition for his eight school children. The expense of building a schoolhouse and an educational system taxed the people severely in the beginning. Although they were establishing a new community and building a storage reservoir, they never let anything prevent them from having their school. When the attendance at school dropped in 1876, the school trustees lowered the tuition fee and in 1878 the trustees voted a free school for the spring quarter. 84

In 1874 the Territory of Utah began to aid the district schools. As time passed the territorial appropriation became larger, changing from $42.00 out of a total collection of $511.16 in 1876 to $262.00 out of a total collection of $732.49 in 1886. It was not until 1888 that the territorial appropriation exceeded tuition as the chief source of revenue. In 1888 a breakdown of receipts of the Newton School District included $91.14 from district taxes, $300.00 from territorial appropriation, $202.00 from tuition fees and $13.55 from rent. As expenses totalled $706.80, the trustees borrowed $100.00 from the Co-op store. Then in 1890 the Utah Territorial Legislature passed the "free school" law, which admitted all students between six and eighteen without charge. Now territorial


and county funds took up the slack created by the elimination of tuition.  

In about 1873 the school trustees purchased the Young house for $50.00 as Franklin W. Young left Newton. Now the building served only as a combination school and meeting place until the fall of 1874. The people taxed themselves 3 per cent for three years to build a schoolhouse. A rock school was started in 1873, but a lack of sufficient funds delayed the construction. On September 22, 1873, Bishop Rigby made a motion in a priesthood meeting "that all male citizens of Newton over 12 years of age pay a tax of $5.00 each to aid building the new schoolhouse over and above the tax assessed by the school trustees." The motion was accepted, but the men and boys were slow in paying this tax, which could be paid with labor, so on October 5th another motion passed which provided that:

A man not doing labor when called upon by the committee, should then pay 2-thirds in cash or its equivalent and if the labor is not done on the second call he shall then pay all his tax in cash or its equal. Excuses from labor to be judged by the . . . committee.  

By November 8, 1873, the means and labor, although more than had been provided two months before, were still insufficient so the "Building Committee" was allowed to borrow $150.00 from the Co-op store at 10 per cent interest for one year "to finish the new schoolhouse." On October 18, 1874, the building was "not quite finished on the outside," but it was being used for school and church. The building consisted of one large room 43 by 31 feet with an arched ceiling 16 feet above the floor. Because this building was to serve multiple purposes, a stage was later added across one end of the building. At first the students had only slab benches with peg legs in the old log schoolhouse, but after the construction of the rock building, desks were

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purchased. 87

The early settlers were not concerned with a separation of Church and school activities. In letters to the editor of the Deseret News, the Sunday School and day school were considered in the same discussion as integral parts of the same educational system. In November of 1878 the letter writer boldly declared, "We have also a rather new departure in school matters." The writer explained that in the beginning the students had to furnish their own school supplies. This was later changed; through a public fund, the teacher could purchase the necessary books, stationery, slates and pencils. Then came the new departure:

A further improvement is now to be made by trustees and Sunday School officers, co-operating to supply both schools with the most suitable of our standard Church works as reading books. As we are entirely a Latter-day Saint community the importance of this move will be apparent to the reflective minds of our faith. 88

Since the students needed reading books, the school trustees and Sunday School officers decided they could serve two purposes by giving the students Church books. The students could learn the art of reading in these books as well as foster their religious education. An economic motive may have been a determinant in this decision at the Newton school was forced to borrow money continually in the early years, and the Church books were received wholly or in large part from the Sunday School. 89

The curriculum of the district school varied from year to year depending upon the teacher. In 1876 the alphabet, reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, grammar and composition were taught. Sometimes geography was included, at other times grammar and/or composition was omitted. During the pioneer years a one room schoolhouse served the town and one teacher taught most of the time; however, when the class enlarged to 50 students and later to 60, the teacher was

88 The Deseret News, November 20, 1878.
89 Ricks, The History of a Valley, p. 328.
given an assistant. 90

The school purchased the school books, stationery, and supplies and placed them in the hands of the teacher to distribute to the students. The school library had only eight volumes until 1885. The school trustees also purchased items listed as "rewards for pupils" and "candy" for deserving students. The teacher could also inflict corporeal punishment under the restriction of using it cautiously and never upon the head; the palms of the hands were suggested as the most suitable place for its application. The trustees even allowed the use of a certain strap possessed by one of the teachers, but it was subject to the same restriction. 91

The quality of the school teachers is hard to judge from the available records, but existing evidence suggests both good and poor teachers. In 1879 the trustees released one teacher because he used the "monitorial system" too much and his school had a "lack of system and a lack of progress." The Logan Journal expounded the virtues of an early Newton teacher and education by saying, "Ever since the day of its first learned pedagogue, Charles England . . ., Newton has stood for all that is implied in the term--higher education." 92

Education in Newton was elementary, concerned primarily with the three R's. Its curriculum could not compare with the New West School operated by the Congregational Church at Trenton. This school had college trained teachers, a good library and offered a wider selection of subjects. The Newton School met the basic needs of a people in an agricultural society; however, some students were able to advance to higher schools located in Logan or Salt Lake City. Several students who were products of the old rock school went east to finish their studies in medicine and law. One of these students, Parley P. Christensen, ran for the President of the United States in 1920. 93

91 Ibid., pp. 124, 13, 16, 17.
92 Ibid., pp. 30-31. The Journal, August 1, 1908.
Transportation

One of the big problems that settlers had in early Cache Valley was in going from one place to another. Roads and bridges were slow in making their appearances and were poorly kept at best. It was the responsibility of the county court to locate all public roads and bridges, build them, and to keep them in useable condition. To oversee the work directly, the court appointed a county road commissioner plus a road supervisor for each precinct and made each precinct a road district. A territorial law required that all physically able men over the age of eighteen pay a "poll tax" of one day's labor per year upon the roads in his district. This tax would change somewhat but would remain for many years. Newton's first Road Supervisor John Jenkins was appointed on July 11, 1870. 94

On July 18, 1870, the county court established the first official county road through Newton. The road was described as follows:

A road from Weston to Newton on the Bear River Pass; said road starting at the southeast corner of Weston following the base of the mountain south, crossing the first creek west of Mr. ____ dugout; thence on the Messrs. Roskelley and McCoomb's Ranch and passing between their houses and corrals and southwest to Messrs. Harmison and Blanchard's Ranch across the creek above the house; thence following the base of the mountains above the principal springs to Newton, into said town, on the 1st street north of the Public Square, then turning southward to and following the base of the mountain and connecting with the Hyde Park County road between the Mendon quarry and the principal spring. 95

The crossing of Bear River was a problem for the early settlers until David Rees established a ferry near his farm. The ferry was better than fording the river, but it still was not adequate to handle all the traffic the west sides presented and flood seasons gave the ferry problems. On December 5, 1870, the county court received a petition from the inhabitants of Smithfield and Newton "praying an appropriation to build a bridge across Bear River." The court

94 Ricks, The History of a Valley, p. 91.

95 County Book "A," p. 152.
responded favorably to the petition and appointed a committee of six--Peter L. Maughan, Thomas H. Ricks of Logan, Simpson Molen of Hyde Park, Samuel Roskelley of Smithfield, William F. Rigby of Newton and Samuel Smith of Clarkston--to locate the new bridge. It also appointed a committee of construction consisting of William B. Preston, Franklin W. Young and Simeon Smith. The court appropriated $1,000 to help build the bridge. Newton's correspondent to The Deseret News wrote the paper an article which told of the new bridge in March of 1871:

A new bridge has lately been built across Bear River in a direct line between Logan and Newton. . . . This is a much needed improvement, there being a great deal of traffic between the settlements on the southeast of the valley with those west of the river. An appropriation was made by the County Court in December last to build a bridge, the balance of the expense being sustained by the people of Clarkston and Newton. . . . Work commenced January 3rd and on February 15th it was so far completed that teams were enabled to cross. It is called "Newton Bridge," and it is 109 feet in length. It is substantial and was put up in the expeditious and energetic manner usually manifest by the people of Cache Valley in all matters of public enterprise and improvement.

The "Newton Bridge" was located near the old Rees Ferry on the county road southeast of Newton. On September 14, 1875, the court ordered that the bridge be given to the "inhabitants of Newton and Clarkston and the people of that region and that they keep the bridge in repair." Clarkston protested the order and asked that it be revoked, but the court ignored their petition. Men from Newton and Clarkston now had to ensure the upkeep of the bridge for several years before the county reassumed this responsibility.

The residents of Smithfield had never liked the location of the "Newton Bridge" and shortly after its construction, they requested a bridge west of Smithfield. In 1878 another bridge was built north of the "Newton Bridge." By 1890 the county decided it would build a good "iron bridge across Bear River." The

97 Deseret News, March 15, 1871.
county decided to put it west of Smithfield, further north than the first bridge. The residents of Newton, Clarkston and Trenton petitioned the county court to reconsider and to build the proposed bridge even further north, somewhere between Richmond and Smithfield. This request was rejected by the Court and the bridge was built west of Smithfield. Newton and the other towns' request for a bridge further north is interesting inasmuch as about ten years later they became members of the Benson Stake with headquarters in Richmond. In 1919 and 1920 a second steel bridge was built west of Smithfield, and in the late 1950's a steel and concrete bridge was built. There has been four bridges built almost within a stone's throw of one another on the river west of Smithfield. 99

In 1890 with the new railroad junction being established south of Newton, people north of the river were anxious to have access to the railroad. On June 16, 1890, the county court received and rejected a petition from Bishop Hans Funk and others for a bridge to be built across Bear River between Newton and the "new railway junction." A year later on June 15, 1891, Fred J. Kiesel offered $1,000 toward such a bridge and asked the court to take some definite action. The court was also informed that the residents of Cache Junction, Newton and Clarkston would contribute between $300 and $400 toward the construction of such a bridge. The court took the matter under advisement, then decided to build the bridge. In November of 1891 the bridge was completed. This bridge was west of the present bridge and was made of wood, two or three timber beams with planks nailed to them. On a couple of occasions when high water threatened the bridge, men from Newton and Cache Junction would remove the planks to prevent debris from piling up against the bridge. The bridge was just above the water level and it necessitated a dugroad on each side of the river to go down to the bridge. 100

In 1908 another bridge replaced the first bridge which was too small to handle the freight that needed to cross it. While the old bridge was torn out and


before the new bridge was ready for use, several businessmen from Logan, coming to Cache Junction by train and wishing to go to Newton, had to walk out across the railroad bridge and up to Newton. Even after the bridge was finished one Logan businessman, not knowing the bridge was ready for use, walked to Newton. Newton's correspondent to The Journal, after relating the incident about the unhappy businessman who had to walk, announced that "the great bridge across Bear River between Cache Junction and Newton is a reality." This bridge was just a more substantial bridge and was located in the same place as the first bridge. In 1913 and 1914 a new steel bridge spanning 220 feet was constructed east of the old bridge, and a subway was built under the railroad tracks. Newton claimed that this bridge, completed in 1914, was the "best bridge in the state."  

When Newton was incorporated in 1900, the town began to pass ordinances to govern the town. Ordinance number seven dealt with the poll tax for the town and the duties of the town street supervisor: It is as follows:

ORDINANCE No. 7 POLL TAX

Be it ordained by the Town Board of Newton:

Sec. 1:
Two days work of eight hours each or in lieu thereof three dollars lawful money, is an annual road poll tax upon every person over twenty-one and under fifty years of age who is not physically incapacitated to work and not exempted by law, resident in Newton.

Sec. 2:
Said poll tax shall be collected as hereafter provided and shall be used by the town for improving such streets as the town board may direct. All labor performed shall be under the direction of the street supervisor.

Sec. 3:
Said supervisor shall, between the first day of January and the first day of November of each year, list the names of all persons within the corporate limits of the town who are liable to pay a poll tax as provided in section one of this ordinance. He shall enter said names in a suitable register which shall be provided him by the town board. Said names shall be in alphabetical order with suitable columns opposite each name, to enter date of notice, the

101 The Journal, August 1, 1908.

102 Town Board Minutes, Vol. 1, pp. 55-56.
time in which the person named is required to perform the labor, the kind of pay received and the date of payment.

Sec. 4:
It shall be the duty of said supervisor between the first day of January and the first day of November of each year, to give at least two days notice of the day or days and place to work to each person subject to pay a poll tax in the town, said notice to be given personally or in writing left at his residence. All persons so notified must appear at such time and place with such tools and implements as he may direct and labor diligently under his direction for eight hours and for such two days labor. The supervisor shall give him a certificate which shall be evidence that he has performed such labor upon the public roads. Where a team shall be used for doing such work, the supervisor shall allow said person $1.50 to be applied on his poll tax.

Sec. 5:
Each person liable to pay a poll tax who fails to attend either in person or by satisfactory substitute, as per notice of street supervisor or appearing shall spend his time in idleness or fail to work according to the directions of street supervisor or shall fail to furnish within ten days after notice some satisfactory excuse for not attending shall be delinquent and the street supervisor must proceed to collect same by action in the name of the town.

In 1916 the poll tax was changed to provide only for money payment of $2.00 per year. The streets in Newton were poor in bad weather and were far from good during the dry season until they were finally oiled. 103

Early transportation by Newton people was by wagons pulled by oxen or horses. The white top buggy became popular around 1900. Bobsleds were used in the winter. After 1873 the railroad was available at Logan, and by 1891 it was in Cache Junction, and after 1910 the automobile began to take over as transportation entered the modern era.

103 Ibid., p. 153.
CHAPTER II
THE MOVE AWAY FROM THE OLD ORDER

In the Pioneer Era the community, due to its semi-isolation and the struggle for survival, was not faced with adapting its ideals and institutions to outside influence. However, in the 1880's and 1890's several changes occurred that threatened the established way of life. Establishment of land titles, dry-farming, prosecution of polygamy, and the coming of the railroad disrupted the old order and opened Newton to the outside world.

Land titles and dry farming

Mormon colonization placed people into areas where easy acquisition of legal land titles was not possible. The land officially belonged to the Federal Government and those who settled on it were squatters on the public domain. In the absence of federal laws, the Church used ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the land. Church leaders gave land to the settlers as they came. The land was first given as a stewardship which no man could buy or sell. Also, no one was allowed to have more land than he could take care of, and if a man did not use his land wisely, the bishop could take it away from him and give it to someone else. This policy anticipated a continued growth in the number of settlers as a result of the Church's missionary program, and thus, in an area of limited agricultural possibilities, it was essential to prevent a few settlers from claiming all the land. ¹

Disagreements between the Federal Government and the Mormons created long delays between colonization and the acquisition of legal ownership of the land. The door to land ownership in Utah received a setback when the 1855 Federal Land Survey was brought to a close in 1857 by the "Utah War." The 1855 survey covered only a little more than two million acres. After the war both the

Surveyor General of Utah, David H. Burr, and much of his survey met official disapproval. By 1861 not one acre had been sold to Utah settlers since the government had taken no action to extinguish Indian claims.  

In 1865 the government officials and Indian chiefs signed a treaty whereby the Indians gave up their claim to all land in Utah Territory except for a reserved area in Unita Valley. Although Congress rejected the treaty in 1869, on the grounds that Indian tribes were not independent powers with which the government could make treaties, the government acted in harmony with the intent of the treaty by reopening the land survey in Utah. On March 9, 1869, a Land Office opened in Salt Lake City and found itself swamped with business.

In Cache Valley only the areas covered by the partial survey of 1856 could be claimed. This covered the flat areas of the valley adjacent to Bear River. Settlers were able to file under the pre-emption and Homestead Laws and receive patents for the land and upon complying with the residence and improvement requirements, legal title could be secured. In 1870 four men from Kaysville filed on four quarter sections of land in the Lewiston area to become the first to use the Homestead Law in Cache Valley.

The people of Cache Valley were soon aware that federal law opened the gateway to land ownership. In 1875 the remainder of Cache Valley was surveyed, and in 1877 the survey was approved and registered. In some areas of the valley where land jumping was not a threat and the Church's system of distributing land had been successful, the settlers did not immediately seek titles to their land. As late as 1880 the Bishop of Clarkston gave out twenty-acre plots of dry land to members of his ward.

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2 Larsen, pp. 315-316.

3 Ibid., pp. 318, 323.


In 1875 and 1876 Foster Curtis, John Jenkins and William F. Rigby secured patents to quarter sections. Also, Jonas N. Beck and Amos Clarke secured patents for 80 acres of land for some of the irrigated land north and south of Newton. They had entered into contract with the individuals who possessed the land under the Church's grant, to reduce the large tract into small plots to conform to the old survey. They paid the pre-emptor for his time and expense, prorated the cost of the land, and shared in the expense of a section house, providing one was built. They often recorded the contract in the Church record books. With the Church acting as guardian, the Newton settlers began to obtain the legal title to their lands. But because of the distance to the land office in Salt Lake City, there appeared to be no rush in obtaining legal title to the land. The technicalities of building section houses, making improvements and residing on the land for five years were bothersome. Moreover, because of the Church restriction on the amount of land a man could own, much of the land remained unoccupied, being reserved for new settlers.

In April of 1878 President Thatcher of the Cache Valley Stake urged the people of Newton to get legal titles to all their lands and make arrangements among themselves for the property lines that existed before the government surveys. The settlers then took direct action and appointed one person to file as pre-emptor on a quarter section. When the final proof was received, each individual who claimed property within its bounds received a deed to his tract of land.

The following is how the first five pre-emption grants were sub-divided:

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6 Newton Ward Historical Record Book "D," pp. 70-81.

7 Newton Ward Historical Record Book "B," p. 15, 27. 

8 Newton Ward Historical Record Book "D," pp. 70-81.
Foster Curtis Pre-emptor of SW 1/4 Section 20 T13N R1W
Claiming 160 acres.
Claimed as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Streets 4 by 160 rods - 1 street 2 X 160 rods</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jens Peter Jensen</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Jenkins</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Christensen</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Seiter</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. P. Peterson</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Larsen</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Erickson</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. N. Christenson</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. H. Barker</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. N. Beck</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Catt</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jens Hansen</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James P. Nelson</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amos Clarke</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swen Jacobs</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sept. 9, 1875
Stewart's fee for filing . . $4.00
Foster Curtis expense . . $10.00
Payment for land . . . . . . . $200.00

April 1, 1876
Labor on Pre-empt House
J. Christensen $1.35
S. Jacobs Sr. 1.35
Jens Hansen 2.15
J. P. Nelson .75
S. Catt .75
J. P. Jensen 3.10
J. Seiter 3.10

John Jenkins Pre-emptor of SE1/4 Sec. 19 T13N R1W
Claiming 160 acres
Claimed as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Larsen</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cris Nelson</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amos Clarke</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Nelson</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Erickson</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Jacobs</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Jenkins</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Nelson</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. West</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid U.S. at $1.25 acre $200.00
J. Jenkins charge for Pre-empt $5.00
Labor on House - 1 day

D. Nelson $2.00
P. Larsen 1.25
Erickson .75
C. Nelson .62
J. Jenkins 6.25

Jonas N. Beck Pre-emptor of E 1/2 SW1/4 Sec. 19 T13N R1W
Containing 80 acres
Claimed as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>J. N. Beck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>James Christensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>F. Curtis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>S. Jacobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>J. P. Jensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cris Erickson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>J. H. Barker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>C. Nelson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paid U.S. . . . . $115.00
House Building
J. N. Beck $5.00
J. Christensen 3.00
S. Jacobs 3.00

Amos Clarke Pre-emptor of E 1/2 NE 1/4 Sec. 32 T13N R1W
Containing 80 acres
Claimed as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Thomas Ricks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Amos Clarke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Thomas Bates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>L. N. Christensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>H. Curtis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

W. F. Rigby Pre-emptor of NE 1/4 Sec. 18 T13N R1W
Containing 160 acres
Claimed as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>W. F. Rigby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>John Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Amos Clarke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>James Christensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>H. Curtis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mortin Larsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Jens Hansen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>J. N. Beck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>J. N. Hansen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>J. H. Barker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Peter Benson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>H. Sorenson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pre-emption expense
WFR time and expense $ 20.00
To U.S. Land Office 200.00
D.S. $7.00 Final
Proof $7.00 14.00
Affidavit to prove up 2.50
Recording deed 1.50
Deed for street 2.00
$240.00
D. Nelson work on House $1.00

The claims and land distributions shown above were made on pre-emptions initiated in the field with the government surveyor, A. J. Stewart. After the surveyor left the area, a person had to go to the U.S. Land Office in Salt Lake City to file on a piece of land. Many of Newton's landowners could not afford
to go and pay the government $1.25 an acre for the land they were tilling, let alone for a quarter section or even 80 acres. So a "Land Committee" was organized in 1878 to get the necessary funds to obtain legal title to the land around Newton. The committee secured a loan from a Mrs. Benson in Logan. With the funds five pre-emptors were sent to the Land Office where they filed on and paid for most of the tilled land that had not already been claimed. When the pre-emptors returned the bishop announced in meeting that the men "were ready to settle up with any one holding land on their claims." In December of 1878, Mrs. Benson demanded immediate payment on the "note she held against parties in Newton, for moneys borrowed to secure land titles." When the response for immediate repayment was not prompt enough, the Ward leaders did the following:

Counselor Barker read amounts due from certain individuals to the Land Committee, which individuals should assist in liquidating the debt to Mrs. Benson of Logan.

Bishop Rigby announced that sheriff's sales would probably take place in a few days for payment of the debt.

During the turmoil over land titles a few persons began to file on unclaimed land intending to keep the whole quarter section of land for themselves. This caused many to be upset and to become suspicious of these men. In a meeting held in May of 1877, Chris Anderson wanted to know if these quarter sections were "going to be owned for an eternal inheritance by the men who pre-empted them or whether they were for the benefit of the Public?" This turned the meeting into a heated discussion over land claims and the role of pre-emptors. During the discussion one man stated that he had filed on two quarter sections, "one for himself and one for the public," but he said he did not want his section unless "the Brethren were willing for him to have it." A short time later Peter Christensen took up a quarter

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9 Newton Ward Historical Record Book 72529, pp. 135, 144, 158.
section west of town. This land was supposed to be "reserved for new settlers." In February of 1878, the bishop "condemned" the man's actions and said "it was not becoming of him as a Latter-day Saint in trying to jump" this reserved land. When social and religious pressure, plus a few threats, failed to induce Peter to give up this land, the Ward leaders tried one more plan. They sent a couple of the older boys out to a portion of the quarter section and they began to plow it. This venture was given up when Peter told the boys that he did not mind their plowing "his land for him," but he emphasized the fact that the land was his. Peter's refusal to yield made it apparent that Church land grants, backed up only by Church sanctions and brotherhood, were no longer sufficient and that all land given out by the Church could be in jeopardy unless held by legal title.

Men were now aware that they could acquire and hold land apart from the Church's stewardship. When this was coupled with a few successes with dry farming that made some of the dry lands appear tempting, Newton began to experience the makings of a small land grab. The Ward tried in vain to check this tendency and to resume its control of land policy. In a Church meeting it was recorded that Bishop Rigby:

> Warned those who have acted in unrighteous independence concerning land matters, that though they may now make a dollar, if they persist they will lose their salvation, for no sooner do they exhibit full title papers to their claims, which have been unjustly (acquired), than their fellowship with the Saints will be called in question.

10 Newton Ward Historical Record Book 72529, pp. 136-137

11 Newton Ward Historical Record Book "B," p. 15.
These were strong words of warning and they may have been followed with strong action. Peter Christensen was excommunicated in 1880 and there exists two contradictory accounts as to why. The Church records do not mention the land he claimed among the reasons for excommunication. But another story exists that claims that the land was the real problem and the dispute over it caused Peter to fall away from the Church. The last account was the way the Christensen family saw the problem, the last surviving member of Peter's first family has stated:

My father was excommunicated from the Church because he got or took a section of land from the Government (which was his right as an American Citizen). You see Brigham Young allowed a man to own only 40 acres.  

The big trouble over land titles arose over claiming land that had not been occupied previously. The Church and the early settlers feared land jumping in the areas that had been cultivated for years, but there was very little trouble in these areas. Even into the 1880's there were problems over acquiring quarter sections and sub-dividing them. Because the Ward leaders did not, or maybe could not enforce a consistent policy in this regard, many felt they were cheated when they were required to give up a part of their quarter section while other filers were not required to do so.

Under the Townsite Law of March 2, 1867, Judge Milton D. Hammond secured the patent for 480 acres of land within the town in 1881. Judge Hammond redeeded the Newton townsite to Bishop William F. Rigby, who redistributed lots to those who occupied them. The townsite and the choice irrigable lands were now secured without too much disruption of the Church's land policy. But the Church's custody of land allotments and stewardship over the land had come to an end. Land owners began to consider their tracts less as stewardship and more as private possessions that they could sell, buy or trade according to personal desires.  

12 Esther Christensen Cronholm, Letter to the author, August 17, 1968.  
The advent of successful dry farming further complicated the Mormon pattern of community life. Dry farming, although successful at Bear River City as early as 1863, did not reach consequential proportion in Cache County until the early 1880's. There were trials of dry farming that proved successful such as in 1876 when John E. Godfrey of Clarkston tried three acres of dry farming and raised eighty bushels of grain upon it. Then there occurred the numerous failures that poisoned the minds of many against the new venture. An example of the attitude of many settlers can be seen in the case of a young immigrant who moved to Newton in 1885 and had the opportunity of homesteading a quarter section lying between Newton and Clarkston. He did not take the tract because the family he had lived with told him it was absolutely worthless. Today that section is one of the best dry farms in Cache Valley.  

The growth of population made it necessary to try dry farming as developments by the agricultural experiment stations and experimenting farmers made it feasible. The new knowledge of dry farming techniques and improved seed caused a boom in dry farming. By 1900 practically every quarter section of tillable land on the West Side was claimed. Dry farming was no longer an experiment but a way of life and a business venture.  

The Pre-emption and Homestead Acts were not designed for Mormon settlers who were instructed to live in town. The acts required a residency upon the tract of land for five years before the final proof or title could be acquired. Many Mormon homesteaders did not live on their homestead tracts but lived in the town. Some built section houses and lived in them during the summer, while others only laid four logs to form a rectangular base for a


section house that would never be built.  

With the success of dry farming and the opportunity to acquire title to one's land, a change occurred in the Mormon community. Farmers were no longer satisfied with twenty to thirty acres of land under which they could employ subsistence farming; many became interested in acquiring large tracts of land from the government and in buying other land to become commercial farmers with large quantities of produce to sell on the market. Many were removed from their nucleated religious and social centers for months at a time. There was antagonism between those who obeyed the letter of the law by building section houses and those who did not. An economic wedge was driven between the Church and landowners, and between two segment of the landowners.

### Polygamy

There existed a relatively large group of polygamists in Newton. In 1878 Bishop Rigby stated that Newton had "ten practicing polygamists . . . which was above par in the territory and commendable." He "advised all, whose way the Lord might open to commence the practice of this Holy Order, at the first opportunity." A week later he spoke of the "unbelievers (if works indicate faith) in Celestial Marriage." The following year one of his counselors talked on plural marriage and gave emphasis to the point that degradation and vice attended monogamy. In 1880 the bishop counseled the mothers to teach their daughters the principles of plural marriage. In spite of Church encouragement, the number of polygamists remained around ten. When Bishop Rigby left Newton for Idaho in 1884, he was replaced by Hans Funk who was also a polygamist.

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17 Newton Ward Record Book "B" pp. 71, 73, 101, 206.
Although the Mormons upheld plural marriage as a commandment of God, the rest of the country regarded it as one of the "twin relics of barbarianism." The Federal Government passed the Anti-Bigamy Act of 1862 and began a long crusade to force the Mormons to abandon their strange marriage practice. The initial action by the government caused a reaction by the Church, and the movement against polygamy led more Mormons to practice plural marriage. Even the non-polygamists closed ranks and defended the practice by helping the polygamists escape apprehension by federal officers. A son of one of the polygamists related the following experiences:

I remember the marshals coming into our town, into our home and other homes all hours of the night and getting all the family out of bed and searching the house by pulling the beds to pieces, looking under the beds, looking over the floor to see if there were any trapdoors whereby a man could go under the floor and hide. Many times I have been awakened in the middle of the night by a messenger from another town carrying the news that the marshals were coming. I had to ride horse back from house to house where these men lived to give them the warning and also went to other towns to notify the men there. Whenever this word was brought we'd see the men that were in their homes hurriedly dressing and running out of their house for the river beds, up the creeks where there were trees, in strawstacks and all over to hide. During this time all children were taught to be extremely cautious what they told to strangers so no information would be given out.

At one time the marshals came into Newton in the daytime, and the men had all been notified. A number of us boys got in a wagon and were following them around as they were going from place to place. We so annoyed the marshals that one of them got up with a gun in his hands and said: 'Now don't you make another move, you stay right there.' Naturally we obeyed.18

As early as 1870 the ladies of Newton joined with the other women in the valley to protest a bill before Congress intent on surpressing plural marriage. In meetings of the Female Relief Society the ladies voiced their support of the practice. One sister, Johana Welchman, in 1883 gave her companions in

18 M. C. Rigby, "Life Sketch of Martin Clark Rigby."
Relief Society repeated exhortions of the blessings she had gained through living polygamy. The secretary of the woman's organization recorded her last exhortion as follows:

She felt well as regards the gospel, she felt her weakness and felt she had been blessed in bygone days, she had lived in polygamy sixteen years and had always tried to conquer her feelings and the Lord had blessed her and she knew that going into the Order of Celestial Marriage had made her a changed woman and that she felt like going ahead and trying to do right. 19

When Bishop Funk and John Jenkins were about to leave for Ogden to receive sentence for unlawful cohabitation, 20 the town turned out and gave them a big surprise party. An individual reporting the incident to the Utah Journal closed his account by saying that they were "two of the first from this place to go to Ogden to receive sentence for violating an unconstitutional law." A month later, when William H. Griffin, one of the bishop's counselors, was arrested on the same charge, the newspaper reported that he "expects to go to Uncle Sam's boarding house about the middle of next week."

As the government increased its efforts to surpress polygamy, the Mormons built up a stronger feeling and rationale to defend it. 21

Among the non-polygamists there developed a few who began to find fault with the polygamists in town and began to discuss the matter with members of polygamist families. Bishop Rigby uttered a woe against those who spoke against polygamy or "throw the apple of discord into family circles."

Counselor John H. Barker added:

We have those who seemingly not having enough business of their own to attend to must needs meddle with other people's

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20 Polygamist marriage was a difficult charge to prove in court so the Mormons were usually charged with unlawful cohabitation.

affairs, and we find them interfering most in plural families. They use their forked tongue of slander. 22

As the government took more direct action against the Church and its membership such as abolishing woman suffrage, forcing the Church out of most of its economic activities by disincorporating the Church and confiscating all Church property real or personal above $50,000; 23 and when lack of ward leadership (in prison or in exile) caused the community to suffer and Church activities to be affected by defense of polygamy; then the ranks of the anti-polygamists grew and became more vocal. They felt that it was unjust that all should suffer for the actions of a few, and they were outraged when the few demanded unquestioned allegiance to the principle and participants of plural marriage. They were not too sure that the principle had not been abused when all the young men were sent off on missions or to the wood camps every time a new group of immigrants came to town, and the young immigrant girls ended up marrying much older men who already had wives. Much resentment came to the surface and strained the bonds of Church brotherhood. 24

The circumstance of all who were involved in polygamy—husband, wives and children—were not conducive to an easy, carefree life. For they lived with fear, moved often, and had to live their lives with their head looking back over their shoulder to see if and who was coming.

22 Newton Ward Historical Record Book "B," P. 85.

23 Arrington, Great Basin Kingdom, pp. 359-361. The Anti-Bigamy Act of 1862 was the basic law against polygamy but it lacked the provisions to make it effective. In 1882 the Edmunds Act put teeth in the 1862 law. In 1887 the 1862 law was again amended this time by the Edmunds-Tucker Act, which tightened the noose that killed polygamy.

John H. Barker wrote to his sister in England telling her that one of his best friends and neighbors for 14 years in Newton was on a mission in Manchester "having to flee from religious persecution." That friend and neighbor was Newton's first bishop, William F. Rigby, who along with many other polygamists were called to go on missions to preach the gospel but also to get the U.S. marshals off their trails.25

After writing his non-member sister in England for some 17 years and telling of others who were sent to prison and persecuted for marrying more than one wife, John finally told his sister:

I also have failed to inform you of my circumstances, for fear that in your want of understanding of the principle you might condemn me . . . . In the year 1879 . . . . I married and took to wife Christine M. Benson . . . . Also in the same year I married Johanna Jensen . . . . Now do not let your tradition or prejudice, or the mistaken ideas of your good but uninspired teachers, lead you to condemn your brother . . . . For the last 2 years I have been from home most of the time . . . . to avoid being arrested by the United States Marshalls, but it has so worn me out in every way that I returned home last winter, moved Christine and Johanna to Ogden and then let them arrest me . . . . I am under $300 bond to appear for trial--there is one chance in 1,000 that I may be able to beat them and 999 that I will go to prison, but when all is over and the judge is about to pass sentence, if I will only promise to turn off and disown my wives and children . . . . then the judge will give me liberty--but if I will not belie my conscience, break my vows before God, and be a traitor to every noble impulse of the human heart, then I will have to go to prison for 6 months and pay a fine of $300 and cost of court . . . . and when I come out I want to come to England and see you all, or I shall be in danger of being taken again, and then it might be imprisonment for 3 years--for my family I shall not desert or give up come what may.26

Brother Barker's predicament resolved itself when his first wife died during his trial and another disavowed him, leaving John a "man with

25 Barker, Letter, January 22, 1886

26 Ibid., June 17, 1888.
one wife and free from persecution." Following is a list of Newton's polygamists and the time they spent in the penitentiary for Unlawful Cohabitation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Time Period and Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hans Funk</td>
<td>Nov. 19, 1887 to May 19, 1888 (Fine $300)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Jenkins</td>
<td>Nov. 19, 1887 to April 1888 ($300)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William F. Rigby Sr.</td>
<td>Dec. 23, 1887 to May 23, 1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Christensen</td>
<td>Dec. 23, 1887 to ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Benson</td>
<td>Dec. 23, 1887 to ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Hansen</td>
<td>Jan. 27, 1888 to July 1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William H. Griffin</td>
<td>Feb. 12, 1888 to June 13, 1888 ($300)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Anderson</td>
<td>Dec. 10, 1888 to ? ($50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jens N. Hansen</td>
<td>May 25, 1889 to August 24, 1889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hans Sorensen</td>
<td>Arrested Feb. 1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John H. Barker</td>
<td>Arrested Feb. 1888--case dropped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. P. Welchman</td>
<td>Left Newton before the Edmunds Act.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When President Wilford Woodruff issued the Manifesto in the fall of 1890, some of the leading men in the Church could not accept this change. Among them was Matthias F. Cowley, an Apostle who married Luella Parkinson, a Newton schoolteacher, in 1889. However, most of the people involved in polygamy accepted the Manifesto, but they desired to keep their existing relationships and families intact. Even after the Manifesto in 1890, those men who had plural wives had a problem of great magnitude. They loved all of their families yet the law explicitly stated they were to live with just one wife. For a period of time after 1890 the law enforcement officials kept an eye on the men who were in this situation. These men found ingenious ways of keeping their relationships with their families. Only a few men abided the strict letter of the law and chose to live with one wife. The more typical pattern was that of one of Newton's polygamists, John Jenkins, who was suspected of violating

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27 Ibid., May 1889.

28 Andrew Jensen, Church Chronology, 2nd Ed. Rev. (Salt Lake City, Utah--Deseret News Press, 1914).
the statue against plural marriage in 1894. The U.S. marshals were looking for him, but friends so advised him and he was able to stay away from their grasp. From years of experience he had ways and means of keeping one jump ahead of the marshals most of the time. He had, for example, a secret hiding place with a bed in a thicket of mahogany about one half mile from his ranch, which was north of Clarkston. There he would spend many nights unable to spend them in the house when the marshals were near at hand. He relates this experience:

One day in the spring of 1894 when the marshals were after me I went to Weston and found they had been there looking for me. Not finding me there, they had gone on to the ranch ... where Maria then lived. On learning this I started to look for them. When I got to Rick's ranch I got one of Rick's boys to go to my ranch with me. When we got to the ridge south of the house, I stayed there while the boy went to the house to look for Maria and the marshal but he found no one. On learning this, I did not know what to do so I decided to go to my bed which I had ... northwest of the house. This was my hiding place from the marshals. There I found Maria and the two children.29

To finish the story, the family of four left the hills that night on horseback and rode to a neighbor's ranch arriving about daylight and had a welcomed breakfast. They then journeyed to Weston where Maria and the children stayed for a time. John went into the Mink Creek Mountains and "stayed in hiding for the summer." Here he was joined in late summer by Maria. At the same time another wife was arrested and taken to Ogden because she gave birth to a child, but because her husband was in Idaho and Utah had no jurisdiction, the case against her was dropped.

When the government's prosecution of polygamist ward leaders put them in prison or in hiding, wives and children were left to run business establishments. Under these conditions, the United Order was discontinued, and the co-operative store became a pseudo-communal project as it progressively fell into the hands of fewer and fewer individuals and became for all practical

29 Jenkins
purposes, a private enterprise. The polygamy prosecution forced the Church to withdraw from most of its economic activities. In order to get along in the American system, the Mormons gave up most of their communal projects and ideas and accepted individualism and free enterprise. 30

Besides the social and economic consequences, polygamy created a political and religious problem in relation to Church authority. In 1883 the Newton Ward was incorporated to prevent the government from confiscating Church property. A board of directors was elected and ran the affairs of the Church which at this time included all community affairs. By 1892 many inside the board of directors and members of the Church felt that the new corporation was just like any other business; anyone could become a member of the board, and it could direct the bishop and the other ward organizations. Bishop Funk tried to counter this trend by telling the people that the corporation was simply for the protection of the Church property in the ward and did not do away with the authority of the bishop or the other ward affairs. Furthermore, only members of the Melchizedak Priesthood could be on the board and the bishop was to be the president. Although Church and community business was transacted in the name of a Church leader or by the corporation, the Church was still in control because of its religious authority. But serious minded Church members had questioned ecclesiastical authority over secular matters for the first time. 31

Railroad

The transcontinental railroad was completed the same year Newton was settled, and it brought a rail station close enough to the community to assist its economy. Farmers who raised a surplus could haul it to Corinne and receive cash for it instead of the scrip given by the Church in the early days. Furthermore, agricultural equipment could now be shipped into the area. Shortly

30 Arrington, Great Basin Kingdom, pp. 358-361.

after the driving of the Golden Spike, home enterprises sought to bring the railroad into Cache Valley. In 1871 the work began as Colonel James H. Martineau surveyed a line north of Brigham City along the base of the mountains. He found two routes for entering Cache Valley; the first was to follow the river through Bear River Gorge, the second, to go over the Mendon Divide. He favored the former route as far superior, but the directors decided to go over the summit.

The narrow gauge Utah Northern Railway was completed to Logan by January 31, 1873, and to Franklin, Idaho, by May of 1874. 32

The new railroad, providing a better means of getting commodities to market, greatly stimulated trade. More and more farmers left subsistence agriculture and began to produce goods for sale. Production of grains, eggs and butter increased; Cache Valley became the granary of Utah. Much of the increased trade with Montana had to be freighted in wagons from the end of the Utah Northern track to the mining camps in Montana when the anticipated northern extension of the railroad was arrested by the Panic of 1873. The northern extension was desirable because Cache Valley could hardly support a railroad with its own immature economy. Therefore, the directors of the Utah Northern appealed to professional help. They interested Jay Gould who bought out the eastern capitalist and persuaded several of his partners to help refinance the railroad. Reorganization of the new railroad company occurred in January of 1877. 33

The new owners intended to reach Montana to take full advantage of the mining bonanza. With the illustrative Mr. Gould and his partners in charge, rumors circulated concerning the route of the railroad. In June of 1877 a Bozeman, Montana, newspaper quoted the Corinne Record to the effect that Gould was going to send out two surveying parties to discover the best route


The advent of the railroad replaced Corinne with Logan as the main shipping point for Cache Valley including Newton. The first indication that the railroad might come closer to Newton came when the Central Pacific Railroad was granted a right-of-way that passed south of Newton just below Bear River. This CPRR right-of-way is shown on the first government survey made of the area around Newton by A. J. Stewart in November of 1875. However, the CPRR made no known attempt to put a railroad through the area.

In February of 1877 Jonas N. Beck wrote the following to the Desert News:

We are considerably isolated, but as it has been predicted that the iron rails would pass through this place our loneliness will be of but short duration. Railroads are a great blessing but they are like a rose with the thorn, and while enjoying their benefits, we must put up with the evils they bring.

Brother Beck went on to express his belief that good men and women can withstand the "onset of evil." His mention of a prediction that the railroad would pass through Newton probably was in reference to what President Brigham Young said on his June visit of 1870. The oral tradition is unclear today but the two most popular versions relate that (1.) President said the residents of Newton would have a railroad coming up through Bear River Canyon and that it "would pass through this place," (2.) President Young said the railroad would come through the canyon and it would pass near enough to Newton for its citizens to hear the train whistle.

A February 27, 1884, entry in the Journal History of the Church has an excerpt written by someone living in Newton. It states:

We expect at no very distant day to have the main line of the Utah and Northern through the Bear River Narrows. Newton will be the main shipping point for Cache Valley.

34 Beal, pp. 37, 40.
The railroad surveying party are at work almost every-day in the narrows. 36

The surveying in 1884 was just the preliminary steps to modernize the Utah and Northern which became a subsidiary of the Union Pacific. The new owners had extended the line from Franklin to the "Treasure State" in 1880. By 1883 the Utah and Northern had become one of the Union Pacific's most profitable branch lines. The company began carrying heavier and longer loads necessitating heavier locomotives which required considerable strengthening of the roadbed. With the strengthening of the roadbed the company decided to make a complete conversion from narrow to standard gauge track. It started the shiftover in July of 1887 on the part of the line between McCammon, Idaho, and Butte, Montana. 37

South of McCammon the company was going to move the rails to a new route that would eliminate the grade over the "Bear River Bench between Collingston and Mendon", that they had disliked since October of 1877. The narrow gauge line was abandoned in favor of a new road first surveyed by Martineau in 1871 and then resurveyed in 1884 by the Union Pacific. The new standard road built during 1889 and 1890 shortened the route and went through Clifton, Dayton, Weston, Cornish, Trenton and followed Bear River through the gorge as originally favored by the old Utah Northern survey made by Martineau. At the western periphery of Cache Valley directly south of the river, a new railroad terminal and junction was established. From Cache Junction a forty-two mile branch line was later built connecting the junction with Wellsville, Logan, Preston and several other towns in between. 38

There is another oral tradition that contends that the railroad wanted to come through Newton and the local landowners refused to sell them a right-of-way because they did not wish to see the railroad pass through their town. If this is correct, then it must have been between 1884 and 1889 and Newton

36 Journal History, Feb. 27, 1884, p. 5.
38 Beal, pp. 39, 170, 209.
lost the confidence that Jonas Beck expressed in 1877 and the hope expressed in 1884. It may also be that the railroad found the topography of the area to offer more disadvantages and thus followed the slightly longer old CPRR right-of-way around Newton.

At Cache Junction boardinghouses, eating establishments, saloons and a retail liquor store were soon established. Interested parties on both sides of Bear River began petitioning the county court for a bridge across the river. At first the court rejected the requests but repeated petitions with offers of money helped the court to change its mind. In November of 1891 a new bridge was finished across Bear River immediately below Newton, thus giving the inhabitants of Newton easy access to the railroad. 39

The railroad complex at Cache Junction not only continued the penetration of Newton's isolation, but introduced local non-agricultural work for many local citizens. Many worked for the railroad directly, others worked in the businesses that serviced the railroad people, while some established business enterprises at the railroad junction. This development was the first to allow residents of Newton to leave agriculture and still make a living. Such individuals were in a minority, but these were instrumental in allowing the population of the town to increase. The railroad provided a ready market for the farmer's produce. These factors of employment and new markets put more dollars into the pockets of Newtonites and brought them more into the national economy. Their scrip and United Order were gone, and the Co-op store moved further and further away from the intent of its founders. Church control of social mores became more difficult with "the evils" of the railroad just next door to Newton. Saloons, liquor stores and pool halls were a few of the "evils" now readily accessible. 40


The factors of land titles, dry farming, polygamy and the coming of the railroad in the 1880's and 1890's caused a break in the tightly knit social, economic and political structure initiated by the Church. The town of Newton experienced a transition from a homogeneous religious settlement to just another town with a very influential Church. The break, although it did not abolish the influence of the Church, forced it to adjust to the changing conditions. The Church no longer took the lead in all things; its actions were channeled more and more into ecclesiastical matters, and its influence, although still strong, was primarily of a covert nature.
CHAPTER III

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

In the Pioneer Era the local people did almost everything for themselves. A little ingenuity and a lot of hard work solved most of their problems. But bigger issues arose that required planning and action on a large scale. Voluntary co-operation, although commendable, was insufficient to handle the difficulties encountered in the twentieth century.

At first Church controlled community affairs by calling special meetings after a Church service. As the Church became more organized and the men met in sessions called priesthood meetings, they used these occasions to transact secular business as well as Church affairs. Within the mass assembly of the priesthood quorums, decisions were reached regarding such items as when dances would be held, that people were "not to fence sidewalks without permission from Priesthood Meeting," the purchasing of a community bull, and the overgrazing of the range by sheep. The subjects covered in Priesthood Meetings are represented by the following statement by a member of the Priesthood, Alfred Atkinson in 1873:

i cannot say i have enjoyed myself tonight in the first place one man gets up and talks about a bull then another gets up and contradicts him, then another gets up and complains about the F. M. R. S. (Female Relief Society) and another gets up and contradicts him and instead of this being a meeting to edify each other i consider it has been a meeting of contention. i was not at the last meeting but according to the minutes of the last meeting that were read her tonight the brethren were preaching sheep. They have been preaching sheep tonight and may preach sheep for the next half dozen meetings. This i think is unnecessary but says one is not these things that we have been talking about connected with the Kingdom of God. Certainly they are but it is useless for you to preach to me every Quorum meeting about sheep

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for i cannot personally dictate in regard to these things it is useless for me to preach to you every Quorum meeting about sheep for you cannot personally dictate in these things but it is our Bishop in connection with the people to controle these matters. There is a proper time and place for these things to be discussed but i do not consider a Quorum meeting the place to talk about these things but if it is lets wait till the Bishop is here and then preach to him as we have been preaching tonight but if the Brethren cannot wait till the Bishop is here i say appoint a committee to wait on him.2

Bishop Rigby held only the priesthood office of a Seventy. There were a number of men who held the office of High Priest, and one member presided over the meetings of the priesthood. The bishop had not attended these meetings, but after his presence was requested, he began meeting with the priesthood. A dispute arose over whether the bishop or the High Priest group leader would take charge. The problem was solved in 1877 when the bishop became the thirteenth High Priest ordained in Newton. The bishop's presence at these meetings ended the stalemate previously experienced, but the content and feeling of the meetings remained the same. The members of the Priesthood Meeting discussed business matters to such an extent that William F. Jensen asked in 1896 if the meeting "was for business alone." James F. Hansen answered and said he believed it was for "religious transactions as well."3

Political institutions

In Newton's early days, two institutions came into being that reduced the hegemony of the bishop; they were the school district and the irrigation district. These institutions set the pattern for the eventual division of secular and ecclesiastical power and took over functions that the Church had controlled in the beginning.

2 Minutes of Priesthood Meeting 1873-1886, pp. 16-19

The Newton School District, established in 1870, directed education in the town. It taxed the people and built a schoolhouse in 1873, made a sizeable addition to this school in 1892, and erected a new eight room school in 1908. The school district was directed by three elected trustees who zealously guarded the rights and powers given to them. They were influenced by the Church and co-operated with it as demonstrated by the trustees' answer to an objection in 1879 to the way they regulated the use of the school building at a time when Newton had only one public building.  

The trustees have always objected to interruptions of day school but many important meetings are demanded in the interest of the ward, and yet we have but this one house in which to convene school and all other meetings. These facts suggest the great necessity of the building of a vestry-room, attached to this house.  

One of the trustees, Bishop William F. Rigby, speaking in his office as Church leader, said that he "would be pleased to see the trustees take action in this matter." This was the only occasion when the bishop served on the school board. As an elected trustee, he had a definite civic responsibility, and as an ordained bishop, he had an ecclesiastical responsibility with overlapping interests. However, the bishop did not combine his authorities but acted in each office separate and apart from the other.

The bishop of the ward frequently attended public meetings of the school trustees, but this was expected of him since major business items such as election of trustees, voting on taxes and bond issues were the usual business of such meetings. The trustees often asked the bishop if he cared to comment on important issues. The school district minutes record that on

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6 Ibid.
such occasions the bishop usually talked about the importance of maintaining a quality school or the necessity of taxation to support the school, but he did not try to direct or control the school trustees. The fact that they were not just a rubber stamp for the wish of the bishop was verified by an 1897 decision of the trustees. They rejected a request of the bishop to use the schoolhouse the following winter for evening meetings while the Church house was being remodeled. The trustees were not hostile to the Church request but based their decision on the fact that the schoolhouse was very difficult to keep clean and the evening use of it would create either extra cleaning work or leave a dirty classroom. 7

The second special district that took over an important function of the Church was the Irrigation District, created in 1874. The farmers who possessed water rights elected trustees to direct the district. The district could levy taxes upon the lands to be benefited by the irrigation water, but it could not bond the district to raise funds. The irrigation district, a product of the early Mormon territorial legislature, allowed the local farmers to regulate the irrigation water according to their needs. Only those possessing water rights alone could influence the policies of the district. The bishop’s influence was based upon his water right holdings and not upon his ecclesiastical position, as the Church had given up the regulation of irrigation water to the farmers. 8

When a part of the dam gave way in 1888, all the water was lost. The


farmers had mixed emotions about what to do; some favored building a new
dam elsewhere while others thought it best to repair the old dam but make
it more secure. This problem, together with the fact that the reservoir was
not large enough to store a sufficient amount of water, made it desirable to
increase the capacity of the reservoir. The old district had insufficient
power to meet the economic needs to correct the prevailing problems.
Therefore, in 1889 the farmers regrouped and formed the Newton Irrigation
Company. In 1890 the company was incorporated under the laws of the
Territory of Utah, providing for a corporate life of fifty years and the issuance
of capital stock in the amount of $10,000. Under the new company, another
dam was constructed in 1890 about one mile below the old site; however,
in 1892 after an engineer inspected both dams, the new site was abandoned
and the original dam was raised three feet and a spillway built to prevent
repeated washing out of the structure. 9

The two special districts were successful in directing the affairs
assigned to them. They were able to assess and collect taxes to meet
the financial needs of the changing times, and they were secure from the
effects of the Edmunds-Tucker Act of 1887 which disincorporated the Church
and confiscated Church property. These were the incentives to adopt a form
of community government that could provide needed services and bring
security. By conforming to civil governing practices of the nation, the
citizens of Newton were adjusting and adapting their ideas and institutions
to meet the needs of the present age. Their Church gradually gave up its
temporal aspirations and concentrated more on the religious. 10

Incorporation of the town

The incorporation of the town came about as a result of deliberations
in Priesthood Meeting. On November 6, 1899, William F. Jensen suggested
that the "matter of a town organization" be taken up at the next month Priesthood

9 Ibid.
10 Arrington, Great Basin Kingdom, pp. 360-361.
Meeting. Although the priesthood holders agreed to this, it was not until January 8, 1900, that a meeting was held in the vestry of the Meeting House to discuss the question of a town corporation. At this meeting Bishop William H. Griffin, William J. Barker, William F. Jensen, George Parsons, James Parsons, J. N. Hansen, John Jenkins, John Griffin, James A. Hansen and M. P. Petersen all spoke in favor of incorporation and "explained the advantages of the organization and approved the proposition if properly carried out." They presented a paper showing how the town organization had succeeded in Providence, Utah. Although "a few of the brethren expressed their opposition to the town organization," J. N. Hansen, James Parsons and M. P. Petersen were appointed to draft a petition and present it to the people. A month later the petition was returned to the Priesthood Meeting with 108 signatures favoring incorporation and a report that only ten had refused to sign. The ward leaders presented the petition to the county officials. 11

On March 12, 1900, the county commissioners granted the request and incorporated the town of Newton. They appointed Charles M. Christensen as President of the Town Board with John E. Griffin, J. N. Hansen, William J. Barker and John Benson as members of the board. The board set up two committees, one on Ordinances and the other on Nominations. The Nominations Committee recommended John Benson as marshal, James Parsons as road supervisor, and J. N. Hansen as poundkeeper, and all were unanimously accepted by the board. Two members of the board and a "lady doctor" were appointed as a board of health. The Ordinance Committee recommended the first year ordinances pertaining to licensing of businesses, health precautions and requirements, obligation of landowners regarding sidewalks, bridges and trees adjacent to their property, the duties of the town marshal, establishing a road poll tax, setting up an estray pound, and establishing by ordinance the penalty for violating any of the said ordinances. 12

11 Newton Ward Historical Record Book "E," pp. 139-140, 263.

At this point the town government performed the basic functions of maintaining law and order, taking care of the public health and welfare, and holding elections. These had previously been accomplished by the precinct and Church and were now brought together under one administration. The town government could enforce its provisions whereas the Church could not. The town, having the responsibility and being organized to perform these public functions, came to do them more effectively. The real advantage of the town corporation came in regard to finances. It was allowed to assess taxes on all real and personal property in Newton for the general fund, for utilities and to pay off debts. It was also allowed to bond the town to obtain finances to establish better services.  

The procuring of electricity and the installation of a new water system by the town government showed its advantage over the old unincorporated precinct. Although electricity came to Logan as early as 1886, it remained elusive for Newton another two decades. During the Progressive Era (1900 to World War I) Newton got in step with the rest of Cache Valley in seeking civic improvements. Their first attempt for electrification came in 1905 when they joined with Clarkston in a futile attempt to solicit the independent power companies to run a line to both communities. In 1910 they tried a new source as they petitioned the Utah and Idaho Sugar Company, which had a power plant in Bear River Canyon, to supply electric power for the town. The company agreed to provide electricity for Newton and Cache Junction if a sufficient number of subscribers could be obtained to satisfy the company of the financial success of the venture. The required number failed to sign and Newton remained in the dark for another six years.  

In 1912 the Utah Power and Light Company was formed and began acquiring and developing electrical properties. It purchased nine facilities in Cache Valley, including the sugar company's power plant. As the new company expanded its operations, it sought new markets. The company extended its lines to Newton from its plant in Bear River Canyon in 1916 after the town gave the company a yearly guarantee "as an inducement to build into Newton." The people signed contracts with the company promising to use at least a certain amount of electricity. This time the people were ready and anxious for the arrival of the electricity and made extensive preparations to immediately enjoy its benefits. The Newton correspondent summed up the situation several months before the electricity arrived:

Newton people are rejoicing over the prospects of electricity, which they soon hope to have the use of. The contracts are signed up and a majority of the houses are wired all ready to be connected up. It is expected to be here by June. We are just waiting for the company to build the line.

When the electricity arrived on August 18, 1916, and was connected to the houses, not only were lights ready for use but "washers, wringers and other labor saving devices" as well. Within three weeks the power company had installed six electric ranges and gave a demonstration on using the new stoves in food preparation. Almost everyone had electric lights and many obtained refrigerators while electric stoves were not as numerous. The town installed street lights which the residents proudly declared ranked their community "with other prosperous cities in the county."

Meters were installed shortly after the power came and when the people didn't use their guaranteed minimum, the town was obligated to see that the power company received at least the amount promised them. The


town had a little trouble meeting its yearly guarantee to the power company. In 1918 they were short $62.00, and instead of billing the customers for the amount, the town board obtained donations from M. T. Beck, the Newton Ward, and the Co-op Store because the townspeople were already "considerably annoyed by the company's pressure to collect its bills." When the depression came, the town found it difficult to pay the cost of the street lights, so it reduced the size of the lights from 400 candlepower to fourteen of 100 candlepower and two of 250 candlepower. The town provided the service of lighting the streets for fifty years, then replaced the old lights with new aluminum mercury vapor lights in 1966.

The second accomplishment provided a culinary water system which continues to be the major town service to the present day. This came after the "Sweden" section of Newton had established a system that furnished water for families west of the slough. The "Sweden" system was put into service by private enterprise in 1903 or 1904, with Martin C. Rigby, Chris Christensen, John E. Griffin, John Larsen initiating the system. The source for this first water system was a spring on the slough about a block north of the city limits. The water was piped down to their city lots. Later others bought into the system, for instance, while Marinus Petersen was in Denmark on a mission his wife Zina borrowed $75.00 so the Petersen family could have a ready supply of good water. Eventually almost everyone who lived west of the slough came to be on the "Sweden Water System", which system continued to serve at least one home until the early 1960's. In August of 1908 Newton's correspondent to The Journal wrote that "the water works in the western part of Newton is doing much for the town; but it should be extended to the eastern part." The town board evidently took the hint for on December 16, 1908, they began to "discuss the possibility of establishing a water works."


In 1909 the town began to look for suitable springs which could be used for a water system. The town located several springs and had an engineer run a survey on the proposed water supplies. He determined the best source included the Jones well and the Hansen spring. The town procured the water rights to these two sources in return for promises to furnish the owners with water at their homes as well as provide for the watering of stock at both sites. Having located and procured the necessary water supply, the town sought to obtain the financial backing to build the water system. In response to legal counsel, a bond issue was placed before the citizens of Newton on March 31, 1911. The $6,300 bond carried by a vote of thirty-eight to eight. The town bonded as heavily as the law would allow, and the remaining finances, about one-half the total cost, had to be raised by a special tax on frontage. This required each property owner to pay a tax of $63.00 per city lot if a line of water system was adjacent his property. The system provided culinary water for the town in 1911 under the regulation of the town board. 20

Draw-buckets and pumps gave way to a water tap either near the house or in the house as everyone in town had running water from the "Sweden" system or the new town system. Several families were fortunate enough to have the water brought inside their homes immediately. Mayor W. R. Ballard was one of the first, having it installed during the winter of 1911-1912. By the end of 1911 "many families ... realize its value, especially those that have brought it inside their homes." Some owners of old homes had to wait until they could bear the expense, while all the new homes were constructed with plumbing. 21

At first many people opposed the new system because of its great expense, but after it had been used a short time, even the greatest pessimists changed their minds, stating that "they would not exchange the services

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21 The Journal, November 30, 1911, February 6, 1912.
they are getting for many times what it has cost them." With a ready supply of water at a person's fingertips, strict water economy gave way as the mayor reported that the "good people of Newton are drinking more than they did formerly." Running water brought bathrooms into the homes and new fixtures calling for greater quantities of water. The new conveniences made the people forget the economic strain of the new system. With running water around the homes, more flowers and lawns grew to add beauty to the town. 22

In 1916 the town's water supply became inadequate. A bond election for $12,500, for the purpose of increasing the existing water supply and water works, passed by a vote of thirty-eight to thirty-one. With the money from the bond, the town purchased the Buttars spring southeast of Clarkston and extended a line from the spring to the catch basin on the original water system. The water from the Buttars spring was added to the water system in 1917, but again the need for water exceeded the capacity of the system, and shortages were experienced as early as 1919. To correct the shortage, the town purchased the Looslie spring in 1937 and placed a line from that spring to the Buttars spring. The project, coming during the time when the effects of the depression were still being felt, received a grant for construction of the water works through the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works. 23

In 1944 Newton made an "agreement with Clarkston for Newton's share of the Little Birch Spring now carried through the Clarkston pipe line from the source of the spring to the Clarkston catch basin." Newton paid Clarkston $200 per year for this service. In 1945 Newton placed 6100 feet of pipe from the Clarkston Reservoir to Newton's catch basin southeast of Clarkston. 24


24 Ibid., pp. 185, 195, 222.
The last addition to the water system was made possible in 1945 when the town purchased 360 shares of water from the Newton Water User's Association and asked to be allowed to take it as a continuous flow from the springs north of Clarkston. In response to a query by the Newton Water User's Association, the Bureau of Reclamation, the agency responsible for building the Newton Project, gave the opinion that the Association could deliver the water to its stockholders where they wished. This transferred to the town all the water in Little and Big Birch Springs that had been given to the Newton Irrigation Company by the Kimball Decree in 1922 and the Harris Decree in 1934 which adjudicated the water rights of Clarkston Creek. With the water rights secured, the town slowly and in a piecemill fashion began the process of adding to its water system. In 1949 Newton built a new 150,000 gallon culinary water reservoir, taking $9,000 worth of 4 percent bond with Cache Valley Banking Company. In 1954 the town began to seriously consider obtaining and piping Big Birch Spring to Newton. The next year the town received more incentive to push the project as the town of Trenton filed a condemnation suit against Clarkston Irrigation Company which made Newton Town and Newton Water User's Association parties to the suit. 25

Trenton desired some of the water from Big Birch Spring for culinary purposes. Newton Water User's Association and Newton Town Board persuaded the Clarkston Irrigation Company to sell its rights in Big Birch Spring to Clarkston town, then allow the towns to work out an agreement for division of the waters of the spring. However, the court gave Trenton part of the water in Big Birch, but the controversy created by Trenton stimulated Newton and Clarkston to extend their water system to include Big Birch Spring. In 1962 Newton put in a six inch line from Big Birch Spring to the culinary water reservoir, and for the first time they built a system that

was not obsolete within five years of construction. The town installed a chlorinator to this system which gave better health protection to the citizens. Prior to this time, the catch basin screens and the reservoir removed some of the foreign matter in the water but did not purify it. 26

The town government could provide better services for the citizens of the town since it was able to bond, borrow money, assess and collect taxes, and receive state and federal aid. The Church offered considerable aid through its co-operative system, but it could not provide the long term financing or force the people to pay special taxes. The transfer of authority from the Church to the town government proved to be necessary for another reason, many members of the Church were such in name only and would not follow Church counsel if they felt it countered their wishes. The non-member element in town may have added to this transfer, but its influence was probably slight since at the height of Newton’s population in 1930, members of the Church and their children accounted for 689 of the total population of 696. 27

Relationship with the Church and other governments

After incorporation of the town, the Church gradually withdrew from secular affairs and allowed the town to assume the initiative. An example of this comes from the struggle to obtain electric lights for the town. The members of the Priesthood Meeting discussed the need for a modern lighting system in 1905 and decided that the matter should be left to the town board. When municipal government became fully organized, it called upon the Church for assistance in such activities as cleaning up the


sidewalks around the public square. The members of the town board were generally good Church members and allowed the Church to exert a great deal of indirect influence in secular matters. For instance, in 1900 the Priesthood Meeting discussed the problems of people smoking on the meeting house steps. The minutes of the next meeting record that the matter was discussed at length, but no action was taken. However, the next year the town passed an ordinance making it "unlawful for any persons to smoke cigarettes, cigars, or pipes on the Newton Meeting House grounds." 

In 1912, when the town needed funds to settle a number of pressing bills, it borrowed $400 from the Relief Society for a ninety day period at 6 per cent interest. The relationship between the Church and the town was a close one and worked to benefit the people, most of whom belonged to both the ecclesiastical and secular organization. They co-operated with one another but generally did not interfere with the other's affairs. The indirect influence of the Church on the town government cannot be discounted, as two former bishops served as presidents of the town board and two members of the bishopric served as presidents of the board while performing their Church responsibilities. During an eight year period the town board president had leadership authority in both town and Church at the same time. In general the town officials served on the board during or after holding positions in the bishopric. 

Town governments like other agencies have moved away from the necessity of requiring the labor of local members. In constructing the Dave Rees bridge across the Bear River in 1871, the inhabitants of Newton provided the necessary labor. In 1875 upkeep of the bridge became the responsibility of the inhabitants of both Newton and Clarkston. After the turn of the century, 

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the town came to rely on county and state action to build and repair roads and bridges. The town even hired the county to grade and gravel its streets and later on to pave them as well. The county and state provided increasingly more health and welfare services.

Beginning with the 1930's the Federal Government came to play a more direct role in Newton. Government loans and grants were available for improving the water system through the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, the Works Projects Administration graveled town streets, the Civil Work Administration improved county roads around Newton and installed a drainage system in town, and the Bureau of Reclamation helped to finance and build the new reservoir in the 1940's.

As the world became more complex, engineers, planners and professional labor took over the activities previously accomplished by the people. County, state and Federal Government managed the large projects such as building the reservoir and also provided services directly for the individual farmer and family. As the people of Newton gradually gave up doing many things for themselves, they found governmental agencies able and willing to do a better job, but they also discovered a continual increase in tax rates to meet the new public demands.

Political parties

The forces that pushed for the abandonment of polygamy sought also to terminate the political power of the Church. Many Mormons discovered


that the polygamy issue became a successful vehicle used to strike at the voting power of the Church. As a result, the Church sought to abandon the old political alignment of Mormon versus anti-Mormon after the 1890 election. Instead they promoted the creation of a two party system in Utah to conform with national politics.  

The Democratic and Republican clubs were organized in Newton during 1892 and held a number of rallies in order to recruit members and plan the November election work. The new Democratic Party won 56 per cent of the vote in 1892 and 62 per cent in the 1894 election. In 1896 with Utah a state and all voting restrictions removed from polygamists and suffrage restored to women, the vote in Newton almost doubled for an overwhelming support of the Democratic Party and its locally popular silver platform and candidate. The Democratic Party in Newton coined the slogan, "Newton is all right for silver and democracy." Newton aligned itself with the Democratic Party at the beginning and consistently supported the Party.  

Utah and the Church voted Democratic in the 1890's. But the Republicans regrouped in 1901 and 1902, gaining enough strength to give Utah a strong two party system. Except for 1896, 1912 and 1960, the state has voted along national lines and has not become entrenched for either party. Cache County, although presently a Republican stronghold, has alternated back and forth between the two major parties since 1892 and entered the present Republican cycle in 1946. Newton followed the state and Cache County into the Republican camp in the Congressional election of 1902, and in 1904 it supported Theodore Roosevelt by a four vote margin. Newton's conversion to Republicanism was short lived as they voted Democratic from


1904 to 1952, when the Republicans were successful in the Congressional election and then again in 1966. Newtonites have voted for the losing side in seven of the eighteen Presidential elections. Newton has usually given the Democrats a comfortable margin, although seven Congressional elections have been very close (eight votes or less). The town has gone heavily Democratic in 1896 and during the depression years, giving majorities of 80 to 91 per cent in the Presidential elections.

Third party votes have helped decide two elections. In 1912 Theodore Roosevelt and the Bull Moose Party took enough Republican votes, allowing the Democrats to win in Newton with just a plurality. In 1924 Newton gave 26 votes to Robert LaFollette of the Progressive Party, and the Democrats won with only 46 per cent of the vote. Otherwise, the third party vote has been insignificant. It is of interest that Parley P. Christensen, a former resident of Newton, ran for President in 1920 on the Farm-Labor Party ticket. Parley spent his childhood and youth in Newton, then went east to study law and returned to practice in Salt Lake City. In 1906 he tried to become a candidate for Congress from Utah and failed. In the 1920 election he failed to receive a vote from his old home town and only obtained 4,448 in the state, but he did receive 1,300 votes more than the noted Socialist candidate Eugene V. Debs.

Newton's initial association with the Democratic Party was due mainly to many Mormons associating it as the predecessor of the old People's Party while the Republican Party was looked upon as the home

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34 Newton supported Douglas Stringfellow in the 1952 election before his alleged war exploits were discovered to be fraudulent. The election did not show the true picture as many voted for him from sympathy for his disabled condition and his fabricated story of his experiences in World War II.


of the anti-Mormon Liberals. In this alignment Newton followed the general Mormon pattern. However, the Church had made a definite stand in favor of the two party systems; and the Church leaders encouraged many Mormons to join the Republican Party, thereby, somewhat balancing the two parties. The ascension of Joseph F. Smith to the presidency of the Church and the entry of Apostle Reed Smoot into the United States Senate were instrumental in making the Republican Party as acceptable as the Democratic Party for Mormon voters. While the state and Cache County fluctuated back and forth between the two parties, Newton has remained true to its first allegiance. 37

Probably the main reason for Newton's long standing support of the Democratic Party is that very little new blood is received into the community. The only appreciable group of newcomers to the town is the wives of many of Newton's young men. When the attachment to the Democratic Party developed, it included the more prominent families, and since the Church apparently did not call anyone in Newton to become Republicans, the Democrats gained a foothold that they have not lost. This loyalty has persisted from generation to generation because the majority of the voters gain their partisan view from their parents. Clarkston, with the same demographic make up, reveals an almost identical voting pattern as Newton. A survey of voting patterns in Cache County shows that the larger communities have a more balanced voting record, while the small towns have consistently supported one party or the other, with Newton and Clarkston being the most one sided. 38

The following table gives the election results for the Newton Precinct; first for the delegates to Congress from the Territory of Utah (1876 to 1894),


then for presidential electors, representatives to the lower-house of the U.S. Congress, governor of the State of Utah, finally the vote for U.S. senators from Utah after 1914 with the passage of the Seventeenth Amendment.

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CHAPTER IV

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS 1890-1929

The coming of the railroad to Cache Junction and the admission of Utah to statehood ended the semi-isolation of Newton and brought it into the modern era. The people ended their hostility toward the national government and championed the American system and traditions. They became more directly tied to the life of the nation and experienced the rise and fall of the national economy. No longer were they an isolated pioneer society of Mormons but a part of the United States. In social and economic matters they largely adopted the country's pattern, sometimes haltingly and with regret as Church mores were compromised to establish a secular society in a rapidly changing world.

The period under consideration was Newton's golden era. It was a time of high hopes and rising expectations. The population of the town grew and community spirit was high even though the people experienced hard as well as good times.

Role of the Church

In 1891 the Church moved out of the old rock school into its new but unfinished meeting house. The building had been started in 1887 and the people were proudly determined to build "the largest house of worship of the settlements on the west side of the Bear River." The first year witnessed considerable progress as the walls and roof were constructed. In May of 1888 the people intended to finish the building by the end of summer. In the first part of June the reservoir went out and the money and labor that would have been used to complete the meeting house had to be directed toward repairing the reservoir. The loss of irrigation water caused poor crops in 1888. The economic problems of the Newton people were further complicated in 1890 by a depression that brought agricultural prices down. In March of 1892 Bishop Hans Funk urged the people to finish the Meeting House. It was completed, paid for and finally dedicated by Isaac Smith of the stake presidency on March 26, 1893. ¹

The new Church structure now served as the center of social life in the

¹Newton Ward Historical Record Book "E," pp. 70, 73, 103. The Utah Journal, November 23, 1887, May 5, 1888.
community. Within its walls were held not only the regular religious services but also celebrations, dances, dramas, operas, banquets, and basketball games. Many of today's older citizens remember Soren Peterson reading the Declaration of Independence and John E. Griffin giving a talk on the Mormon pioneers for the annual fourth and twenty-fourth of July celebrations. Their memory, however, is most vivid about the ice cool lemonade that was distributed to the "thirsty audience." On occasions the building became the "Newton Opera House" with M. T. Beck as manager. After the performance, the structure once again transformed back into a religious structure. One of the highlights of the Church sponsored social activities was the annual "Old Folks Reunion." The 1908 reunion is typical of the event and it came off as follows: Early in the morning several young men with horse drawn sleighs gathered provisions from members of the town for the banquet. Later the sleighs were used to bring the "old folks" to the Meeting House. A program would be presented and then all would sit down to a big meal. After eating, the easy social chat would be interrupted by the convening of a "kangaroo court." The court created much amusement as several people were arrested on "ridiculous charges" and then fined. The fines collected went to pay the expense of the reunion. The sleighs were again available to convey any who wished back to their homes while the day's proceedings closed with a lively dance.  

The Church not only provided the facility and organized much of the social activities, it also organized an orchestra and a brass band to assist in the entertainment. In October of 1903 Bishop Martin C. Rigby suggested the idea of organizing a brass band and orchestra, and when the people approved the idea, he appointed a committee to investigate the cost. A month later the committee reported it would be advisable to organize a thirteen piece band and estimated the cost at $225.00. The expense of the band plus the orchestra worried the people, and after some discussion, they decided in "selecting instruments that we would get first grade for lead and lower grade for seconds."

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The lower grade instruments did not reduce the cost enough so the bishop suggested that since there was a greater need for an orchestra, that it be organized at this time. The committee suggested that the bishop select a number of young men as members of the orchestra. The Church opened a fund to help them get their instruments; the young men were to repay the money if they played for hire. In 1911 the brass band was finally organized, making all celebrations more lively during the two years of its existence. Members of the first orchestra were William F. Jensen, Jr., Henry Parsons, James Neilson, Eli Hansen, Horace Jenkins, Wilford Jenkins and Edmund Jenkins. Hans E. Hansen was the first director, later J. P. Hansen was director of the orchestra and George Ecklund managed the brass band.  

The Church played a more important role in assimilating the various nationalities of immigrants into the social structure of the community. This took time and was not accomplished without some conflict. The missionary efforts of the Church brought many immigrants to Utah. It brought a large block of Scandinavian people to Newton, in addition to the English speaking people. In 1900 the Scandinavians formed 34 per cent of Utah's foreign born and 16 per cent of her total population. In Newton the population was almost equally divided between those of Scandinavian and English descent. Since most of the Scandinavian people could not speak or understand the English language, they were allowed to hold a separate meeting for gospel instructions. These meetings were an instant success as the "Danes and Swedes" flocked to them. In 1879 Bishop Rigby felt it would be wise if the Scandinavians held a meeting only once a month. When this proposal was rejected, the Church established a Sunday School class to help the Scandinavian people learn the English language. When the stake president visited the ward, he recommended the exclusive meetings of the Scandinavians be discontinued for fear of fostering "false nationalities." He encouraged the Scandinavian people to be diligent in acquiring their new language skills. Twenty years later separate meetings were still being held

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when another stake president visited Newton. He advised that if the Scandinavian people felt they must hold meetings in their own language, to do so but to loyally support the bishopric and appoint a man "strong in faith" to preside over them. \(^4\)

Newton was not the only community that had Scandinavian meetings; others such as Hyrum and Mendon also held them. Occasionally a Scandinavian conference would be held for all of Cache Valley in the Logan Tabernacle. The Scandinavians also held an annual reunion and dances. The division caused meetings and parties to be designated Danish or English. Contention arose between the two groups with the regular members complaining that the Scandinavians were not trying to learn the language fast enough. The Scandinavians felt that those who knew English were in control of everything and trying to force their will on everyone else. There was criticism that the "Dirty Danes" drank coffee and chocolate at their parties while others had punch. The Scandinavians felt they should have their traditional beverages at social affairs and allowed others to do the same. \(^5\)

In 1905 the conflicts and separations began to diminish; William F. Jensen reported that the Scandinavian meetings "had not been so successful this season." The Scandinavians could not agree on a time at which to hold their meetings which began to decline in number as they participated more in the regular Church activities. Feelings between the two groups lessened considerably when the Scandinavians stopped holding separate Church services. It took time to assimilate the "English," "Welch," "Scottish," "Danish," and "Swedish" Mormons into American Mormons. The ill feelings between the groups disappeared when the original Scandinavian and English immigrants died and a


single language and culture remained that gave the unity that was desired. 6

The Church also gave the town a social conscience. It established the
mores for the majority of the town people. The town board reflected the social
values of the Church and the majority of the people when it refused to license
a pool hall regarded by many as a corrupting influence. Those who wanted to
play pool or enjoy the other benefits of the establishment such as gambling and
drinking would have to go to Cache Junction or Logan. Acting upon the complaint
of several citizens, the board waged an intermittent battle against games of chance
in one of the local business establishments. From 1916 to 1929 the board tried
to suppress punch boards, dice, slot machines and other games of chance only
to have them reappear a short time later. The fact that the games of chance
continued for over thirteen years is witness that the Church morality was not
completely accepted. 7

From the beginning of the town government, attempts were made to
strictly enforce the state law on selling tobacco to minors. In 1912 the town
marshal asked the town board if minors could buy tobacco when parents
sanctioned it. The board answered with an emphatic "no." In 1911 a liquor
election held in Newton showed 79 voting against the sale of liquor in town with
13 for the proposal. Newton became a "dry" town in 1912 and remained "dry"
through the prohibition years. During this dry period, several people made
home brew for themselves, while a couple individuals went into the business
of moonshining. One set up a still in the east end of Bear River Canyon and the
other operated one at his ranch north of town. Some imported moonshine from other
areas, probably Ogden and Weston. The opposition of the Church could not stop
the consumption of intoxicating liquors but did forestall their legal sale in town.
Even light beer had to wait until the 1930's before the town board would grant
a license for its legal sale. In the almost exclusive Mormon town, the folkways

6 Newton Ward Historical Record Book "G," p. 83.
7 Newton Town Board Minutes, Vol. 1, pp. 87, 141, 161, 253, 159,
199, 221, 229, 226, 297, 307. Petitions for licensing a pool hall were refused
in 1909, 1916, and 1922. At least two of the petitions were by persons who
owned or operated a pool hall at Cache Junction.
and mores of the Church became the standard for the town. And although there were a few who went counter to these standards, they were in a minority and most people refrained from open display of their rejection of these standards, while only a few braved the social ostracism of the majority.  

Education

The one room, one teacher school of the pioneer era finally gave way in 1892 when a sizeable addition was made to the rock schoolhouse. The addition came when the economic situation of the people was at a low point. They had considered building a new school in 1890. The people voted against a tax to finance the edifice but decided to build it by donations. When the hard times came, donations were not sufficient for the project. A pressing school population forced the people to increase the available space for the students. In 1891 the people levied a five mill tax on themselves and borrowed $845.00 from the Thatcher Brothers Bank to build the addition.

The school then had two classrooms with two full time teachers and an assistant on several occasions. The common grade was divided into a "primary school" and a "grammar school." All teachers needed certification by the superintendent of county schools before hiring. The changes brought a better quality of education to the Newton children. Students were grouped by relative age and given more room and better teachers. But the "free school" law coupled with an increasing population again led to overcrowding by 1896. The school trustees decided to modify the building and moved an inside partition to enlarge one room in 1897. This corrected the overcrowded condition until 1905 when the trustees rented the Relief Society Hall and "fitted it up" to start a third school.

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The Church greatly favored prohibition in the early days of the 20th Century by supporting the Anti-Saloon League. The Newton Ward also sent a petition to the state legislature in 1909 asking for legislation to restrict the liquor traffic. A week and a half before the vote on liquor traffic, an appeal was made in Church to ban the liquor traffic in town.

and engaged a third teacher. In 1905 a proposed bond for a new school failed to pass, so the trustees erected a new partition in the east room of the rock school and held all three classes there. In 1907 the people voted in favor of a $10,000 bond and the school trustees levied a seven and one-half mill tax for the purpose of building and furnishing a new schoolhouse. An eight room, two story brick school came to replace the little rock schoolhouse. 10

In January of 1908 school commenced in the new and "finest schoolhouse in Cache County outside of Logan." Only the first floor had been completed, but the school trustees were making plans to hire another teacher to occupy the fourth classroom so each teacher would have only two grades. After using the new school for two months, the people of Newton with the rest of Cache County voted in regard to consolidating all the small school districts into one large district which would include all of the county except Logan City. However, the county rejected consolidation by a wide margin with Newton opposing the measure 34 to 25. There existed an ambivalence in Newton over the issue. The Newton School District was in debt and the county commission promised that the new Cache County School District would assume all local debts. Yet they were not anxious to turn over to the county the new building they had struggled to build. 11

Despite the vote, the county commission ordered consolidation of all the districts into the Cache County School District on March 23, 1908. After 38 years of directing, financing and providing schools for the people of the community, the Newton School District was abandoned. It has left the new district according to the Logan newspaper editor "the largest and best furnished schoolhouse in Cache County." 12

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10 Newton School District Minute Book "C" pp. 25, 26, 29, 70, 81, 87-91, 94.


12 The Journal, March 24, 1908, August 1, 1908.
As events turned out, consolidation proved a blessing to Newton for on the 4th of July 1923 lightning struck the belfry of the schoolhouse and a fire started on the roof. The people who were attending a dance at the meeting house saw the fire and rushed to try and extinguish it. As Newton possessed no fire fighting equipment at this time, garden hoses were used, but there was not enough water pressure to put out the fire and the building was destroyed. The county school district razed the old remains and constructed a new schoolhouse on the same site. The new building had four classrooms and a gymnasium at a cost of approximately $32,000. The expense exceeded the district's estimate by about $5,000, and the school board had to get aid from the county commissioners in order to complete the school. The building was completed and dedicated on February 15, 1924.  

The opportunity for education beyond the eighth grade was increased when South Cache High School was completed in 1916. The students from Newton boarded in Hyrum with county payment of $8.00 a month. With the completion of North Cache High School in the early 1920's, the students from Newton slowly began to shift to the new high school. In 1922 the majority of Newton's students registered at South Cache High and boarded at Hyrum. A few went to Logan and participated in the four or six year plan at BYC, while two students went to North Cache High and boarded at Richmond. In the spring of 1924 Newton had five students graduate from South Cache, six graduate from the BYC, and two graduate from North Cache. In the fall of 1924 Wilford Jenkins purchased a "new school truck" and began carrying about twenty students to North Cache. The school bus allowed all the students to go to North Cache and the student boarder at Hyrum became a thing of the past. The ability to commute back and forth to school each day also encouraged more of the young people of Newton to take advantage of secondary education. Those students who wanted college training went to the Brigham Young College or the Agriculture College of Utah, both in Logan, and a few went to the University of Utah.

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Community life

The modern era brought many changes to Newton. The electronic revolution was ushered in during 1903 when the telephone finally arrived in town. The telephone had been used in Logan since 1883, but it was not until 1899 that Newton began to try in earnest to obtain the service. After much agitation, the telephone company agreed to give Newton a telephone connection if the town would buy $200 worth of the company's coupons. The town appointed a committee to sell subscriptions for the connection in September of 1902, and by the summer of 1903 the telephone service came from Logan via Cache Junction and Mendon. 15

The first telephone was a toll station in the Co-op store. From the store one could call Clarkston for a dime, Mendon for fifteen cents and anywhere else in the valley for a quarter. However, the telephone service was so bad that in 1909 a group of local people formed the Newton Local Ownership Telephone Company and established a line to Logan, connecting with an independent company there. Now several homes had telephones and the service greatly improved. In 1913 the local company transferred its lines to the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company for a year's free service on the Logan exchange. The company also promised to make a single exchange out of Newton and Clarkston. The exchange never came but the service did improve considerably, causing greater demand for telephones than could be supplied. 16

Telephone service in its first days was imperfect, but it was more than a problem of instruments and lines. A real difficulty existed in getting the two parties together at telephones at the same time to converse. Since only a few people had telephones in their homes it took much effort to accomplish the task.


The procedure was for the calling party to come to a place where a telephone was located and file his call with the operator. The operator would then call the exchange desired and from there a messenger would be dispatched to find and bring the called party to the telephone. A telephone call was a big event for a person, and a long distance call was a thrill of a lifetime. 17

The telephone had little effect on the town because of the limited number of telephones and poor service. It was valuable in obtaining medical help. Later on, however, it played an important role in the business and social life of the town as more homes were equipped with telephones.

Health was another prime concern for the community. Communicable diseases in a period when there were few doctors and very little immunization posed a definite threat to the town. Minor sicknesses and injuries were taken care of at home; a doctor or hospital visit came only in emergencies. Until the early 1930's midwives were called upon in the smaller towns to carry on in the place of doctors and "in many cases were preferred." 18

Newton's concern for health began back in the pioneer era. An example of the magnitude of that concern is shown in the case of a woman who "died suddenly on July 8, 1873." Her unexpected death upset the town and they envisioned some dreaded disease. Bishop Rigby appointed a three member committee to inquire into the cause of death. The town was greatly relieved when the committee found that she died from heart disease of which she had been troubled for some years. Childbirth was a major worry, of the early settlers, and it was not easy to find someone qualified to assist mothers in giving birth. In May of 1882 Bishop Rigby told the Relief Society that the community was "badly in need" of a midwife and that Ward leaders would decide who should be the midwife in the near future. On the lighter side, the Relief Society sisters were instructed in June of 1883 that tight lacing of corsets had caused many a "young woman sickness and death," and in the interest of good health they should refrain from tight lacing. 19

18 Pike, p. 267.
Newton health service received a big boost in 1891 when Emelia Jensen was called by the Church to leave her family and go to Salt Lake City and study obstetrics and nursing at the Church School. Six months later she graduated and returned to be on call to help anyone who called for the next forty years. "Aunt Emily" as she was affectionately called had a special way with patients, and according to a leading doctor of the period, she attended 1,000 confinement cases unassisted, losing but one and assisted with 1,000 more. For her time, energy and risk she received payment in produce or money; the price for delivering a baby was generally five dollars. 20

In 1910 Dr. J. F. Alton, a physician from Wisconsin, located in Newton. He established his residency and office in the Benson Hotel. The new doctor was a large, heavy set man, who was willing to go out of his way to help anyone. His practice in Newton lasted for only two years, as the volume of cases he attended was quite limited because midwives handled most of the childbirths and the people treated most of their illnesses. The doctor could not compete with the great variety of home cures. Horse-radish, clover, mustard, peppermint, dandelion, milk weed, ginger and other herbs, flowers and barks were used as medicines for various ailments. Dr. Alton relocated in Malad, Idaho, where he hoped his services would be in more demand. A dentist, likewise, tried to set up his practice in town at about the same time, and he also relocated a short time later. 21

One of the first things the town government did after being organized was to appoint a Board of Health. The first Board of Health consisted of J. N. Hansen and William J. Barker, town board members, and Mary B. Larsen, a nurse. In 1906, Dr. D. C. Budge became a member of the board, and in January of 1908 the board was reorganized to be composed of Dr. D. C. Budge and Emelia

20 Olga Hansen, "The Life of Emelia Maria Petersen Jensen" (copy in possession of Ella Benson at Newton, Utah). Pike, p. 267.

Jensen, with the president of the town board and the marshal as ex officio members. The town passed an ordinance on October 10, 1900, on regulating quarantines which gave the Board of Health a great deal of responsibility and jurisdiction. The board was given the authority to use all measures necessary to prevent the introduction or spread of "any malignant, contagious or infectuous disease" and to remove, quarantine or otherwise dispose of any person, clothing, or effects "attached with or have been exposed" to said diseases. The board was also authorized to enter any premise within the town during the day to check conditions therein. Individuals were required to report immediately to the Board of Health all cases of diptheria, smallpox and scarlet fever. Later other diseases were added to this list. Diseased persons were quarantined and homes required to display a colored flag until a prescribed time after the disease had abated. It was unlawful for such persons to leave the house without permission of the Board of Health. The town marshal was to see that the family had the necessities of life during the quarantine period. After the disease passed, the house was disinfected. 22

The town experienced an epidemic of scarlet fever during the winter of 1912-13 and again in 1917. In 1918 the Spanish influenza hit the town with 177 people being quarantined. All public gatherings were prohibited for three months. During this time several died and their funeral services were held outside their residence. Public services were attempted twice more but had to be discontinued because of "flare back of the flu." The quarantine lasted in part from October 12, 1918 to April 6, 1919, before things returned to normal. 23

Entertainment became more varied and frequent in the twentieth century. Sports became organized and better facilities were provided. Baseball was the first team sport and the Newton boys combined with either Clarkston or Cache Junction to form the first team. After the sport caught on Newton


and every other town had a team. The teams did not belong to any league and
schedules were very flexible, often playing any group that passed through town.
On one occasion the Clarkston team failed to show for a game and the Cache
Junction team gladly stepped in and played in their place. In 1907 Newton had
several basketball teams, both male and female; they played on an outside court
by the schoolhouse. In 1912 flooring was laid in the upstairs of the schoolhouse and
baskets installed so the games could be played inside. The Mutual Improvement
Association sponsored a team and put up baskets and placed screens over the
windows of the meeting house. Newton then had two teams in organized leagues,
the Eighth Grade team and the Mutual team, and several other teams which played
when an opponent could be found. Basketball became very popular in Newton and
stimulated a group to organize themselves as the Newton Athletic Club which
became the scourge of the valley during the late 1910's and early 1920's. The
team was composed of fellows of good size who were not only talented but accord­
ing to their opponents, rough on the court. They played most of the valley teams
and several Idaho teams and seldom lost. 24

Plays, concerts and operas provided much entertainment for the
people. The Newton Dramatic Company, formed in the pioneer era, continued
into the twentieth century and about 1914 was replaced by the M.I.A. The
company played in Newton and the surrounding towns and usually attracted a
full house. 25 A home town critic of the company observed of one performance
that:

... the acting was rather weak and lacked the life and
animation which are necessary to make a comedy inter­
esting; but as nearly all the members are unexperienced
on the stage we can bear with them and encourage them to
keep on and in time they will no doubt give better satis­
faction. 26

24 The Journal, July 27, 1911, Mary 21, 1912, May 23, 1907, July 19,
1906, December 17, 1912, January 17, 1914, March 7, 1914, January 5, 1921,
February 24, 1921, January 21, 1922, February 14, 1922, February 16, 1922,
March 16, 1922, March 20, 1922.


26 The Journal, March 24, 1910
Several stock companies came to town and played either one, two, or three night stands. As an example, in 1912 the J. Q. Stutlz Theatre Company stayed a week residing in the Benson Hotel and performed five different plays to a full house each time. When a traveling troupe stayed in town, it caused much excitement and unless finances or another commitment interfered, many of the people took in every performance. The actors were professionals with special costumes and were thus able to impress the townspeople who were not often able to see the best performers. The troupes came frequently; one group from the intermountain area made three appearances in six weeks. As transportation improved, many of the people went to Logan for entertainment. In 1912, just two months prior to the burning of the Thatcher Opera House in Logan, forty Newton people traveled to Logan to see one performance. The Lyric Theater and Nibley Hall drew many Newtonites to the county seat for entertainment. These excursions to Logan created a taste for bigger and possibly better performances in Newton, because one critic exclaimed that "one of the crying needs in our town is a suitable amusement hall that would invite the largest traveling companies into our midst." Social life became more sophisticated in the 1920's and the people were aware of it.  

Newton was treated to its first motion picture in December of 1912. The projector was run by batteries and the new experience was "much appreciated by all present." The reporter who described the exhibition closed his comments with "come again." By 1913 the motion picture was a weekly occurrence in Newton. At first it was provided by a company from Weston, Idaho, then William J. Barker gave a show in Newton and surrounding towns and later the Church purchased a projector in conjunction with Clarkston and Trenton and gave a "budget movie" once a week. The weekly movie continued for almost forty-five years, and it was looked forward to by the young and old alike and much disappointment occurred if the projector failed or the film broke. 

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The radio made its advent in Newton in 1925. In that year William Jones and John T. Benson's homes became centers of interest. Friends and neighbors gathered around to hear the box that talked. The first radios were operated by a wet cell battery and were poor when compared with today's standards in sound equipment, but they were first class in price, running between $200 and $300. They screeched with static but did bring information from long distances in a fraction of a second. The radio not only gave the people news before it was history, but it also provided a new source of entertainment. A person could remain at home and listen to music, plays, or hear Babe Ruth hit home runs at World Series time. The radio probably was a factor in the decreased attendance at operas and plays at the meeting house. 29

Automobile

The automobile has had a greater impact on Newton than any other thing except the Church. When Pearl Jenkins brought his second-hand automobile to town in 1909, it was not evident that he had initiated a revolution on wheels. The first cars were considered as a plaything only for show and fun. When it rained, the horse and buggy had to take over even for the fortunate few who owned cars. When winter approached, the plaything was put in storage until the following spring. The first cars nevertheless attracted attention; they scared the horses, caused older heads to turn in disbelief, and the children to run to get a glimpse of the noisy machine. The mechanically minded men purchased the first cars, and it was a good thing because about everything could and did happen to them. The people jokingly referred to the E. M. F. car as the "every morning fixit" and in many cases it lived up to its nickname. 30

The introduction of the new vehicle was complicated by the complete lack of good roads. The roads were ungraveled until the late 1910's and early
1920's and even then improvements were slight. Ruts and mud were the plague of the early motoring public, and on many occasions horses were required to retrieve a mired-down auto. Cold weather and snow practically eliminated their use during the winter season. One Christmas day in the 1910's Pearl Jenkins took his Jeffrey out of storage and circled the public square three times. The ground was frozen and only a light coat of snow covered the ground; nevertheless, children at the holiday dance and adults were amazed at the daring feat. It was not until the 1920's that the automobile became a year round vehicle in Newton.

As an example, during February of 1920 a Newton man and his family "purchased a seven passenger Nash car, which they could not bring home because the roads were so bad."31

The first autos were open and later came equipped with canvas and isinglass side curtains. The first closed autos resembled boxes rather than funny shaped buggies. Depending on the road and probably the driver, the experience of early auto rides ranged from "like gliding on air" to "like a bucking bronc." Accidents plagued the early motoring public, especially those received while cranking the engine. Dr. Alton tipped over his car while enroute to see an out-of-town patient. The inevitable and joked about accident was the woman driver--team and wagon combination. In the late summer of 1922 one car was trying to pass a team and wagon and met another car coming from the opposite direction and the "front wheels of... (the woman's) car turned into the hind wheels of the other car."32

The early cars were few in number and regarded as luxuries rather than conveniences; they had little if any importance in the economic and social life of the town. But, as Henry Ford put the nation on wheels by marketing a less expensive automobile, it slowly turned from a luxury and a plaything into a


32 Interview with Eva Benson, April 1, 1967, and April 9, 1967; Alvin Christiansen, April 28, 1967. The Journal, September 2, 1922, June 4, 1912.
necessity. More and more people purchased automobiles and this put pressure on the county and town to improve the roads.

The living patterns of the town were changed. Entertainment could be enjoyed at more distant points; Newton people for the first time became tourists as several groups made excursions to Yellowstone Park and California. From 1916 to 1923 Newton's businesses declined from two general stores and a confectionary to one general store. Motor vehicles probably played a role in this change, since wholesalers began delivering goods to the local store instead of having the local merchant pick up his own goods, one store could handle the volume of sales for the town. The content of the general store also changed when people purchased such goods as clothing in Logan where larger selections were available. In 1924 a school bus provided transportation to and from high school each day, thereby allowing more students to obtain more years of instruction. Many could not go to school if they had to board at Hyrum or provide their own transportation. By 1930 the horse age was in decline while the booming motor age was growing and bringing new possibilities for the country and especially the small towns.

Business

The 1890 Manifesto that abolished polygamy also hastened the capitulation of distinctive Mormon economic institutions. Private enterprise became the order of the times. The Co-op store moved steadily away from the co-operative ideals of its founders and in 1907 it incorporated as a joint stock company but was closer to a family business. The store retained the title of Newton Co-operative Mercantile Institution, and by 1910 it was one of four co-op stores using the old name but no longer under Church auspices. On March 13, 1916, between 2 and 3 A.M. fire was discovered in the Co-op store, but it had such

33 The Herald Journal, March 25, 1956. Carsen, p. 33. Interview with Alvin Christiansen, April 14, 1967. Newton had many Model T Fords, which probably was the most predominant car in town. Clarkston went more for the Studebakers. A Newton man had a ready answer for this as he said the Clarkston people were like sheep. One man bought a Studebaker and all the rest followed his example. His hypothesis received a setback when a Clarkston man hung himself and no one followed his example.
a start that it was impossible to extinguish. "The entire building and its
contents were burned to the ground" by the early Sunday morning fire. William
H. Griffin, Sr., the manager of the Co-op Store, continued for a period to sell
merchandise at his home, but in 1920 his business was only one-fifth the amount
of the Co-op store the year before it burned. 34

The Co-op had had a monopoly on business for much of its early existence
before the turn of the century. The only exception being that the Curtis Brothers
operated a store for a short period on the lot where Emory Benson's house stands.
And in August of 1889 John H. Barker, Sr. became a dealer in general merchan-
dise, keeping his store in the family home. This store continued until 1908.

Around the turn of the century another general store was founded by
Andrew Petersen and the Beck brothers. This store had its own building and
was located just south of the Co-op store. In 1904 the store expanded into a
"stock company" and did business under the name of the People's Mercantile
Company. Initially George C. Rigby was president of the company with Moroni
T. Beck as manager. In 1905 Andrew Petersen became the manager. In June of
1905 Newton's correspondent to The Journal stated that Newtonites were elated
over the store's contemplation of a meat market with modern refrigeration and
"in a few days we can have fresh meat every day for our dinner." The modern
refrigeration never came, but an addition was made to the north side of the store
and a butcher shop provided some fresh meat for the town. The year 1910 was a
bad one for the store as it was robbed twice within a month. In late February
the store was burglarized of about $100 in silks and jewelry, and it was supposed
that the culprits were some of the "hoboes which are continually infesting Cache
Junction." Three weeks later the store was robbed again and a watchdog in the
store for the first time 'did not disturb the thieves." A short time after the Co-op
store burned, People's Mercantile also burned down. After People's Mercantile

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Corporation Record Book "F" (located in the Cache County Hall of Justice), p. 268
Logan City and Cache County Directory, 1904 (Salt Lake City, Utah: R. L. Polk
and Company, 1904), p. 185. Logan City and Cache County Directory, 1905–06
(Salt Lake City, Utah: R. L. Polk and Company, 1905), p. 176. Logan City and
Cache County Directory 1915–16 (Salt Lake City, Utah: R. L. Polk and Company,
was destroyed, Andrew Petersen sold a few goods at his home until 1926. 35

Other businesses set up in Newton included the Faust Creamery and Supply Company established by Henry Faust of Salt Lake City in 1904. The Studebaker Brothers, a shop for the sale of wagons, buggies, and accessories opened for business after the turn of the century. The shop was located on the lot west of the present post office. William F. Jensen, Jr., affectionately called "Studebaker Bill" managed the shop until 1914. In 1910 Achton Jensen, a blacksmith, came to town and built a blacksmith shop in the middle of the block directly opposite the post office. In 1914 Hyrum Larsen set up a hardware store on the corner of the lot were the Studebaker Brothers' shop was located.

In 1917 and 1918 Pearl Jenkins was selling Jeffrey automobiles and repairing them. He also had the first place where gasoline and oil could be purchased. There were no gas pumps, just 50 gallon barrels and a series of smaller containers. A barber shop was also located in Newton across from the schoolhouse. The cement foundation still remains for this shop.

Cache Junction caused several people from Newton to establish businesses near the railroad. John H. Barker, Jr. had a general merchandise store, as did the Griffin brothers. The Larsen brothers had a company that sold lumber and other building supplies. A couple of men from Newton managed or operated grain elevators. On June 10, 1910, the Farmer's Banking Company was set up with several Newton men holding stock. The president of the bank was George C. Rigby, with John E. Griffin as vice-president, and Moroni T. Beck as cashier. The bank operated until January 13, 1928, when it merged with the Cache Valley Banking Company and the Cache Junction facility was abandoned.

The last business establishment to be discussed is not the last set up but the one that lasted longer into the twentieth century. In about 1914 William Larsen built a confectionary southwest of the schoolhouse. William J. Barker bought this confectionary in 1917 and operated it until 1923 when he went to Logan

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to run a movie house. Mr. Barker came back and repurchased the confectionary in March of 1924. In 1926 the confectionary began to increase the number and variety of the items it sold. In 1930 the building was moved to the northwest corner of the same block. The building was added to and served as a grocery store and home. The "Barker Store," under the ownership of William J. Barker and later his son William T. Barker, continued in business into the 1960's. 36

In 1912 the business of Newton reached its zenith. The Logan newspaper listed under the title "Newton Business Directory" the following businesses: 37

- Peoples Mercantile Company
- Newton Co-op
- Studebaker Brothers
- Achton Jensen
- L. George Clarke
- Benson Hotel
- Newton Opera House
- Newton Orchestra
- Newton Brass Band
- William Larsen
- William Hansen
- Newton Draft Horse Company
- Newton Percheron Horse Co.
- Newton Shire Horse Company
- James B. Hancey
- Edwin W. Fish

Andrew Petersen, Manager
Wm. H. Griffin, Manager
Wm. F. Jensen, Jr., Local Agent
General Blacksmith and Horse Shoeing
Thoroughbred jerseys
John Benson, Proprietor
M. T. Beck, Manager
J. P. Hansen, Manager
George Ecklund, Manager
Plumber
Contractor and Builder
Peter E. Benson, Manager
David Clark, Manager
John Hansen, Manager
Painter and Paper Hanger
Plumber and Carpenter

The hotel provided a residence for the doctor, school teachers, performers from traveling troupes, and an occasional tourist. The tradesman did their work almost exclusively in town, building houses, barns, and granaries. It is of

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37 The Journal, March 19, 1912.
interest that three months after the completion of the culinary water system, plumbers actively pursued their trade in town. This shows the old concept of doing everything for oneself was in the process of giving way to specialization. Plumbing took special tools and the average farmer did not possess these or the knowledge of the trade. The horse companies formed to improve the work horses. The farmers had to pay a large sum to improve the quality of their horses. In 1905 they paid $2800 for "Tardow," the imported three year old French Percheron stallion. An early stallion had cost over $3000. The horse companies served almost all the horses in the area and all profits were shared among the members of the company. By the early 1910's horse buyers frequently visited Newton which became noted for its fine stock, and paid between $400 and $500 per span of horses. A group of men in each case joined together and bought an expensive stallion. In the early days, the horses in Newton were small and for the most part of inferior quality, but with the selected breeding a change was made in the size and quality. In the second decade of the twentieth century, horses remained the chief source of non-human power. It remained until the third decade before mechanical power seriously challenged the status of the work horse.

38 Agriculture

Homesteading possibilities in Cache Valley were very slight after 1900. The economy of the era, being in step with that of the nation, encouraged the farmer to be a businessman. He now grew cash crops and needed more land to keep pace with the economy and with the technological advancement in farm machinery. The young men could not obtain their own land in and around Newton, and only a few could remain on family farms. Several young men sought areas where homesteads could be taken. They considered the northern part of Box Elder County and the adjacent area of southern Idaho but rejected both as unsuitable for farming. The land around Bancroft, Grace, Lund and Soda Springs in southeastern Idaho proved more inviting. More than twenty men

38 The Journal, February 27, 1912, March 12, 1912, June 1, 1905, February 20, 1913. Interview with Alvin Christiansen, April 14, 1967; Emory Benson, July 13, 1967
claimed land in the area during the second decade of the century. At first they all returned to Newton for the winter, but later some began staying in Idaho. 39

Advances in dry farming techniques and machinery made it a very profitable venture. The ground was plowed deeper and the seed put in the ground with a drill instead of by broadcasting. Farmers no longer tried to plant irrigated wheat on arid land but used drought resistant wheat and planted it continuously until it adapted to arid conditions. Agricultural experiment stations created a number of good varieties of dry farm wheat, the best being Turkey. The technological revolution produced machinery that made the farming of large tracts of land feasible. During the development of farming scythes and cradles cut the first grain, then came the reaper followed by the self binder. With the binder it was rarely possible to cut more than ten acres a day. In an effort to reduce the expense of the operations connected with dry farming, a header was developed. It provided for cutting and stacking the grain at the same time and eliminated the time and expense of shocking the grain. The header came into extensive use in Newton at the turn of the century and was utilized until the late 1920's. It was found to be "essential on arid farms" because it could cut twenty to twenty-five acres of grain a day and left most of the straw to be plowed under to assist in retaining soil moisture and fertility. The Logan newspaper reported the 1908 grain harvest to consist of: "thirty headers and six steam threshing machines in Newton alone . . . clearing up from four to six thousand bushels a day." One of the six machines was not a steam engine but the Ecklund Brothers' "Big Four" using dieslet or diesel. The other five steam threshing machines were owned by: The Larsen Brothers (Joe, Hyrum, Will and Lorenzo), the Jenkins Brothers (Henry, Wilford, Pearl, and Horace), the Jones Brothers (Will and George L.), the Dahle Brothers of Cache Junction, and last, a company composed of Alphonso Christensen, Henry Parsons, Eugene Nelson, and Chris Petersen. 40

39 The Journal, March 24, 1910
Irrigated farming received the same boost from the advancements in farm machinery. The quantity of water available was substantially increased around the turn of the century. The Newton Dam was raised three feet to provide the maximum storage capacity of the reservoir, and the West Cache Canal reached the Newton area and provided water to irrigate 1870 acres south of town on both sides of the creek. After 1912 irrigated land in the Newton area totalled 4,360 acres. Grain, hay and sugar beets were the main irrigated crops, and in town the water nourished numerous gardens filled with vegetables. Water took much of the gamble out of farming. 41

Machinery made large scale operations possible as well as profitable. More acreage had to be farmed to produce as much as could be grown on the small tracts of irrigated land. Those who had purchased steam engines tried to use them for most of their farming activities but found the big engines very cumbersome and difficult to maneuver. Attempts to plow with it failed and the sadder but wiser farmer returned to his faithful old horses. The steam engine's greatest service was connected with the thresher. Its power made it possible to thresh between 1500 and 2000 bushels of grain a day. It was not until the use of the gasoline tractor that a machine had enough mobility and power to replace the horse. In the third decade of the twentieth century, horses as draft animals began to decline.

In 1920 two combine harvesters came to town pushing farming one more step toward modern mechanization. Now the grain could be cut and threshed at the same time. The advancement in machinery had an impact upon the farmers' pocketbooks in a positive and negative way. It increased his profits, but it also made him invest more and more funds into machinery each year. If he remained with the old methods of farming, he saw his earnings decrease as the market prices shifted to meet the changing conditions. Those farmers in Newton who did not adopt the new changes in farming were either forced out of farming or required a supplemental income to make a living. 42

The first years of the 1890's were depression years for Newton's farmers. Farm prices and income dropped to the lowest level in three decades; in Cache Valley wheat sold for $.35 to $.40 a bushel. By 1896 things improved and a Newton man wrote to the Logan newspaper describing the fall's abundant harvest and ended by saying, "a few years with such demand and prices would bring our farmers on top again provided good crops were raised." The farm situation improved slowly until the war years when the demand for agricultural goods became very great. The Newton farmers joined fellow farmers over the country and pressed every marginal land into use. 43

The need for grain in Europe caused the price of wheat to jump from $.79 a bushel in 1913 to $1.60 in 1916. When the United States entered the war, wheat brought over $2.00 per bushel. In 1919 and the early part of 1920 the price of wheat jumped to over $3.00 a bushel on some occasions. This unprecedented prosperity stimulated the Newton farmers to increase production. The marginal lands were already taken so intensive farming remained the only choice. To accomplish this, irrigation projects developed. In 1920 a pumping plant and canal network built south of Newton took water from Bear River to irrigate the land south of Newton as far as Petersboro. The farmers in Newton, whose south field lands were too high to receive water from the West Cache Canal, installed a pumping plant on the canal southeast of town to irrigate the bench lands. The same year committees were organized to investigate putting a pumping plant on the north side of Bear River to irrigate the land west of town and to put a pumping plant on the West Cache Canal to furnish water for the east and north fields. 44

The 1920 irrigation projects illustrated the high hopes that the boom would continue. There was encouragement that this would be the case as the National Wheat Growers Association decided in May of 1920 that a price of $3.13 per bushel would be "a fair price for the 1920 wheat crop." Everything looked


good, but in July the bubble started to break as lack of demand caused a "sensational break in price" and by October the price of wheat was below $2.00. The 1920 harvest was summed up for the Newton farmers in the Logan newspaper as follows:

The farmers are all very busy harvesting their crops . . . this coming week most of the heading will be done. The threshers are preparing to start soon. But the price of the wheat does not suit very well as the farmers cannot come out even with the present price of wheat and the cost of labor along with their expense. All should be united and hold their wheat until the market prices advance.

When the newly threshed grain hit the low demand market, the price of wheat went down to the pre-war prices. At this same time the cost of living remained the same or went up slightly and the farmers' obligation for the pumping plants and machinery purchased remained the same. Some of the Newton farmers held their grain hoping the price would eventually go up but finally were forced to sell at a price of $0.75 a bushel. Unable to meet expenses, many mortgaged their property. The times remained hard until the boom caused by World War II. The farmers' depression came in the 1920's and continued until the great depression of 1929 worsened the whole economy. By 1927 the farmers' situation had improved as they became more conditioned to the hard times, but farm prices did not rise, and if anything, they declined somewhat.

Social interaction accompanied the processing of agricultural crops. It often took many hands to perform the necessary labors. The header crew consisted of three drivers on the (header) boxes, a loader, driver of the header, stacker and derrick boy while the threshing crew would contain seven wheat pitchers, a separator man, a bagger, a man to sew sacks, an engineer, a person to run the coal wagon, a person to run the water wagon plus the help to stack the wheat sacks (usually between 1 and 3 men). These men worked hard

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at their jobs but took enjoyment when they could visit or "doctor up" a man's
sandwich with axle grease. The farmer, whose wheat was being threshed, pro-
vided board for the threshing crew. Usually a cook's shack mounted on wheels
followed the thresher. Here the farmer's wife and some of her friends prepared
and served a noon and evening meal to the crew. At such times the conversation
ranged from the quality of the food to the progress of harvesting. This social
situation would change in time to where one farmer and his helper would be able
to use a modern self-propelled harvester and a modern truck to cut, thresh and
haul in one day what a seven man header crew could accomplish in two days, a
thirteen man thresher crew in one day and a hauling crew in several days. Modern
machinery gave man the ability to do more work faster and cheaper, and it
destroyed much of the social aspects of farming. 48

Employment

When the lands available for homesteading were taken and technology
placed farming on a larger scale, agriculture could no longer serve as the sole
economic base for the town. By 1900 the homesteads were taken in Cache Valley
and the size of farms were increasing as some gave up farming, yet the population
of Newton continued to grow. It went from 429 in 1900 to 696 in 1930. This
increase of people required other employment besides a few acres of farm land
to provide for their families. 49

A person could hire out to other farmers or work on the threshing crews
in the fall. Many men found employment in enlarging the canals for the Utah and
Idaho Sugar Company in 1912 when the company needed more water for its power
plant in Bear River Canyon. Each spring the company hired men to clean the
canals and many from Newton were so employed. Another opportunity for
seasonal work came during beet processing time; many men from town went to
the sugar factory at Amalga or to the Lewiston factory during the beet run. The
railroad provided the best employment with full time work at a guaranteed wage.

48 The Herald Journal, March 24, 1956
49 Ricks, History of a Valley, p. 445.
Between twenty and thirty men were engaged by the railroad, mostly at Cache Junction. This employment greatly assisted many families in Newton and was the bright spot in the farmer’s depression from 1920 to 1929. Many others helped to construct Cutler Dam and the Wheeler Power Plant in Bear River Canyon between 1925 and 1927.

The changing economy forced people to relocate, change occupations and stay in step with the national pattern. The doctor left Newton for Malad, the blacksmith re-established himself in Smithfield and the carpenters and plumbers who did not relocate began working outside of town. Many of the young people entered professions that necessitated their leaving Newton; several became doctors and many became school teachers. The town began to serve as a supplier but it could no longer provide a place for all its people.

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CHAPTER V

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS 1929-1969

The first three decades of the twentieth century were the golden years for Newton while the decades that followed have witnessed a paradoxical decline of community prosperity and an improvement in the life of the individual. From a peak in 1930 the population of the town decreased to the 1890 level by 1960. The town has come to play a smaller role in the life of its citizens. Modern communication and transportation have lessened the need for a town and community spirit has withered away. Celebrations and town activities are almost a thing of the past. Notwithstanding these negative aspects, the people of Newton are enjoying unprecedented prosperity, possess more luxuries and experience less deprivation than ever before. Fewer people share a more bounteous harvest, and modern machinery has taken the back-breaking work out of farming. Modern transportation allows many to live in the country and work in cities as far away as fifty miles.

The depression gets worse

Just as the people adjusted to the farmers' depression of the 1920's, the national economy collapsed and a general depression affected every segment of society. The agricultural depression of the 1890's and 1920's, although detrimental to farmers, did not provoke a concerted recovery effort. Many upheld the notion that "all should be united and hold their wheat until the market prices advance." The farmers who followed this principle were most seriously affected as they lost the season's meager profit and mortgaged their farms in many cases. 1

After the Wall Street crash, the price of farm produce dropped to record lows. Wheat, which averaged $1.13 per bushel in the 1920's, fell to about $0.67 per bushel in 1930. The price continued downward and in July of 1931 "wheat touched a new bottom" of $0.50 per bushel or roughly the same

1 The Journal, August 3, 1920.
price as in 1895. But the trend continued until wheat brought only
$.25 per bushel for a few days during the harvest of 1931, "the lowest price
in the history of this town." In 1933 the price of wheat recovered to about
$.74 per bushel, but it was not until 1941 that farm income rose above the
modest 1929 level.\(^2\)

In the non-agricultural employment, several men lost their jobs and
others had their hours of work reduced. The railroad, for example, cut its
work force and limited those who remained to a three day week. As a result
a man on the Cache Junction section could receive between $36.48 to $39.52 a
month. The railroad paid sectionmen about three dollars a day until 1942 when
wages finally increased. Those individuals who were self-employed or work-
ing for contractors as painters and carpenters found conditions equally difficult.
Their services were no longer in demand when people could not afford to build,
remodel or decorate. In one of the early years of the depression, a carpenter
from Newton made only $26.00.\(^3\)

The first attempts to solve the problems of the depression were local.
A people with a heritage for overcoming hardships and who had experienced
other economic depressions tried to use their own ingenuity. Their attempts
to keep produce off the market in order to raise the price on agricultural
commodities were abortive and ineffectual. They thought the problem was
a simple overbalance of supply and failed to realize the complexity of causes
that interact to produce chronic slumps in business cycles. However, they
were not alone in their inability to see the root of the problem as economists
and fiscal advisors of the government were perplexed by the problems of the
age. Deficit spending and controlled fiscal and monetary policies were slow
in finding acceptance in the world of finance, as well as by the farmers and


\(^3\) Interview with Alfred Goodsell, June 9, 1967; Owen Larsen, June
10, 1967; Eva Benson, April 1, 1967.
workers in Newton who thought individual and national thrift were a virtue no matter what the phase of the business cycle. 

In the second full year of the depression, 300 Cache County farmers met and passed three resolutions for presentation to the county commissioners. They called for a reduction in the cost of running the government with all offices of the state, county and city taking a 35 per cent reduction in salary to adjust to the greater purchasing power of the dollar; for a 35 per cent reduction of the tax burden for 1932; and for a six month extension of time for the payment of one-half of the 1931 taxes. These resolutions were warmly supported by the property owners of Newton, many of whom were numbered among the 300, while a former bishop of Newton was instrumental in bringing the group together and introduced one of the resolutions. The county commissioners rejected all three proposed resolutions. There was continued agitation for a cut in the salary of government employees but nothing came of it.

More success was obtained in tax relief. Assessed valuation in Cache County dropped from a high of $37,542,000 in 1929 to $26,336,608 in 1932. Newton's assessed valuation dropped from $158,000 in 1916 to $124,105 in 1932 and it did not attain the pre-1929 level until after 1938. The decrease in assessed valuation brought a corresponding decrease in taxes, but the decreased valuation reduced the revenue of the county and towns. The county reduced its mill levy in 1930, but was forced to raise it in 1931 and 1932 in order to meet its fixed obligations. Some towns, with Clarkston taking the most significant action, reduced their mill levy to give additional tax relief. Newton was unable to reduce its mill levy to the five mill level of Clarkston because of requirements to pay off the bonded indebtedness incurred for its water system. Newton's levy stood at fifteen mills when the depression hit and in 1932 declined to twelve mills, only to raise to thirteen mills in 1934 and 1935. In 1936 the levy was dropped to eleven mills only to return to thirteen until the war. Seven to nine mills of this levy were

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4 The Journal, August 14, 1930
5 Daily Herald and Journal, October 19, 1931
earmarked for interest and sinking fund to pay off the indebtedness; therefore, Newton was not able to give as much tax relief as some communities.  

Taxes, interest and mortgages were the real plagues of the depression for they required a financial outlay at a time when cash was hard to obtain. Tax delinquency in Cache County increased from a norm of between 3 and 8 per cent prior to 1928 to as high as 30 per cent in the 1930's. Between 1928 and 1931 the taxes assessed in Cache County dropped $24,000 while the amount of taxes paid dropped $130,000. In 1932 approximately 20,000 tax notices were mailed in Cache County, while receipts showed only 9,320 were paid. In 1932 when Cache taxpayers were 30 per cent delinquent, Newton had a delinquency of 53 per cent and was exceeded only by Clarkston with 67 per cent.  

Newton and Clarkston were high in delinquent taxes due to their agricultural base. Clarkston, as a wheat growing area, was more depressed than Newton where there was greater diversity of agriculture. In Newton grain growing, dairying, egg production, and beet farming existed along with some non-agricultural employment. Many men from Newton had the opportunity to earn a few dollars in the winter when bad snow storms blocked the railroad in Bear River Canyon or filled the yards in Cache Junction. Newton was almost the sole beneficiary of this source of funds because of its proximity to Cache Junction and since the permanent railroad workers who did much of the recruiting for the emergency work lived there.  

Although the depressed times increased tax delinquency, there were few tax sales of land in the Newton area. Most of the property could have been purchased for taxes, but few people had the necessary money or were willing to chance the venture of taking on more financial obligations. Some land was bought from men who could not pay their taxes or meet their mortgages. However, the

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The greatest effect was of a delayed nature. The depression put people into debt and through the aid of government measures, they were able to refinance and delay foreclosure until they were in such a hole that they could not get out. Such people were then forced to sell their land, often this did not happen until many years after the depression was over.\(^9\)

During the depression people generally had something to eat but only because they provided most of their own food. People in rural areas had gardens and a few animals. In Newton almost everyone was self-sufficient and possessed chickens, a few pigs, and at least a cow or two. They raised and stored large quantities of apples, potatoes, and carrots in cellars or pits. They preserved fruits and vegetables and for a few dollars they could purchase a large quantity of potatoes or other agricultural produce to supplement their needs. People did not have all they wanted, but they could sustain life. Their critical problem was to obtain enough cash to pay off debts and taxes, to buy a little coal to keep warm, and to obtain a few other necessities of life. Those who farmed and took odd jobs to earn a little cash fared the best for the few extra dollars they made on the side often spelled the difference between being able to keep going or folding up.\(^10\)

The Church was not able to give much relief to those in need during the depression. The Church had a "fast fund" for helping the needy, but donations to this fund were very meager. Thus, the bishop had insufficient means to help those in need. The Church, during the worst years of the depression, allowed the people to pay their tithing in produce "where crops could not be sold for cash." In 1933 the Church addressed a letter to the bishop and asked that tithing be paid in "fruit and garden produce" as these items could be used by those in need. The people in Newton gave a negative response to this request and what tithing was paid was in cash. In 1936 the Church set up a Welfare Program but it was unable to significantly increase the Church's aid to the needy during the remaining depression years. Cer-

\(^9\) Interview with Sidney Hansen, June 11, 1967; Ralph Jones, May 13, 1967.

\(^10\) Ibid.
tain individuals in town made a big ado over what little help the Church did give to widows and the poor. 11

The county assisted as much as they could with the means at their disposal. People in need filed an application with the county for relief and then the county would check with the bishop of that ward to see if the people really were in difficulty. The county did not give aid directly but sent a check to the bishop who purchased and gave the necessary goods to the needy. The town government allowed many who were unable to pay for their culinary water to pay it with 'work on the city streets.' The Red Cross gave Cache County fifty carloads of crushed wheat in 1932 to be used as livestock feed. One carload was distributed to the Newton people. The same year the Red Cross allotted 115 tons of flour to be given to needy families. Several families in Newton received forty-eight pound sacks of flour which were brought from Logan by Newton's egg hauler. 12

The state government began to increase the work on the roads to provide additional employment for the needy. The State Road Commission boosted its expenditures from $3,070 in 1929 to $37,970 in 1931. In the latter part of 1932 it was employing 140 men in Cache County who worked five hours a day for six days. In addition the payroll of contractor Olof Nelson included the names of seventy-five men taken from the ranks of the unemployed working on the Logan Canyon approach road. Several men from Newton found a few days employment hauling gravel and working on the roads. All of these workers received forty-eight cents an hour under the terms of the Wagner Act which financed the work projects. The unemployment list for these projects and all pre-New Deal projects were furnished by the bishop. Church leaders of all sects provided this service and the government made use of this ready made bureaucracy rather than

11 Interview with Ralph Jones, May 13, 1967; Eva Benson, April 1, 1967.

creating a government agency. 13

The limited relief action by the county, the state and Federal Government were not sufficient and conditions grew progressively worse between 1930 and 1932. With the coming of the New Deal the Federal Government passed a series of acts designed to bring both relief and recovery from the depression. By spending billions of dollars in federal funds, a great deal of relief was obtained but full recovery was to take a longer time. Some people in the county cried "squandermania" at the large step up in government expenditures, but the vast majority of the people wanted more government action to cure the ills of the depression that dominated their lives. 14

Direct relief for the Newton farmers came with the passage of the Mortgage Farm Bill which allowed the refinancing of mortgages. Farms and homes were saved from foreclosure by the government loaning federal funds to distressed property owners and by measures that gave them more time to repay their mortgages by delaying foreclosure proceedings two to three years. The property in Newton that was outright repossessed came before the passage of such government measures, and a lot of property was saved from foreclosure by the passage of these acts. In 1933 with the passage of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) the government sought to restore agricultural prices to parity 15 by paying farmers to curtail production of certain staple commodities. It gave Cache farmers who agreed to follow the voluntary program, a bounty of twenty-eight cents a bushel on wheat in 1933 over the market price if the farmers agreed to reduce their acreage in 1934 by 15 per cent. This action


14 Ibid. , March 27, 1933

15 Parity is the ratio between farm and non-agricultural prices based on the five year period before World War I when there was a favorable balance between the two.
brought the price of wheat up to $.74 in 1933 and $.88 in 1934. These subsidies marked an end to the old laissez faire system of agriculture and initiated a new era for agriculture, one tied to a system of government rewards and punishment designed to control output. The first AAA was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1935, only to be replaced by a new AAA in 1938 that continued the idea of controlled production. 16

Under the 1933 AAA the government bought livestock from the farmer. The program was designed to give farmers cash for their animals which they could not feed. The animals were usually made into consumable products and given to the poor and needy. It was hoped that the value of livestock would increase by reducing their number. In 1934 the county agent for Cache told the farmers, "There is not enough feed in the county to feed all stock even if you had the money to buy it." In that year many farmers sold animals to the government. By September of that year eighty-four carloads or 2,885 head of cattle had been shipped out of the county, and 3,507 head of sheep had been shipped out and 1,389 were condemned and killed in the county. Newton contributed one or two carloads to the total of cattle shipped out. But the price of animals was so low—averaged $16.00 for cattle—that most of the farmers were reluctant to join the program. Thus, several animals were killed and eaten instead of being sold to the government. 17

Work projects were created by the hundreds in Cache County to take people off relief rolls. The determining factor in obtaining work on these projects was the need of the person. On one or two early projects military service gave priority for employment. The work projects sought to give the needy unemployed useful works to do instead of letting them be mere doles on the government. Projects in Newton or including Newton men were sponsored by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), Civil Works Administration (CWA), and Works Progress Administration (WPA).

A large portion of the public work improved the roads in town and in the county. In 1933 ten men with their teams found relief work by hauling gravel on the town streets. Other Newton men and teams worked on the Cornish-Lewiston road and on the Newton-Logan road. On the latter project men could only work until they had made $16.50, then they were released and someone else was hired. On the other projects the men received fifty cents an hour and could work thirty hours a week. In 1934 graveling of thirteen blocks of town roads gave employment for about three weeks to twenty men. On this occasion some men brought poor straw-fed horses that could not pull a partial load out of the gravel pit and had to be helped out each trip. The same year the Town Board set up a list of names who needed relief work and several men and their teams hauled gravel to put on the Clarkston road. In order to spread the relief money to more people, the work week was reduced in 1934 on all CWA projects to fifteen hours for all communities of less than 2,500 people. Newton men worked only three days a week, working six hours a day for two days and three on the third. In the fall of 1934 Newton was given $895.05 for a relief project of grading and graveling the road to the cemetery. In 1937 Newton received a WPA project to gravel the streets in town, and again in 1938 another WPA project was granted for Newton streets.

Relief money also put in the drainage system in Newton. In the 1920's the water table in Newton was so high that at different times water would come out of the ground in the lower part of the town. One report

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18 Under the programs of the New Deal the bishop no longer provided the services he rendered the county during the pre-1933 days. Officially the town government gave the names of those who needed relief work or welfare, but in practice it was the town board and bishopric working together. Also during several of the depression years a member of the board also served in the bishopric.

told of water coming to the surface in a man's garden then running down the water ditches in the garden. In 1922 the town engaged an engineer to make a preliminary survey of the drainage situation in town. Nothing was done about the problem until several years later when a drain from the Church and schoolhouse was put in, it extended south about two blocks.  

In 1934 a more extensive drainage system was built under the sponsorship of CWA. The avowed purpose of the project was "to lower the water table adequately to protect the public health and to prevent the accumulation of alkali" as well as to help maintain substantial roadway foundation for the roads and to protect the foundation of the public buildings in town. These avowed purposes of the drainage system made it clearly a useful and needed project, but another prime purpose was to provide employment for the needy. Men from all parts of the county worked on the project. In order to give more relief work, the men dug the drains by hand and could only work eleven days a month for a total wage of $44.00.  

The fourteen blocks of drains cost about $8,000 of which Newton furnished only $1,000 for materials and the government paid for the labor. In 1939 the WPA instituted a project to provide employment and to correct a problem in the drainage system put in by the CWA. Some of the old drain lines didn't have enough fall to move the water, while one line even ran uphill. The drainage system was a great improvement for the town, and it gave many men a few dollars to ease their condition.  

Other government assistance was received including a grant of $3,272 for the extension of Newton's culinary water system in 1936-37. Government aid provided funds and employment for the construction of numerous sanitary toilets and for the construction of the tennis court on

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20 Interview with Alvin Christiansen, April 14, 1967.


22 Ibid.
the Newton school grounds. One project that never received acceptance by
the people was the encouragement to remodel or build their homes during
the depression by the aid of government loans. In 1934 the Town Board
appointed a committee in connection with the National Housing Act which
surveyed the possibilities of using the loans and informed people about the
available loans. No one in Newton ventured to fight the depression by pro-
viding employment to carpenters and by purchasing materials under this
program.

The great amount of relief alarmed the Church, and general and
local Church leaders warned the people of the harmful effects of accept-
ing dole. In sessions of the Benson Stake Conference repeated appeals were
made for the members of the Church to be self supporting. In 1934 Apostle
Joseph Fielding Smith "deplored the attitude of those who felt justified in
receiving government relief." He further exhorted the people to:

Get down to work, an independent job which brings but
$10.00 a month is better than a government relief job
which brings in $55.00. The burden of relief work
will come back upon the people.

The following year Bishop Stanley Griffin told the Newton Saints
of a letter from the general authorities in regard to people receiving
direct relief from the government. It encouraged all to get off relief
if possible and "make this Church and state the first to have no govern-
ment relief." These admonitions from the Church caused no appreciable
effect in reducing government relief in Newton and possibly caused a re-
action against the Church. Years later when the Church had a giant
Welfare Program to give assistance to its members and offered assistance
to those in need, it was turned down by most of the people in need who signed
their homes to the Welfare Department and went on government welfare.

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23 Newton Town Board Minutes Vol. II, pp. 8, 44. Newton Ward
Historical Record Book "K," p. 201. Newton Town Board Minutes Vol. I,
p. 366.

24 The Herald Journal, January 8, 1934, April 15, 1934

25 Ibid., April 15, 1934
The greater magnitude of government welfare has been another factor in helping people determine between church and government welfare. In the pioneer days when a man disagreed with the Church on such a point, he usually apostatized; however, by the 1930's they just disagreed and kept their affiliation.  

Beginning in 1929 everything was suddenly and decisively upset with the coming of the depression. The economy of Newton was almost thrown back to the subsistence level of the pioneer era. The length and severity of the depression brought into question some of the basic principles of morality. People were willing to steal coal or food if their family suffered from the cold or did not have enough to eat.  

A longer range effect of the depression is that it has made the people of Newton, who experienced it, overcautious. The nightmare of owing anyone anything made them over conservative. They wanted security to the extent that they did not take advantage of opportunities that presented themselves years after the depression. For the most part, the farmers who experienced the depression have not expanded their operations significantly, some have not bought anything while a few have consolidated family holdings or purchased a few acres adjacent to their farms. The majority of them hesitated too long and were not willing to move until the golden opportunities had passed. A handful have expanded and the younger generation who were not so involved in the depression have a hard time understanding the overcautious attitude of their elders.

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27 Interview with Sidney Hansen, June 11, 1967

World War II

Although the government was able to bring some relief to the people during the depression, it took the war to bring about complete recovery. The 1940's brought war and prosperity. Labor was in great demand, and wages, although controlled, made their first real advance in many years. The demand for labor was made acute by the induction of the bulk of the young men into the armed forces. Several Newton families left town and moved to the Pacific Coast to take jobs in the defense industries. A few Newton women took outside jobs to assist in the war effort. The war created an equally big demand for agricultural produce. The government now encouraged farmers to bring up their output to the maximum. Agricultural prices rose to heights not seen since World War I and the industrious were able to pay off large mortgages and/or garner sizeable profits. One family farm run by a teenage boy and his younger brother produced enough to pay off a $5,000 mortgage during the war.  

The war took a great many of the men between high school age and the thirties. Young boys and women were pressed to help with the farm work. Any able bodied man of draft age who walked the streets received dirty stares that inferred "why aren't you in doing your part." In Newton a half dozen men received farm deferments from army service. There was much gossip and bad feelings over the situation. One high school lad was so affected by the prevailing attitude about such men that he planned to quit school and join in order not to be like them. People with sons in the service could not see why some could escape the service, for they felt that they were no better than their sons, and as far as farm deferments went, everyone's boy was needed for the farm.  

Agriculture

Although possessing a reservoir and having rights to the West Cache Canal, Newton still lacked enough irrigation water. The plans for pump-
ing plants, on the West Cache Canal at Haws Point and another on Bear River, fell through when the farmers' depression hit in 1921. In the late 1930's interest revived in obtaining more water and attention was concentrated on expanding the reservoir. In 1939 a New Reservoir Committee, appointed to investigate the matter, looked at a twenty year old report of the state engineer that considered the enlargement of the existing reservoir and three proposed dam sites downstream. The report showed that raising the old dam five to seven feet would be less expensive than building a new dam. The committee contacted the state engineer for advice on such a reclamation project. 31

Upon being contacted about the reclamation project in Newton, the Bureau of Reclamation sent representatives to meet with the New Reservoir Committee. After studying the 1919 report and making a preliminary survey, the Bureau of Reclamation preferred a new dam rather than enlarging the old one. They considered the existing dam unsafe and that to raise it to gain sufficient storage capacity would cover a surface area of 980 acres and allow excessive evaporation losses. The Bureau offered to finance the project for a new dam with the water users to repay the money without interest in forty years. The New Reservoir Committee felt the cost of the proposed project was "rather high and doubted that it could be carried." Nevertheless, they were determined to put the issue before the stockholders. Before doing so, they organized a new company, Newton Water Users' Association, to replace the Newton Irrigation Company whose corporate life had lapsed on January 14, 1940. The new company called a special meeting of all water users in August of 1941 and read the contract for the building of a new reservoir and then put the acceptance or rejection of the proposal to the water users. Voting by share the water users voted 3,874 to 960 to enter into a contract with the government to build the new reservoir. 32

The work commenced in September of 1941 with WPA supplying some labor. When the war broke out, the WPA was disbanded and work on the project was stopped for approximately six months. Work resumed in July of 1942 and the work on the dam itself was "nearly completed" in the fall of 1944 when the gates were removed from the old reservoir. The only problem remaining was the construction of two high line canals. The initial contract called for the Bureau of Reclamation to build the dam and 4,000 feet of canal. The remaining canal network was intended to be made by the Newton farmers with the use of WPA and Civilian Conservation Corps labor. After six months of dispute over how and who was to build the canals, it was agreed to amend the contract whereby the construction of two high line canals and rehabilitation and extension of the existing canal became a part of the project. In 1946 the project was completed after an expenditure of $350,000 for construction.

The new reservoir had an active storage capacity of 5,200 acre feet compared with the old reservoir's 1,420 acre feet. It brought irrigation water to approximately 600 more acres with enough water to allow for more intensive farming in the project area. The greater storage capacity lessened the effects of drought years and gave added flood protection. The reservoir served well, but in several drought years the reservoir did not fill to capacity and farmers were restricted to two or three waterings in some years.

In the 1940's a new innovation was introduced to Newton—a sprinkling type of irrigation. The first sprinkler pipes were only about half as long as today's pipes and were very heavy. The pipes were connected with a spring loaded lever lock which took an extra operation to

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33 Newton Water Users' Association Minutes 1939-59, pp. 2, 10

lock and unlock. The first pumps were mounted on a tractor and were belt driven. By today's standards the system was archaic but it offered great possibilities. The improvements came in lighter and longer pipes, quick connectors, better pumps, and improved sprinkler heads. In the latter part of the 1950's the sprinkling system moved from a novelty and experiment to a system that was fast replacing flood type irrigation. Today there remains only a handful of people who continue to irrigate by flooding. Newton leads Cache Valley in irrigating by sprinkling--both as to acres and miles of sprinkler pipe in operation. In 1959 electric pumps began to be used in addition to tractor driven and diesel driven pumps. In the 1960's individuals and co-operative enterprises installed gravity pressure systems--four out of the East High Line Canal and one out of the West High Line. In 1966 and 1967 electric pumps were installed on the West Cache Canal replacing many of the tractor driven and diesel driven pumps used in the south fields. The 1960's also witnessed the advent of sprinkler pipes mounted on wheels which eliminated the manual moving of the pipes. 35

The sprinkler type of irrigation was a big improvement over the flood type of irrigation--giving a more even watering, utilizing uneven tracts of land, and requiring less man-hours to irrigate. However, the most significant advantage with sprinkler systems is its greater economy of water as water loss in ditches is all but eliminated as the water is conveyed from the canals to the fields in pipes and the farmer, through more efficient use of the water delivered to his field, received watering turns more often and, therefore, a more bounteous harvest. 36

Agriculture has witnessed a big transformation in the past three decades. The 1920's saw three or four tractors come into Newton, but the depression delayed the trend away from horses. Tractors took gas and oil which required an outlay of money while horses could be maintained

36 Interview with Max Christiansen, June 16, 1967.
and used at a much lower overhead. Even those individuals who possessed tractors also had horses and used them for many farming operations. During the last years of the depression tractors were again being purchased—sometimes by trading in horses as in one incident when two men traded eleven horses to get their tractor. Still horses remained and did not make their final departure until after the war when tractors were again purchased in large quantities. When the horse was replaced as a draft animal, their number declined, but since the last years of the 1950's, the horse population has increased. This time their services were used for entertainment—children, horse racing, cutter races, and for show. 37

The tractor is a very versatile piece of equipment, and it is the main piece of farm machinery. It is called upon to do the bulk of the farm work and with equipment pulled or attached, it can perform almost every farming operation. However, technological advancement in self propelled machinery has freed the tractor from certain operations. The self-propelled harvester is a good example. It came to the Newton area in the late 1940's and has completely replaced the pull type variety. Other machinery with traction power combines two or more operations like the hay swather that cuts, crimps and places the hay in windrows. Modern trucks, hay balers, beet harvesters and other machinery have all helped take much of the back-breaking work out of farming. The present trend is to equip harvesters and tractors with air-conditioned cabs and in some cases even a radio. The advances and comforts of modern farm machinery came only at high costs and this has been a factor in squeezing out the smaller farmers and preventing a father's farm from being profitably divided among several children. In Newton where there are several sons in a family, most of the boys enter professions or move to other areas to engage in farming while one or two take over the farm. In the last twenty years a small minority of Newton's young men have entered the farming business, and many of them are only part-time farmers—holding other jobs to supplement

37 Interview with Marcus Cooley, June 13, 1967.
their income.  

The coming of the war signaled the end of an era when people engaged in mixed enterprises such as dairying, egg business and grain growing on a small scale. Very few people have kept family cows—they have either sold them or obtained a larger herd to make a profit from the business. Several went into dairying on a large scale and set up Grade A systems, and about a dozen have expanded their operations. Today few people have family milk cows. Newton moved completely away from the commercial egg business when the last hen flock of any size was sold in 1966. A few people have some chickens for their own use, but most chicken coops are empty. Today's farmers raise agricultural produce to sell on the market. Hardly anyone bothers with a garden or produces his own milk and eggs. The farmer, like the rest of the townspeople, procures his food from the stores since the last vestiges of self-sufficient farming ended with the depression.

**Developments in town**

In the 1920's Newton's frame meeting house became inadequate, it was still large enough to hold the people, but it lacked individual classrooms and an adequate gym. The newly appointed bishop--Ralph C. Jones--called a meeting of the Priesthood in July of 1928 to discuss the need for a new meeting house. A week later the Church architect, Arthur Price, visited Newton and assessed the need for a new building. While paper work was being processed and decisions were being made, the meeting house suddenly burned down on January 8, 1929. The official report of the fire stated; "The Meeting House was burned about one-thirty Tuesday morning Jan. 8th, 1929. A picture show was held Monday night and it is thought the furnace was overheated--it being a very cold night." The building was completely destroyed and insurance provided only $5,000, while the fire caused a loss of from

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38 Ibid.

39 Interview with Alvin Christiansen, April 28, 1967.
"fifteen to twenty thousand dollars." Church meetings had to be held in the schoolhouse once again until a building could be provided. 40

Bishop Jones and his counselors planned a new church house and appointed a committee to assist in outlining the work. Through the friendship of one of the bishop's counselors, Joseph Tuddenham, the personal services of Arthur Price were obtained. While the bishopric and their committee worked on one set of plans, the recently released bishop--Martin C. Rigby 41--organized another committee that toured the area looking at recent Church buildings. The former bishop and his committee tried to determine both who should design the new building and how it should look. They decided on an old style of architecture with a chapel and a recreation hall in separate buildings parallel to each other and connected by an enclosed hallway as the Smithfield Third Ward's building. Bishop Jones "didn't want two cracker boxes tied together" and he and his committee decided to use a more modern type of architecture. Since he was the one in actual authority, his plans were the ones accepted. Ex-Bishop M. C. Rigby had held office as many years as Bishop Jones had lived, and it was hard for him to step down from the leadership. In the time he had served he had built up a corps of friends and followers who followed him instead of the Church in the dispute over the design for the structure. Incidents like this brought out the fact that in many cases long terms of office for a ward bishop were not desirable. Henceforth, all the bishops in Newton served shorter terms. The same trend followed throughout most of the Church. 42

When Newton began to plan their building, it was the policy of the Church to build a chapel large enough to seat 25 per cent of the ward member-


41 M. C. Rigby was the son of Newton's first bishop. He served as bishop of the Newton Ward longer than anyone else--from 1903 to 1928.

42 Interview with Ralph Jones, May 13, 1967. Newton Ward Historical Record Book "J," p. 593. The terms "meeting house and church house" are used interchangeably, but today "church house" is more frequently used, while the term 'meeting house' was more popular prior to the building of the new structure in 1929.
ship. Bishop Jones wrote to the Church leaders and requested a larger chapel because Newton drew such large crowds for funerals. The bishop was informed that Church policy was Church policy and to plan to build accordingly. Four letters to the Presiding Bishop and a trip to Church headquarters by the bishop plus the influence of the Church architect brought an exception to Church policy. President Heber J. Grant wrote a short letter to Bishop Jones giving permission to build a chapel to seat 50 per cent of the ward membership, and he wished the ward "good luck" on their new building. 43

Two months after the fire the remains of the old church were removed and gravel was being hauled on the public square for use in the new construction. On November 3, 1929, the contract was awarded to a Salt Lake firm at a cost not to exceed $54,000. Three days later excavation work started and by April 26, 1930, the brick laying was completed. But the "good luck" that President Grant had wished the ward ran out and the effects of the depression brought work to a halt in the summer of 1930. In the fall work was resumed to finish the roof and put the cement floor in the basement. Construction went slow because it was necessary to raise funds first, and the hard times made the people slow in paying their building assessments. In 1931 the roof was shingled and the recreation hall was plastered and with special effort the hall was made useable for the Christmas holidays. Dances were held in the recreation hall and a few meetings were held in the building, but most of the Church meetings had to be held in the schoolhouse until the classrooms in the basement were finished. The chapel was left uncompleted with the hope that funds would shortly be acquired. 44

The chapel remained unfinished for many years and as the depression eased up, the people had hopes of completing it. But Newton was made part of the new Smithfield Stake in 1938, and the Church requested that all effort be directed toward building a new stake house before completing the Newton

43 Interview with Ralph Jones, May 13, 1967

chapel. So Newton boarded the chapel windows once again and continued services with only the recreation hall and the basement classroom. After the stake house, the war interferred with the completion of the building in the early 1940's. After the war, when building materials again became available, the work on the chapel was resumed and carried to completion. Finally on July 18, 1948, a dream of nineteen years was realized as President George Albert Smith dedicated the Newton Church House. 45

The school in Newton closed in late May of 1968 with the consolidation of the elementary schools on the west side of Cache Valley. The school at Newton moved from a one room, one teacher and common graded school to a school with five classrooms, five teachers and nine grades in the 1920's. Then, when North Cache High School was complete, the ninth grade went to that school and later to the Smithfield Junior High. In the spring of 1944 the Newton school held its last graduation exercises and the following fall the seventh and eighth grades were moved to the Smithfield Junior High School. The Newton school was reduced by one-third by the moves in the 1920's and 1944. Newton welcomed the building of the high school and junior high school and opposed the attempt of Clarkston and Trenton to establish a high school on the West Side of Cache County in 1933. Newton was the only town on the West Side to send its seventh and eighth grade students to the Smithfield school without fighting the issue; both Clarkston and Trenton opposed the move for ten years. When the issue of consolidating the two county high schools came up in 1956, Newton was only slightly against the proposal and in 1959 and 1961 Newton voted in favor of the issue. While all the rest of the West Side towns opposed the consolidation by a very large majority. 46

In 1963 Skyview High School opened and a re-arrangement of junior high schools made consolidation of the secondary schools an accomplished fact. Then the issue of elementary consolidation arose. In 1952 the Emergency School Building Commission of Utah rated Newton, Clarkston, Trenton and other small towns "poor" in regard to student attendance, building and classroom facilities. Surveys by the county school board in the 1960's revealed that enrollment for the future would be reduced in several county elementary schools, and these schools were or would soon come under a special classification whereby funds above and beyond those based on average daily attendance would be forthcoming only at the good pleasure of the state legislature. In 1965 the school board decided that something must be done with several of these schools. Meetings were called by the school board at Newton, Trenton, Clarkston, Benson and Mendon. Although each town was reluctant to lose its schools, it was made quite clear that consolidation was going to come and the matter was to determine its form. The school board declared it could understand the West Side's complaint about paying taxes and having all the public buildings constructed on the East Side. The board asked the towns how they wanted consolidation, by incorporation into existing school on the East Side or by building a consolidated school on the West Side. All agreed initially that they wanted a school on the West Side. 47

The real problem developed over the location of the new elementary school. Mendon thought the school should be built there to take advantage of the existing school, but they refused to send their students to one of the other towns. Benson wanted the school in their town, otherwise they preferred to go to Smithfield or Hyde Park-North Logan school. Newton was in the most central location of the five towns and data fed into an IBM computer showed it to be the best location for the new school. Clarkston and Trenton favored the Newton site until it became clear that Mendon and Benson would

have no part in a consolidation at Newton, then Trenton switched its stand believing its own location offered the best possibility for a consolidation of the three schools of Newton, Clarkston and Trenton. Each town had a committee appointed to iron out the struggle on the location of the new school. The committees' attempts were fruitless and feelings in the towns involved were packed with emotion, but the issue was not resolved. The school board refused to make a decision on the school location and insisted that the five towns get together and find an agreement.

The Clarkston school closed in the fall of 1967 and the students were transferred to Lewiston. In the spring of 1968 the remaining West Side schools closed and their students shuffled into elementary schools on the East Side with Newton's students going to the Lewiston Elementary School. West Side schools, which had their beginning in 1864, came to an end while the Newton school failed to see its 100th anniversary by a couple of years. 48

Business enterprise in Newton has fluctuated since 1930. In the 1930's the town had Barker's store and the hardware store owned by Hyrum Larsen. In the fall of 1934 Amos Rigby moved a building from Cache Junction and put it with the old Tithing Office to form a combination store, post office, and barber shop, with the Tithing Office acting as the store room. In 1938 the store was leased to George Elwood who ran it until 1940. During this period Nephi Benson operated an establishment in the extreme southeastern part of town where he sold groceries and gasoline. Llewelyn Petersen sold gas and oil and operated an auto repair shop east of Barker's store. LaVoir Dowdle, who had been helping to manage the hardware store, left the business in 1939 or 1940 and built a service station. In 1940 Amos Rigby converted his store into another service station. In 1949 a combination market and cafe was built on the west edge of town by Edward and Vance Petersen. The 1950's saw a rash of building as the Peterson Brothers Market and Cafe built a new building in the center of town, the Barker store was remodeled and enlarged, and Kay Benson, who had taken over Dowdle's service station, built a new facility across the street.

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48 Interview with Murray Rigby, July 16, 1967.
A combination of factors ended Newton's revival of community businesses. A combination of credit and bad health acted directly to reduce Newton's business enterprises. Other factors were the supermarkets and large service stations that the post war prosperity brought to the larger communities; the small country establishments could not compete in goods, services or prices with their larger counterparts. The automobile made the supermarket accessible and the country store was reduced to supplying odds and ends that one ran out of or forgot while at the supermarket. The increased competition put the market and cafe out of business in the mid 1950's and by the late 1950's one of the service stations operated only part time. In the 1960's the part time service station closed except for family business and the general store shut its doors in 1965. Afterwards the business in Newton consisted of one service station and the post office.

Newton has experienced many losses due to fires. Beginning with Bishop W. F. Rigby's one and a half story log house that burned in 1870, several homes and outbuildings were destroyed by fire before Newton had a fire department. The Co-op store burned in 1916 and People's Mercantile burned a couple of years later. In 1923 the schoolhouse was destroyed by fire, and in 1929 the Meeting House suffered a similar fate. During all this time Newton possessed no fire fighting equipment nor were there any fire hydrants in the town. Newton had to rely entirely upon the Cache County Fire Department. The loss of the Newton Meeting House made two things apparent to the people of Newton. First, a greater force of water than a garden hose was needed to fight fires and second, most fires had such a start that the damage was already done by the time a fire engine could come from Logan.

On January 3, 1929, the town board discussed the idea of placing fire hydrants throughout the town. The board concluded that it would take seven fire hydrants to cover the town. The clerk was instructed to write the Water Works Equipment of Salt Lake regarding the cost, and if the town could afford the expenditure, the hydrants would be purchased. Five days later the Meeting House burned, and the board decided it could not afford to be without fire hydrants and fire fighting equipment.
In 1929 the rudiments of a Newton fire department began. In that year the fire hydrants were installed. A fire hose cart and 300 feet of fire hose were purchased. The town board paid $300.00 for a "siren whistle." In January of 1931 Carl Jorgensen met with the town board and suggested the appointment of a "fire squad." The board consented and gave Carl the authority to appoint such a squad. Several firemen from Logan came and instructed the fire squad in handling fire equipment and the art of fire fighting. Carl was appointed to take care of the fire equipment which he stored at his place and kept it in good order and ready to go at a moment's notice. In 1932 the town furnished the paint and Carl painted all the fire hydrants red. He also periodically checked each hydrant to maintain perfect working condition. Carl did a hundred and one little but very necessary things which passed unnoticed until he was no longer responsible for them, and it fell someone else's lot to do them. All his efforts were largely a work of love for he received little reimbursement for his efforts. For example, in 1945 he received $12.00 as Newton's fire chief.

In 1940 the fire hose cart was replaced with a fire trailer which was capable of hauling more fire hose and equipment. And in April of 1940 Carl was given the authority to organize a volunteer fire organization. He selected Perry Nebeker, Carr Jones, Marineer Anderson and Henry Sutherland. A slower development came in attempts to obtain a building in which to store the fire equipment. Periodically from 1933 to 1955 the town attempted to secure a fire station. Success came in 1955 when the town remodeled a building purchased from the railroad.49

Newton relied on the Logan City-Cache County Fire Department for assistance. The local fire fighting equipment was to handle small blazes and to control major fires until the fire engine traveled from Logan. In 1963 when the county gave Newton a used fire truck. Newton was given the responsibility to protect Newton, Cache Junction, and northern Petersboro as well as back up adjacent

towns. With this new arrangement, Newton received funds from the county to pay for time spent fighting fires, holding fire drills, and checking fire equipment. A large part of Newton's present fire fighters are firemen at the Thiokol Chemical Corporation. Newton's fire department is one of the best in Cache County today.

The building purchased in 1955 from the Union Pacific Railroad, also became the town hall, housing the fire department, the town records, and equipment and parts for the culinary water system. Here the town board could meet and it served as a place to hold elections. The town had tried to purchase the old rock schoolhouse in 1908 for use as a town hall, but the trustees of the Newton School District rejected the idea of retaining the old school adjacent to the new brick schoolhouse. With the closing of the Newton school in 1968, it appears that the Cache County School District will sell the schoolhouse to the town rather than spend a large sum to raze the building. If the town can obtain the building for a nominal fee, it plans to remodel the building to serve as town hall and fire station.

The economic development in the town has shown a mixed pattern. Outside employment has become more and more important. At the present time, with a population of 480, over seventy people leave town each working day to travel to their work, many traveling to the Ogden area and Thiokol. The automobile allows them to continue to live in town while working miles away; otherwise, they would be forced to leave Newton. Even with the ability to commute the bulk of Newton's people leave both the town and county upon completion of their education. Cache Valley does not provide the quantity nor quality of employment possibilities to keep the young high school and college graduates at home. Newton, along with the other towns in the valley, exports her young people just as their productive years are beginning. The pattern is further complicated by a high percentage of the town's youth serving two or two-and-a-half year mission for the Church. The constitutes some outflow of money from the town each year. The townspeople support their young people a little over twenty years, and just when they can begin to contribute to the town, they are forced to leave the area for employment.
Another significant development has been the increasing number of wives and mothers who leave their homes to work. The trend started during World War II when several women worked to aid the war effort. To the people of that time, working women were a new and infrequent occurrence. After the war more women became employed, and their ranks have grown until today they constitute 44 percent of the non-farm labor of Newton. Today it is easier for women to find employment than it is for men as more businesses seek female workers who can do the job as well as men and for less pay. This trend should continue since several newly proposed factories for Cache Valley are scheduled to hire more women than men. It will disrupt the social and economic roles traditionally played by men and women and also directly counter the mores of the Church.

The prosperous post World War II days have brought in the golden era of the individual. Everyone possesses radio, television, telephone and with easy access to an automobile, the people have new horizons open to them. They have been given new dimensions in news of the world, culture and entertainment. The television set has brought entertainment to the home and reduced the need and number of community sponsored entertainments, as well as probably lowering attendance at Church meetings. Today the town plays less of a role in the people's lives than ever before. The town still provides street lighting, drinking water, maintains both the peace and the town roads, gives fire protection, and holds the elections, but it affects the life of individuals less. The livelihood of the people is often crowded into second place by the many pleasures that the unprecedented prosperity of today allows. The new found economic means have given the individual new social freedoms; he no longer has to rely upon the co-operation of his neighbors to make a living or to enjoy an evening's entertainment.

There has been a decided decline of community spirit in recent years as witnessed by the abandonment of the town baseball team, small attendance at basketball games and the lack of town celebrations. In the past twenty-five years there have been only two occasions that could match the numerous pre-depression celebrations. Newton had full fledged celebrations for the Pioneer Centennial on July 24, 1947, and the Cache Valley Centennial on June 2, 1956.
No one today would think of writing to the newspaper and proudly proclaim that Newton was the best little town in Cache Valley, let alone Utah, or point with pride to the Newton Reservoir, or extol any other virtue of the town. Yet, in bygone days the people boldly announced to the state that Newton was the finest community in Cache Valley and Utah, possessed the best schoolhouse outside of Logan and had built the largest meeting house west of Bear River, besides initiating the "first" storage reservoir in Utah and possibly the United States. Possibly modern means of travel and communication have made the people more aware of the growth and progress of other towns and maybe these accomplishments make Newton's so insignificant that the people feel it best to say nothing. However, it is also highly probable that the people's sphere of interest has expanded to where only fleeting attention and allegiance can be devoted to one's home town.

Newton, as it approaches its 100th anniversary, faces the prospects of a continuing decline in population. It is not alone in this predicament as every town in the county except Logan and its satellites—River Heights, Providence, Nibley—and Smithfield have lost population since 1940. Newton has experienced nearly a century of trial and accomplishments, and has a rich heritage to pass to the people who call it home. The next hundred years will make even more clear than it is today that all great struggles did not end in the pioneer era.

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Biographies of Newton's Bishops

Bishop William F. Rigby, Sr. by J. Murray Rigby

William F. Rigby, Sr. was born at Saddleworth, Lancashire, England, on January 29, 1833. His father, a Methodist minister, was Joseph Rigby and his mother was Margaret Littlewood.

Later in life he recalled some interesting incidents of English history. He remembered the marriage and coronation of Queen Victoria and the expansion of the railroad to points in England. His boyhood was spent in various jobs which paid from 18 to 24 cents per week.

In July of 1848 he went to live with his Aunt Sarah Wilson. While here he came in contact with Mormons and the Mormon missionaries. He had been well trained in the scriptures and the message of the missionaries seemed sensible and true to him and he soon joined the Church. His baptismal date was September 8, 1848. He received advancement in the priesthood and offices of the Church, being ordained an Elder on February 23, 1853. During this period of his life he met Mary Clark who became his wife on August 9, 1852. In April of 1853 he and his wife in a company with 26 other people left England to immigrate to the United States and to Utah. They came over on the steamship "Camillus." They landed at New Orleans eight weeks and four days from the day they embarked. They travelled from New Orleans up river by steamship to a small town opposite Nauvoo, Illinois. Here he was placed in charge of two yoke of oxen and a yoke of cows to drive and care for on the road to Utah. They outfitted for the journey at Kaneville and when they arrived at Green River, he was sent ahead with a letter to President Brigham Young. His party walked 175 miles in 5 days and at the conclusion of the journey, he delivered his letter and met President Young.

His early years in Utah were filled with the experience, privations, and difficulties of pioneer life. He moved to Cache Valley in April of 1860 where he became one of the first farmers of the valley. His first summer in the valley was spent in Fort Wellsville where he met the Eckersley family. Four of the daughters
of this family later became his wives.

In 1866 Elder Benson and President Maughan called him to be bishop of Clarkston. In 1870 he, along with several other settlers, moved from Clarkston to Newton. He was released as bishop of Clarkston and set apart to preside over Newton.

In order to obtain irrigation water to insure crops against drought, a dam was constructed across Clarkston Creek some two miles above Newton. William F. Rigby was a member of the original building committee in charge of the dam's construction. The reservoir impounded by the dam is thought to be the first of its kind in Utah and perhaps the western United States.

While living in Newton he constructed two large rock houses for his families. These homes were spacious, comfortable, and well built. They still stand and are used as residences to this day.

Bishop William F. Rigby served as bishop for seventeen years in Newton. The latter part of this time he spent some seasons in Idaho colonizing the Snake River Valley. The town of Rigby, Idaho, was named after him in recognition of his efforts in colonizing.

In the 47 years after William F. Rigby left England, he became an American citizen in 1869, married six more times, fathered 39 children, served as bishop of Clarkston for four years and of Newton for 17 years, and was in the presidency of the Bannock Stake for 27 years. In addition he was a farmer; sheepman; nurseryman; held a captain's commission in the infantry; ran a grist mill, two sawmills and a furniture store; was instrumental in bringing the Oregon Short Line Railroad into the area; and assisted in the locating, establishing and colonizing of forty-four settlements in the Snake River Valley. He also served as a member of the first Constitutional Convention of the State of Utah and spent two terms in the Idaho Legislature.

The responsibilities of earning a living and serving in leadership roles must have seemed overwhelming to this man who became a member of a new and different religion, immigrated to a new country, journeyed to a raw frontier area of that country, underwent the extreme hardships and privations of frontier life, and continued colonizing new towns throughout his life. But his accomplishments
viewed in retrospect were many and varied, and he left the world a better place for his being here.

Bishop Hans M. Funk by Larry D. Christiansen

Hans Madison Funk, the son of Dedrick Funk and Christina Madison Funk, was born May 15, 1839, in Bernholn, Denmark. He joined the Church and came to Utah in 1861. Upon coming to Cache Valley, he resided first in Richmond until 1872 when he took up a homestead in Lewiston. He was among the first to settle in Lewiston which was known as Poverty Flats when Hans came to live there. While at Richmond and Lewiston he married three times. He married Christena Swenson on December 27, 1864, Anna Sophia Peterson on May 23, 1868, and Anna Elizabeth Larsen on December 21, 1881. With his first wife, seven children were born with only two of them surviving to see their teens before death befell them. His second wife had three children of which only two survived, Annie Sophia and Mina. No children were born to his third wife.

In 1877 Hans was called to serve as second counselor to Bishop William H. Lewis in the Lewiston Ward. Lewiston was named in honor of her first bishop who served until 1901 when he became the first president of the newly created Benson Stake. In 1879 Hans was called on a mission to Denmark and served in this capacity until 1881. Returning home he resumed his position in the bishopric. Hans also served as a missionary to the Indians in Southern Utah and Colorado.

In February of 1884 Hans was called to leave his home and relocate in Newton and become bishop of the Newton Ward. On February 11, 1884, Hans was ordained and set apart as bishop by President William B. Preston. As his assistants the new bishop selected William H. Griffin as first counselor and Peter Benson as second counselor. Thus Hans became the second bishop of Newton, but was the first and only Scandinavian to be selected to serve in this capacity in Newton’s first century of existence. He was the only bishop to be called from outside the Ward.

Under Bishop Funk’s direction several changes took place in the Newton Ward. Shortly after taking office he presented the idea of acquiring some land and water to assist missionaries. In march of 1884 the Ward acquired the land
known as the Missionary Farm. Twenty acres of the land was donated while the other
twenty acres was purchased from the United Order of Newton for $4.00 an acre.
Enough water for twenty acres was given to the Missionary Farm by the Newton
Irrigation Company. In 1969 some eight and a half decades after being acquired
Newton's Missionary Farm is still in existence. Today Newton is one of the few
wards that has retained their missionary farm.

During Bishop Funk's term of office the Newton Ward was incorporated
into the Newton Ecclesiastical Ward. This was done in order to protect the pro-
erty of the Church from the confiscations of the Federal Government for viola-
tion of the anti-polygamy acts. The new corporation had a board of directors and
the bishop was always elected as president of the board. This device of incorporat-
ing the Ward saved all of the Ward's property, but it gave Bishop Funk problems
as some of the members decided that the Church should be run like a business
corporation. In January of 1892 Bishop Funk laid down the fiat that the corporation
did not do away with the authority of the bishop or other ward organizations but
was only a temporary measure to protect Church property until the Church could
function as it had in the past. He further stated that only members of the
Melchizedek Priesthood could be on the board of directors and the bishop was
automatically the president.

Another project that Bishop Funk initiated was the building of the Newton
Tithing Office. In mid-October of 1884 with many men from town he left with "16
or 18 teams" and went to the canyons to haul lumber for the erection of a tithing
house. The building was dedicated in October of 1893, one year after Bishop
Funk died.

The Meeting House was also started under the direction of Bishop Funk
in 1887. Once again the plans and hopes of going ahead and finishing the building
were frustrated. The people intended to finish it in 1888 but the Newton Dam
went out and all efforts had to be extended to repair the dam. Further delays
were encountered when the government began prosecution of polygamists and
several of Newton's leading brethren spent time in exile or in the penitentiary.
Finally the new Meeting House was close enough to being completed that meet-
ings were held in it in December of 1891. The completion of the building and
its dedication came shortly after Bishop Funk's death as the building was dedicated March 26, 1893.

Bishop Funk was by occupation a farmer, first in Richmond then Lewiston and lastly at Newton, but the last fifteen years of his life were occupied with a heavy proportion of religious administration. In the last years of his life he was made to suffer a term in the penitentiary for practicing polygamy. He was arrested for unlawful cohabitation on September 22, 1887. Before he went to Ogden for his trial, the Newton Ward gave him a big surprise party on November 17. In the First District Court at Ogden he was sentenced to six months in the penitentiary and fined $300 on November 19, 1887. After serving his six months he was discharged from the penitentiary on May 19, 1888. Upon returning home to Newton the bishop was greeted by a big welcome home party.

Bishop Hans Funk passed away on October 25, 1892, at the age of 53 and was buried in the Richmond Cemetery where his parents and his children were buried. Newton was without a bishop for three months following his death. Then first counselor William H. Griffin was called to be bishop in February of 1893.

Bishop William Hyrum Griffin by Amos Griffin

William Hyrum Griffin was born in Nauton Beachamp Worchesterchire, England, on November 8, 1848, to William Griffin and Mary Pitts Griffin who had a family of seven. As a boy he drove a plow and herded cows in England.

When he was 16 years old, he came on a vessel across the ocean; he came alone leaving his father and mother and the remainder of his family in England. His mother had heard the gospel in England and recognized its truthfulness. She was anxious for her son William to come to this country and open the way for other members to come. To leave his home and travel to another land at his age was not easy and would not have come if he had not already promised his mother he would do so. He later sent for his family, one or two at a time.

From Omaha to Salt Lake he drove an ox team for Bishop John Miller.
He worked for Bishop Miller for two years. He worked for his board and clothes but no money. After this he went to Mendon; he worked on a thresher for 70 bushels of wheat. He loaned this amount of wheat to people in Clarkston for seed. He was considered rich being there was no money in the country. At this time his mother and father came. They lived in a dugout, and their food was bread, potatoes, and pork.

He got a little land in Clarkston and farmed it. William and his brother John bought the first combine machine and mower and harvester in Clarkston. They traded around a little to do this and went to Corrine to do so.

On March 4, 1869, a small group of about 15-20 members of the Clarkston Ward were called to settle the place which we now call Newton. This was no small task as we may judge from the struggle they had in getting from Clarkston to Newton. Father relates it took them three days to make the trip. A distance of five miles and thus struggling for three days breaking a road through the drifts of snow; on the same road which we make the same distance in less than five minutes under the present means of transportation.

He came to Newton when first settled; he plowed among the first in 1869 in the North Field. He had a home in Clarkston and went there to live in the winter. In the winter the dugout filled with snow and water, and they would have to get up and dip it out. Then they built a log house.

He married Bessie Therehren in 1870. She taught school in Clarkston, then when she was married, she taught school in Newton in a little log house about where Heber Beck lives. They lived in the home presently occupied by Iner Pedersen.

In 1877 he was chosen 2nd counselor to Bishop William F. Rigby. He served in this capacity until February of 1884 when he served as 1st counselor to Bishop Hans Funk from June 1884 until February 1893. In February of 1893 he came bishop and was released in May of 1903. He was released to be ordained patriarch of the Benson Stake. He served in the Newton bishopric for 26 years. He married Elizabeth Clark in the Logan Temple. She worked in the Co-op store and taught school. He was taken by the marshals to the penitentiary for plural marriage.
Probably one of the most responsible positions held by father was that task of the general supervisor of the United Order for the town of Newton. While the Church practiced the law of the United Order, he was called to head that organization in our Ward. The details of this organization is one of the most striking interests of our pioneer community. This event in history has been stamped on the pages of the history of the Mormon Church as is the history of John Smith and the common store house of our colonial history of 1607.

While at this position you can only begin to imagine the many complex community problems that had to be solved. Such tasks as operating the community threshing machine, the division of labor, and the needs and supplies of life are a sample of the many problems that had to be adjusted.

Bishop Martin Clarke Rigby by Larry D. Christiansen

Martin Clarke Rigby, son of William F. Rigby and Mary Clarke, was born May 23, 1868, at Clarkston, Utah. His father, the bishop of Clarkston, was among those who were desirous to relocate that settlement. Newton became Martin's home in the spring of 1871 when his family's first home burned in September of 1870 before Bishop Rigby's family could occupy it. Their new home was made of sandstone and was located due north of the northwest corner of the public square. A tragedy came early to Martin when his mother died in childbirth when he was only three years old; he was reared by Aunt Sarah--another of Bishop Rigby's wives.

He spent much of his early boyhood on the Rigby homestead two miles west of town. He and his brother Joe with three yolk of oxen and a sulky plow broke up most of the land on the homestead. The boys would take turns, one would ride on the plow while the other rode one of the swing oxen. The boys were not strong enough to pull the plow out of the ground at the ends so they left it in the ground and went around and around.

He also tended his father's sheep at a time when bears, coyotes, and wolves were quite plentiful and had encounters with all three of the predators. He told of one experience with a big gray wolf at the Rigby ranch near the West Mountains. At the time this was the only ranch in the area. His account of the story went as follows. "One day there was a big gray wolf that came trotting
towards the sheep from the east. We (Joe and Martin) began to yell trying to frighten it away, but the wolf didn’t seem to take any notice of us. It kept coming toward the sheep. When it was a short distance from the sheep, we both threw our hats up in the air and yelled. The wolf stopped, watched us, and then it turned and ran away."

As a boy Martin raked hay on the land operated by Newton’s United Order and he also had experiences with grasshoppers. In regard to the latter, he and the rest of his father’s family went on one occasion to the ranch to save what they could of their grain. They dug trenches and then drove the grasshoppers into the trenches and threw dirt on them. This process was repeated many times. Straw was also scattered on the ground and fire at to it to burn the grasshoppers.

In 1878 Martin went with his father into Idaho to engage in the lumber business and thus lived away from Newton. In 1884 his father moved to the Snake River country and Martin lived with his father until 1887 or 1888 when he and his brother Joe took charge of their father’s interests in Newton. He worked the farm in the summer and managed a logging outfit in Logan Canyon between farming. In this latter endeavor he received permission from the sawmill owner to saw extra logs into lumber, and his brother Joe hauled them to Newton. This lumber paid the two brothers’ building assessment for the new meeting house being constructed in Newton in the late 1880’s and early 1890’s.

On January 15, 1891, Martin married Annie Funk, daughter of Bishop Hans Funk, in the Logan Temple. To this marriage no children came and Annie died in June of 1918. In October of 1919 Martin married Loretta Merrill, daughter of Apostle Marriner W. Merrill, in the Salt Lake Temple. Martin and Loretta became the proud parents of four children—Annie, Martin Merrill, George Elroy and Ronald Kay.

In 1890 Martin took over full responsibility of his father’s farm; shortly thereafter he homesteaded a quarter section and bought 160 acres of adjoining land. In the fall of 1901 he began buying wheat for C. A. Smurthwaite of Ogden. After two years of being employed, he became employed by
David Robbins as a grain buyer and later as field and elevator manager in Utah and Idaho, working in this capacity for 25 years.

In the religious realm, Martin as a married man, was called on a mission in the spring of 1899. He and two fellow townsmen--Lewis Jenkins and Chris Christensen--and an Elder who later became a ranking General Authority in the Church, Joseph Fielding Smith, went to the English Mission. While on his mission his father died. He was released from his mission in June of 1901 and returned to Newton on July 19, 1901. He was not allowed time to rest but was made a member of the Benson Stake High Council on August 5, 1901, and served in this position until called to become a bishop.

In May of 1903 the Newton bishopric was reorganized by the presidency of the Benson Stake. President W. H. Lewis felt that since there was a vacancy in the bishopric, he "thought best to install a new bishopric of young men." Accordingly Martin C. Rigby was ordained bishop with Christian Christensen as first counselor and William H. Griffin as second counselor. Bishop M. C. Rigby served as bishop until March of 1928, lacking just two months of occupying that calling for a quarter of a century. Neither counselor served long; in 1914 Willard R. Ballard became second counselor to be replaced by Lorenzo Larsen in 1918, who in turn was replaced in 1924 by Walter A. Cooley. First Counselor Lorenzo Larsen moved from second to first counselor in 1924.

While bishop, he organized an orchestra in the winter of 1903 and 1904 for the Ward. The bishop selected the men to play in it and helped collect funds to purchase instruments. Also during his first year as bishop, the girls were released from the duty of collecting ward donations and the young deacons were given this responsibility.

In 1908 the Ward purchased the old rock schoolhouse with the idea of using the rock to build a basement to a Ward tabernacle at some time in the future. The tabernacle was never built but the Ward tore down the old school and made a profit of over 250 per cent over the purchase price by selling the lumber alone. Another project started and completed under Bishop M. C. Rigby was the remodeling of the Newton Church house in 1914. A "T" was added to the east end of the building and the stand and entrances were reversed.

Martin served a four year term as Cache County Commissioner from 1923 to 1927. In March of 1928 he was released as bishop of the Newton Ward.
having served longer than any other bishop of Newton. A few years later he moved to Idaho. He died December 23, 1943, at the age of 75.

**Bishop Ralph Carr Jones by Ralph C. Jones**

Ralph Carr Jones was born October 25, 1901, in a farm home owned by my paternal grandparents, Joseph and Eliza Jones, and located approximately three and one-half miles northwest of Newton, Cache County, Utah.

My father George Leopold Jones and my mother Mary Wright had moved from Coalville, Summit County, to engage in agriculture rather than coal mining which was the occupation they were engaged in at Coalville.

Writing from Cache County to his wife in Coalville, Father asked if she would mind living in Cache Valley and farming because he said, "I would like to work where I can see the sunshine and hear the birds sing." Mother replied by saying that "if such was his desire, she would gladly come to Cache Valley." Thus began, in a sincere and cooperative attitude, a new way of life for a young couple. And to their children they imbued a love for the great outdoors in this wonderful valley, and pride in their citizenship of this blessed land.

A new school building was erected in 1907. We who were six years old in the fall of 1907 began and completed grades 1 to 8 in that building. I attended the Brigham Young College in Logan, which at that time offered 4 years of high school and 2 years of junior college, graduating in the spring of 1923.

While I was attending Brigham Young College, I met a young lady Eunice Thorpe from Providence who was also attending B.Y.C. Both of us were enrolled in the teacher training course. Eunice signed a contract to teach school in the Cache District beginning in the fall of 1923. I accepted a mission call and in September, 1923, I departed for the British Mission.

On the night in September, 1923, that a party and dance was given in honor of Sterling Rigby and myself prior to leaving for the British Mission, a bolt of lightning struck the school building resulting in a total loss.

The missionary group of which I was a member traveled by train from Salt Lake City to Montreal, Canada. We sailed from Montreal to Liverpool on the Canadian Pacific S. S. Montcalm. We were met at 295 Edgelane,
Liverpool, by European Mission President David O. McKay and Sister McKay. To a seasick and homesick group of missionaries, President and Sister McKay were at that moment the most wonderful people in the world.

President McKay assigned me to the Welsh conference where I labored for thirteen months, part of the time as conference clerk. For six months I was in the London conference. President James E. Talmage had replaced President McKay. I was assigned as president of the Norwich conference by President Talmage. During the seven months in Norwich we negotiated for and purchased a chapel in the city of Norwich. We remodeled, cleaned, painted and dedicated that chapel during the seven month period. I arrived home in time for Christmas 1925.

I attended the Utah State University during the winter quarter of 1926. Cache County School District offered me a contract to teach school and serve as principal of the Cache Junction school for 1926-27. I taught in Cache Junction for five years. Superintendent J. W. Kirtbride transferred me to the Smithfield Junior High for 1931-32. During the years the Cache Junction school was closed, the students were transported to the Newton school. The Smithfield Junior High was closed, the students were transported to North Cache Junior High. The last three years of my teaching career were spent at North Cache Junior High. All of the above statements prove one important thing in the lives of all of us, that "the only constant thing is change."

Changes come even in such a conservative and balancing factor as religion. Bishop Martin C. Rigby was rounding out a quarter century of service as bishop of the Newton Ward. The people respected him and appreciated the service he had rendered to the Ward, the community and county. He had recommended that I be called on a mission for the L. D. S. Church. My name along with others was given from which a successor to the office of bishop of the Newton Ward might be chosen. Accordingly, in the early months of 1928 I was contacted by the Benson Stake Presidency consisting of James W. Funk, President; G. A. Hogan, 1st Counselor; John E. Griffin, 2nd Counselor as to my willingness to serve as bishop of the Newton Ward. On the fifteenth day of April 1928 I was appointed bishop of the Newton Ward, Benson Stake, and
ordained and set apart by Elder Melvin J. Ballard. The Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1928 was Heber J. Grant, A. W. Ivins, and C. W. Nibley.

For my counselors I chose Joseph R. Tuddenham, Stanley F. Griffin, and for ward clerk I asked Brother L. George Clarke to continue to serve. He graciously consented and brought to the bishopric a rich background of efficiency, knowledge of Church and Ward affairs, dignity and humility. He was a beautiful penman and as a result, the Ward reports and records were always superior.

When the stake presidency had interviewed me relative to recommending my appointment as bishop, President Funk said, "Brother Jones, you are a single man, you know that a bishop has to be the husband of one wife. I understand you are keeping company with a young lady living in Providence. Are you intending to get married in the near future?" I told President Funk that we were planning to be married in the Logan Temple at the end of the school year. Eunice had signed a contract to teach for the school year, she wished to honor the contract and complete the year's work. Had we married previous to the end of school, Eunice would have been dismissed and another teacher would have been appointed. The rule of the county school district was that a married woman living with her husband would not be hired. President Funk said that would be fine and that they would go ahead and recommend my appointment.

I was appointed bishop on the fifteenth of April 1928. In the month of May, 1928, I signed my own recommend to the Logan Temple and appeared before the stake presidency to have it signed if they felt inclined to do so. We were married May 24, 1928.

On the day of our marriage my wife's mother said, "President Carlisle, I would like you to marry my daughter." President Carlisle smiled and humorously remarked, "Now Sister Thorpe, I cannot marry your daughter, she is going to marry Bishop Jones."

New bishoprics have their work cut out for them before appointment. It is a twenty-four hour day, seven day week, three hundred sixty-five day year labor. There is much joy and some heartaches, always some work to be done, always a challenge and need of persistence in meeting that challenge. But it is a rewarding experience gained through service to one's fellow men.
One of the first jobs we did, and in 1928 it was the bishopric's responsibility, was to clean the cemetery in readiness for Memorial Day. At this annual cleanup day, it was decided that something should be done to keep the cemetery more beautiful during the year and also reduce the amount of work in May. The bishopric, after discussing the situation, asked George Stone to work in the cemetery in the summer. He willingly consented and did a commendable job in pioneering the beautification of the Newton Cemetery.

The need for a new Church house had been discussed previous to 1928. Changes in youth programs of the Church and a desire for better facilities in general promoted these discussions.

In the Newton Ward Historical Record Book "J," page 581, the following information is recorded:

July 8, 1928. After Sacrament Meeting Bishop Jones called the men holding the Priesthood to the stand and discussed the need for a new meeting house.

July 15, 1928. Arthur Price of the Church Architect's Office spoke in meeting. After the meeting he took photos of the house and measurements inside and out for the Presiding Bishop's Office. At the same meeting 1st Counselor Joseph R. Tuddenham spoke of the crowded condition in Sunday School.

On January 8, 1929, the Newton chapel was destroyed by fire. The Herald Journal reported the event January 9, 1929.

Newton Chapel
Burns to Ground
Lack of Water Hampers
Fight to Quell $15,000 Blaze

Logan, Jan. 9--The Newton ward chapel was completely destroyed by fire early Tuesday morning (Jan. 8, 1929) at a total loss estimated from $15,000 to $20,000. The call was answered by the county fire engine but the structure was completely ablaze when the apparatus arrived. In addition all the ponds and streams in the vicinity were frozen, and there was no water available. Chemicals were used but practically nothing could be saved.

A moving picture show was given in the amusement section Monday night and it is believed that the fire may have been caused by a defective or over heated furnace. The building was insured for $4,200, and its contents for $1,000. The original building finished in 1887 cost $5,000. In the same year a vestry was added at a cost of $1,000. In 1914 an
addition and remodeling cost $3,000 and plumbing fixtures have amounted to $1,000. The building was repainted, papered and calsomined last summer.

Among the contents of the building that were destroyed are included 200 books on church history, primary library and records, books and costumes, scenery, curtains, and organ and two pianos. Ten tons of coal were also destroyed.

The following is a copy of the letter written to the Presiding Bishopric of the Church regarding the loss of the chapel.

Dear Brethren:

We are very sorry to report the total loss by fire of the Newton Ward Chapel at an early hour this morning.

We are unable to state definitely the cause of the fire. We are obliged to state that during this zero weather it has been necessary to fire the furnace heavily in order to make the building at all comfortable.

There was a picture show in the building last evening, but the fire was not noticed until three hours after the people had gone home. The bishopric was in session (at the home of Ward Clerk L. George Clarke) working on yearly reports, until after 11:00 p.m. On our way home we passed the church and everything looked normal at that hour.

We are going forward with arrangements to hold our regular meetings in the schoolhouse and shall endeavor to hold to schedule.

Trusting that this report sufficiently informs you for present needs, I remain with best regards,

Your brother in the Gospel
Ralph C. Jones

On January 20, 1929, the following letter was received:

Bishop Ralph C. Jones
Newton Ward

Dear Brother:

Your report of January 13, 1929, has been received giving the details of the loss by fire to the Newton Ward Meeting House.

The record of the Presiding Bishop's Office shows that the insurance on this building as per Form "B" of the year 1927 is $4,200 on the building and $1,251 on the contents making a total of $5,451. This amount is available to the ward whenever the erection of a new chapel is undertaken and may
be had by application to this office with the approval of the stake presidency.

Your brethren in the Gospel
The Presiding Bishopric
by John Wells.

The loss of the old chapel forced upon us the task of building a new one. An executive committee was selected. Mr. Price was asked to meet with the committee. We gave him ideas of what we felt was needed. He likewise informed us of procedures followed by the Church in the erection of a new chapel. The executive committee agreed upon Arthur Price as architect. The First Presidency gave consent for him to draw plans and supervise the erection of a building suitable for our needs. Plans were in our hands by February 11, 1929.

A group of men opened a vein of gravel east of town. Gravel hauling began near the 17th of February 1929 and continued until more than 600 cubic yards were piled on the site where the Church now stands. The weather was cold; the pit had to be thawed; and the loading and hauling done with teams of horses, a few trucks, and the determination of dedicated men.

On November 16, 1929, the First Presidency approved our application for an appropriation of $27,000 to assist us in erecting a new chapel and recreation hall, the total estimated cost being $54,000. The Church paid the insurance of $5,451 which amount was subtracted from the $54,000 leaving a balance of $48,549 to be divided on a fifty-fifty basis between the people of the Ward and the Church, or $24,274 each.

Work on the building progressed favorably during November and December 1929 into 1930 and early 1931.

The Great Depression hit in December of 1929. Money became scarce, unemployment rolls grew larger daily, prices for farm produce tumbled, taxes had to be paid. The Federal Government came to the aid of millions of people.

Donations from Ward members dwindled to almost zero. The chapel and recreation hall had reached the point where more money than labor was needed. The building stood open to the rigors of a coming winter.

A letter from our contractor H. J. McKean, Inc. dated March 9, 1931, contained this closing paragraph, "We are anxious to push the job just as fast as possible and hope some way may be arranged to carry the job to completion."

This was the cherished hope of all of us.
Members of the Ward assigned to make collections visited the homes. They returned sometimes with fifty cents for their hours of work; sometimes nothing at all.

By October 1931 work on the new building was practically at a standstill. We had expended $23,289.19. Ward activities were still being conducted in the Newton schoolhouse. Companies to whom we owed money had been very patient and considerate but they were also having financial problems and were pressing us for payment.

The architect, contractor, and ward bishopric met the fore part of October 1931. After consideration of all our problems we finally decided to ask the presiding authorities if they would make an advance payment from our allotment of $24,274 before the ward had raised the amount requested.

We received a letter from the Presiding Bishopric under date of November 11, 1931, from which the following two paragraphs are taken:

This matter has been discussed with the First Presidency and they have agreed to permit you to draw on this account in excess of the 50% due from them in order to do this work, provided that you will raise all you can in labor donations, and that if you are able to raise any cash, you will do so.

It is to be understood, also, that when the work contemplated in this amount of $6,940 is finished, that no further payment will be made thereafter by the First Presidency until your portion of this amount shall have been raised.

With the advancement of money by the First Presidency, we were able to close in the chapel part of the building and complete the recreation hall and classrooms in the basement to the point that it could be used for all ward functions. There were no embellishments; we did away with everything but absolute necessities. The Depression was teaching us how to go without luxuries and enjoy it.

By January 1933 the Church had paid to the Ward a total of $17,880.19. We had raised locally without borrowing, approximately $10,000.

When the recreation hall and classrooms in the basement were usable, we moved in. There was no dedication because there was indebtedness. But we were deeply grateful for what we had. We were once again in our own home, so to speak. The spirit of the Ward in general improved. Functions were planned
and the facilities used to raise funds for operation and maintenance as well as for improvement and development of the building and landscape in general.

On March 17, 1935, I was released as Bishop of the Newton Ward by President H. Ray Pond of the Benson Stake. Released also were 1st counselor Joseph R. Tuddenham, 2nd counselor Stanley F. Griffin, and ward clerk L. George Clarke. On this same day my 2nd counselor Stanley F. Griffin was sustained as bishop of the Ward.

The following is an additional note by the author of this book. Bishop Jones has been an excellent student of the scriptures and is one of the foremost authorities on the Gospel that Newton has produced. He is an excellent speaker and has taught many classes. His services as a speaker for funerals has been in great demand. He and his wife are the proud parents of four fine sons—Norval, Boyd, George and Trevor.

Bishop Stanley F. Griffin by Marvel Cooley

Stanley Funk Griffin, the son of John E. Griffin and Mina Funk Griffin, was born in Newton, Utah, on February 12, 1904. He attended grade school in Newton and went one year to Brigham Young College in Logan and then a year at South Cache High School. When the high school was constructed at Richmond, he went to North Cache. He attended North Cache before there was a school bus which required him to either live in Richmond or commute back and forth. Because his father was in the Benson Stake Presidency and went to Richmond often, Stanley and his sister Mina rented apartments in Richmond and attended North Cache. In the spring of 1924 when his help was needed on the farm, he drove his father's automobile back and forth. In the May 15, 1924, issue of The Journal this novelty (his commuting) was recorded with great interest. It was the following school year that a school bus began carrying the students to the high school. I believe he was the first person from Newton to graduate from North Cache.

After graduation he spent some time helping his father on the farm and then went on a mission to the Eastern States Mission. He spent part of his mission in New York City, Rochester, N. Y. and Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. While in Pittsburg he met a Brother Jesse Hatch, formerly from Utah. Sister Hatch was a convert to the Church so the missionaries held many cottage
meetings at the Hatch home where they taught the gospel more fully to Sister Hatch and others. In September of 1927 Brother Hatch’s younger sister Erma came from Utah to obtain work in Pittsburg. Erma says he never broke any missionary rules but they talked together at the cottage meetings. When Stanley was released from his mission, his mission president told the group of newly released missionaries that they were now released and if there was anyone they wished to see, including single girls, they were free to do so. Stanley went to Pittsburg before returning home and spent three days visiting Erma Hatch. He was not home in Newton long until he sent for her to come to Salt Lake City where he met her and brought her to Newton. They were married the next day, February 28, 1928, in the Logan Temple. They were the parents of four children—Stanley Hatch, John Edward, Mareda and Oris. Stanley was a farmer and had no desire for any other occupation. He loved horses and was very good to them. He did not have many riding horses but his work horses were his pride and joy.

Stanley was home from his mission only a very short time and married for two and a half weeks when he was called to serve in the Newton bishopric as second counselor to Bishop Ralph C. Jones. After serving in this capacity for seven years, he was then called to be bishop in March of 1935. He chose Amos LaVoir Dowdle as first counselor and Roland R. Griffin as second counselor. The new bishop still had the depression to deal with and an unfinished Church house waiting for the times to change sufficiently to complete the structure. Plans were being made to put in the windows for the chapel and to make improvements on the building. In the fall of 1935 Bishop Griffin received a letter from the Presiding Bishop’s Office in regard to the Church members and direct relief from the government. It encouraged all to get off government relief if possible and make "this Church and state the first to have none."

In August of 1936 the Church sold a piece of property to the school board for $500. The money was to be used to beautify the public square beginning at the Church house. The following month a sprinkling system was installed around the Church house and lawn was planted. In 1938 the Smithfield Stake was created and the Newton Ward became a part of it. This caused a
problem because the stake wanted all efforts directed towards building a stake house while Newton had an unfinished building which had been started ten years before. When the stake asked for what little money the Newton Ward had collected to finish its chapel in order to begin a new stake house, Bishop Griffin refused to give it up. He delayed and made excuses. The people of Newton were, for the most part, upset with the situation and only reluctantly entered into the erection of the stake house. Newton, after letters from the Presiding Bishop's Office and visits from the stake presidency, finally agreed to forego their own plans and to help build the stake house. The money that Newton had collected was put in the bank to draw interest and a new collection was made for the stake house.

On February 11, 1940, Bishop Griffin was released from the duties of Newton bishop. He later served in the Smithfield Stake Presidency. In the fall of 1953 he sold his land in Newton and moved to Moses Lake, Washington. Here he began farming, but this was soon closed when he and his son John Edward were electrocuted when a sprinkling pipe they were raising to get the sand out touched an electric power line on April 6, 1954.

Bishop LeRoy G. Salisbury by Grant Salisbury

LeRoy Gibbs Salisbury was born in Wellsville, Utah, March 3, 1891, to Joseph Hoskin and Matilda Jane Gibbs Salisbury. He spent his early life in Wellsville, and when he was six years old, his father left the home to fill a mission to England for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

On his eighth birthday he was driven to the Wellsville Creek with a team of horses and a sleigh where he was baptized a member of the Church. Soon after his eighth birthday his family moved to Baker, Oregon, for one year and then to Imbler, Oregon, where his father was bishop of that ward. Because of the ill health of his mother, the family moved back to Logan, Utah, and engaged in farming.

LeRoy enlisted in the U.S. Air Corps in World War I on December 13, 1917. He returned home the following year on December 24, 1918. Five months of his military duty were spent in England.

Upon his return home he married Gwennie Blanchard in the LDS Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah, on June 4, 1919. They settled on the family farm at
Cache Junction, Utah. Seven children were born into the family, two girls and five boys. The children were Ivan, Darwin, Mildren, Lyman, George, Grant, and Julia. The first child Ivan died as an infant.

While living in Cache Junction he was superintendent of the LDS Ward Sunday School there. In October of 1933 he asked the home ward to discontinue services at the branch at Cache Junction because of the closing of the school and the removal of the stove. There was no other facility in Cache Junction suitable or large enough in which to hold services. So the Sunday School was closed and the Cache Junction Saints were invited to come to Newton for Sunday School. LeRoy operated the public school bus for a number of years, bringing the children from Cache Junction to the school in Newton. In the fall of 1933 he purchased a home in Newton and moved his family there for the winter. The family continued to spend the summers on the ranch until after he was called to be bishop. Then because it was inconvenient in the summer for the bishop and anyone needing to see him, he made Newton his summer residence also. After he and his family moved to Newton, LeRoy served in the presidency of the ward MIA, and at the time he was called to be bishop of the ward, he was in the Sunday School Superintendency.

On February 11, 1940, he was sustained as bishop of the Newton Ward and served in this capacity for eight and one-half years. By April of 1940 he had collected $900 to be used in completing the Newton Ward Chapel. Then the people of the ward were asked to help complete the Smithfield Stake House. The stake asked for the $900 but Bishop Salisbury refused to give up the money since he had promised to finish the Newton Ward Church house when he took the office of bishop. The $900 was deposited in the bank to draw interest and a new collection was taken for the stake house. When this collection was finally completed, then they started on the ward chapel again. This was completed in 1948 after nineteen years. After the dedication of the chapel, Bishop Salisbury was released from the bishopric. He then served for six and one-half years on the Smithfield Stake High Council.

Bishop Lyle Rigby Cooley by Donna Cooley

"Being born of goodly parents" as Nephi of old, Lyle Rigby Cooley was born in Newton, Cache County, Utah, on the 25th day of July 1920. Walter
Andrew Cooley and Edith Viola Rigby were his parents who had just moved back to Newton after living in Bancroft, Idaho, for several years. His birth was quite an event in the family following a day of celebration and due to the fact that he was the first child to be delivered by a medical doctor. The doctor was paid $35 for the delivery which was considered quite a price in that day. His forebears on both sides of the family tree were stalwart pioneers. His great grandfather Wm F. Rigby, Sr. was the first Bishop of Newton and one of the early colonizers and his grandfather Andrew Wood Cooley was the first bishop and early colonizer at the Brighton Ward which is near Salt Lake City, Utah. He was the fourth child in the family of five children, Leroy, Viola, Reta, Lyle and Sara Ann.

As a child, he was very timid and dependent on older members of his family for assurance and help. He enjoyed his playmates and lived a very normal life in this small farming community where he learned to respect and love the soil. To this day, though his vocation takes him into the business world, he still enjoys his touch with farming and the land. He enjoys working the land and seeing things grow. Lyle has always taken an interest in other people and their problems. He likes to be with people and has always enjoyed his many friends and associates. He has a lot of patience and doesn't give way to anger easily which has made him the friend and confidant of a host of friends.

He graduated from the Newton school in May of 1934 when Amos Griffin was principal. A frightening experience came when he gave the welcome address at the graduation exercises. He later graduated from North Cache High School and seminary. He enjoyed being on the debating team and was business manager of the year book in his senior year. He attended the U.S.A.C. from 1938 to 1941, lacking two quarters from graduating when he met his future wife who was teaching school in Newton. At this time, also he received his call to serve a mission to the Hawaiian Islands. The family was so thrilled to have one of their number serve a mission for the LDS Church. Before he departed for his mission, the Japanese had struck Pearl Harbor and his call was changed to the New England States. Within a matter of a couple of weeks, the call was again changed to the Texas-Louisiana Mission. He spent two years there returning home in February of 1944. Upon his return home, he was married to Donna Larsen in the temple.
at Mesa, Arizona, on February 18, 1944.

Due to suitable living space being scarce in Newton right after the war, the new married couple lived for a time in part of his parent's home. A call to service in the armed forces came after just a few months of marriage and Lyle joined the U.S. Navy entering the service at the same time as Edward Petersen and Robert L. Hansen of this community. During the time he spent at home before entering the navy, he served as Elder's Quorum President and counselor in the YMMIA.

His first child, Kaylene, was born while he was in the Navy and part of the time after that, he was able to have his wife and child with him. He spent his service time mostly at Chicago, Illinois, Stillwater, Oklahoma, and Farragut, Idaho, being released after serving in the hospital corp but with no overseas duty. Upon release from the Navy, he entered a dairy herd set-up with his father and brother Leroy but found that the farm would not support three families so he went to work at the cheese plant in Amalga. It was hard work, but he enjoyed it and only quit when opportunity came to work for the Department of Agriculture at a job which has worked out to be a life time profession. He is now serving in his twentieth year as office manager for the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation County office in Logan, Utah. He lives in Newton in the home that he built and moved into in 1947 just before his second daughter Annette was born, and commutes to Logan to work. He does some farming on the side as his recreation.

The Newton Ward chapel was completed and dedicated in July, 1948, and the following September he was sustained as bishop of the Ward. He was still working at the cheese plant for wages and the only means of transportation he had was his own bicycle. His father furnished him his car when he needed it for the first few months will he was able to secure his own automobile.

He enjoyed his years as bishop, giving all the time and energy he could to the service of the Lord. He had many heart-warming experiences as well as a few depressing ones. His clerks and counselors were the best. David R. Clarke was his first counselor and Claude B. Petersen was his second counselor. Neal Benson and Robert L. Hansen served as prompt and reliable clerks.

It was a thrill to him, while serving as bishop, to be called to a special
meeting in the upper room of the Salt Lake Temple, where the sacrament was blessed and passed to the brethren by the First Presidency. George Albert Smith was the President at this time.

Soon after being made bishop, he started projects within the Ward to raise money to install a pipe organ in the newly dedicated chapel. This feat was accomplished when an organ was installed by Balcom and Vaughan Company. The building was redecorated inside and out during the six and one-half years he served as bishop and he enjoyed seeing the landscaping completed.

About the first project that was accomplished by this bishopric was to finish collecting the Ward's share for the purchase of the LDS Hospital in Logan. This had been a long and tedious task but has proved to be a blessing to the people of this valley.

In March of 1955, he was released as bishop of the Ward to take a position on the Smithfield Stake High Council. His work was with the Aaronic Priesthood as chairman of the stake committee. He enjoyed this close touch with youth and was very happy to serve. He also was advisor to the YWMIA during the four years he served in this position. Two more daughters, Marcia and Lila, were born while he was bishop and his only son, David, was born in 1957.

It was a humbling experience for him as well as his wife and family when he was chosen to serve as President of the Smithfield Stake in May of 1959, a position he holds at this time. His counselors are Dean E. Bischoff and Orvil M. Jenson with M. Reed Cunningham and John L. Heggie as clerks. He has tried to give all his time and energy to furthering the Lord's work and will continue to do so in the future. He had said, "I recognize life as a gift of God. It is only lived once. It is a span of time when we take into consideration our understanding of eternity. The lives we live and the thoughts we think make up our individual character. Should God grant this gift of life to me to continue in a mortal state, more history could be written. Should this gift not be extended, may I say that my life has been a full and happy one."

Bishop J. Murray Rigby by Florence Rigby

Jedd Murray Rigby, second son of David LeRoy and Florence Merrill
Rigby, was born in Newton, Utah, under favorable circumstances. Just to begin life in beautiful Cache Valley with her towering mountains, pure air and water flowing down into the valley gave him the feeling that "this was indeed the place." He was the fourth generation of Rigbys to live in Newton. His great-grandfather William F. Rigby was called to Newton as the first bishop and the pioneers of that generation were the first settlers here in the spring of 1869.

Jedd Murray Rigby made his entrance into this life on a beautiful Sunday morning at approximately 9 A.M., October 18, 1925. Birth at home was the custom of that day, and Dr. McGee came from Logan to usher him safely here. His was a normal healthy childhood; he had some of the old childhood diseases such as whooping cough, mumps, and measles.

At the age of three he started to attend Primary and Sunday School and thus his life became firmly doctrinated in the L.D.S. Church at an early age. Perhaps the influence of two great grandfathers, one an apostle and the other a bishop, was carried down to his life. His training for leadership also began early, as he held positions in the presidency of his priesthood quoroms.

He attended school at Newton and completed eight grades there, one year at Smithfield Junior High, and three years at North Cache High School. He graduated from North Cache and from seminary in 1943. At this time World War II was raging, and he was called into the Navy. He left home in June of 1944 and had twelve weeks of basic training at Farragut, Idaho. He was then sent to Brumerton, Washington, where he was assigned to an aircraft carrier (Commencement Bay) which operated up and down the West Coast and in the South Pacific to Pearl Harbor. He was enroute to Tokyo when the war ended and thus his ship was stopped at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He had attained the rank of Signalman 3rd class when he received an honorable discharge from the Navy on June 3, 1946.

While home on a furlough he married Arlene Traveller in the Logan L.D.S. Temple on January 30, 1946. After his return home from the service, he began life as a married man, building his first home just west of his father’s home. He worked on the farm with his father as he had always done. In addition he and his brother William F. (called Bill) milked cows together for financial
support, and attended Utah State Agricultural College from which he graduated with a B.S. degree in 1951, majoring in agronomy and education.

During these busy years of attending school, farming, dairying, and building a home, five children were born to them—Richard Murray, Craig, Jeannine, Mark Lester and Randall Kay. Sorrow entered their lives as their second little son Craig lived only a few days. Richard left college in 1966 to serve a mission for the L.D.S. Church in Switzerland.

Murray found time to give service to his Church as he was a counselor in the Newton Ward YMMIA, and assistant Scoutmaster, a counselor in Sunday School, and superintendent of the Sunday School in 1951, being released in 1955. He was sustained as bishop of the Newton Ward on March 30, 1955, and set apart by Elder Alma Sonne. Bishop Rigby chose D. Brooks Roundy as his first counselor and Howard F. Hansen as second counselor. These three men worked as a team in caring for the Newton Ward. They built a new ball field and installed lights around it and placed lights over the tennis court. He served in this position for five years being released in the spring of 1960. He continues to serve in the Church, holding positions in Sunday School as teacher and is also a Scoutmaster. He was set apart as a High Councilman in the Smithfield Stake on May 28, 1961, by Apostle Marion G. Romney. He is a fluent speaker and is often called to serve in that capacity.

He has always had a great love for his home town and a desire to make it a better place to live, thus he was chosen Mayor of Newton in November, 1965.

His profession is school teaching and he has taught school in Garland, Trenton, Newton and at the present time, he is principal of the Lewiston Elementary School.

Bishop George Oren Ballard by Madge Ballard

George Oren Ballard was born 20 January 1910 at Cache Junction, Utah, a son of Ernest Reid and Amanda Dorthea Miller. He was the third child and second son of this family.

His early education was received in the district school in Cache Junction. He attended the ninth grade in the Newton school and his sophomore
and junior years were at the South Cache High School in Hyrum, Utah. The children would leave home on the train Monday morning and be in Hyrum in time for school, then they would batch for the week and come home Friday night after school on the train. When the school bus began taking the children from the west side of Cache Valley to Richmond to North Cache, he attended his senior year there and graduated in May of 1928. He was active in the band and chorus groups in both schools. He attended Utah State University in Logan and there again was a member of the chorus.

In 1928 he was employed by the Union Pacific Railroad as a section-hand, as there were two other boys at home to help with the farm work. In 1932 he was sustained as first counselor to Superintendent LeRoy G. Salisbury of the Sunday School at Cache Junction; and when the Newton Ward was extended to include Cache Junction, he was set apart as second assistant to Superintendent Junius Baird of the Newton Ward Sunday School on September 30, 1934. On March 17, 1935, he was called to be ward clerk to Bishop Stanley F. Griffin, and in 1940 he was again called to act as ward clerk to Bishop LeRoy G. Salisbury when the Ward was reorganized. He served in this position until September of 1948. He was called and set apart as Senior President of Newton in the 269th Quorum of Seventy's on 24 July 1938. He was also president of the Ward choir until the time he was called as bishop.

On March 4, 1936, he married Madge Blanchard, daughter of Eli Davis Blanchard and Hazel "E" Wheeler of Robin, Idaho, in the Salt Lake Temple. His uncle Apostle Melvin J. Ballard performed the ceremony. Three children have been born to them: George Ann Ballard, born 17 September 1939, died 22 September 1939; Brent LaMar Ballard, born 30 August 1945; and Lyle Grant Ballard, born 27 February 1949. Both sons have filled foreign missions for the Church, Brent in the California Mission where he was District Leader and also Zone Leader and his mission was extended five extra weeks because his leadership was needed. Lyle entered the Mission Home on 4 March 1968 for a mission to Italy. He was to learn the language in the mission field. Brent was sworn into the Naval Service of this country on 28 September 1967 and will be stationed at Naples, Italy, for three years. Both sons will be in Italy at the same time.

Bishop Ballard is a farmer by occupation and also does carpenter,
electrical, and plumbing work. He stand six foot three inches and weighs about 200 pounds, and he is of medium complexion. He always looks for the good in people and gives encouragement to all.

He is an ardent temple worker and has been all his life. While bishop he never called for work to be done unless he was there also. Many of the priesthood members joked Brent and Lyle about being elders, seventies and high priests when it came to work on the welfare farm, as his sons were there to support their father. He believed in being on time; punctuality was very important to him. One prominent businessman of Logan who had business dealings with him in Church and out said, "Bishop Ballard has never let his position as bishop go to his head, he is just as humble as a man can be." (Sterling Nelson)

On February 14, 1960, Bishop Ballard was set apart as bishop of the Newton Ward. He chose Glen R. Benson as first counselor and Rodney K. Fabricius as second counselor. Under his direction the chapel and both entrance halls were painted, and new carpet and drapes were put in the chapel. He also initiated the new Priesthood Correlation Program. This program, announced by the Church in the latter part of 1963, was started at the beginning of 1964. This required a great deal of reshuffling and staffing of committees in preparation for one of the biggest changes in Church organization in the twentieth century. After much administration planning and work, the new program of having the priesthood assume the leadership and responsibility of the welfare, missionary and genealogical programs was put into operation. Ward teaching was replaced by a more personal home teaching and the essence of the new program was to give priesthood leadership and direction but also to co-ordinate the activities of all the auxiliaries.

Bishop Ballard was released from his duties as bishop on July 12, 1964. But his Church responsibilities were to continue as he was called by Bishop Roundy to be General Secretary of the Adult Aaronic Priesthood in the Newton Ward. On September 4, 1966, he was sustained as second counselor in the Smithfield Stake Sunday School to Superintendent Harold Grunig.
Bishop Donald Brooks Roundy by Leona Roundy

Donald Brooks Roundy was born upon the cold, wintery day of January 3, 1919, at the family home in Cache Junction, Utah. He is the ninth child of John Wesley Roundy and Mina Miles who had a family of twelve, seven six-foot sons and five lovely daughters. One daughter Ruby Jane lived only one year. He is also the great, great grandson of Shadrack Roundy, an important man in the early history of the Church.

Even as a very young boy, Brooks loved the farm and the animals and followed his father around whenever he could. About the age of nine, he took upon himself the responsibility of driving a tractor to help with the plowing. He received his very own shetland pony at the age of four. He attended the elementary school, grades one through seven, in the Cache Junction school. However, throughout these years, it seemed that at least once a year he was sent home for three weeks with the mumps.

The family moved to Logan, Utah, when Brooks was twelve years old and here he attended Logan Junior High School for the eighth and ninth grades and then went to Logan High School. He played center on the basketball team (the Buffalos) and they won the championship in 1935.

He finished his schooling on May 23, 1935, and happily returned to the farm which he loved to help his father and his brothers. The story is told that at the age of seventeen he took two carloads of fat beef to the Chicago market and disposed of them all alone.

Brooks attended Church in Cache Junction and was ordained a Deacon there. With the help of his Scoutmaster, Dan Dyson, he was able to achieve several Scouting awards up to the life badge. In Logan the family attended the Logan Fourth Ward and during this time Brooks served as a ward teacher.

On September 8, 1938, Brooks married Leona B. Feller, the daughter of Samuel Ernest Feller and Elizabeth Sidonie Hornickel. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple by Elder Stephen L. Simpman.

Brooks and Leona made their home on the Roundy Ranch along with the families of his two brothers, Ford and Wallace. The three brothers bought the farm from their father who had moved to the Star Ranch near Mona, Utah. Later Wallace left and sold his share to Brooks and Ford. They formed
a partnership and farmed together for several years and then about 1955 Ford sold his share of the farm in Cache Junction and bought a farm in Arco, Idaho.

Brooks is a dry farmer and farms over 6,000 acres. He owns about 1100 acres in Cache Junction and leases some land in Wellsville Canyon and also about 2,000 acres in Bear Lake. In recent years he has been able to purchase several hundred acres in Bear Lake and some acreage adjoining his land in Cache Junction and some acreage around Newton. Brooks raises alfalfa, wheat and barley with the help of his three sons--Larry, Ron, and Wes, and a nephew Mike Maughan who has been with him for about ten years, and several hired men over the years. He loves working with the land and has been successful in making it produce to its capacity. In the past few years he has expanded into cattle raising; he also raises horses, sheep, and chickens.

Brooks and Leona are the parents of four children: Esther Jane born February 12, 1940; Larry Brooks born January 12, 1943; Ronald Dee born December 11, 1946; and Donald Wesley born December 12, 1947. Their daughter Esther married Marion William Heaps on August 25, 1961, and they have three children--Randall Marion, Alisa, and Melanie. Their three sons have each been called on missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Larry has served in the Californian Mission, Ron in the Western Canadian Mission, and Wes is presently serving in the Scottish Mission.

In 1951 Brooks was sustained as the second counselor in the Sunday School superintendency and in 1953 he became the first counselor in that organization. On November 10, 1954, he was set apart as an officiator in the Logan Temple by President George G. Nelson but was released only a year later on November 12, 1955, to enable him to better fulfill the calling which came to become the first counselor to Bishop J. Murray Rigby of the Newton Ward. He served in this capacity until February of 1960. This bishopric was sustained on March 14, 1955, and Brooks was ordained a High Priest at this time by Elder Alma Sonne. After the releasing of this bishopric, Brooks was called to return to the temple again as an officiator. He was set apart on November 28, 1961, by President Nolan P. Olsen.
Donald Brooks Roundy was sustained as the bishop of the Newton Ward in the Smithfield Stake on July 12, 1964, and was set apart on August 4, 1964, by Elder Alma Sonne. Bishop Roundy selected Grant Salisbury as first counselor and Lewis Smith as second counselor. Under Bishop Roundy's direction, the Church house had many improvements. The roof was reshingled, the basement classrooms and hall were painted, new curtains were provided for the stage, and a new sound system was installed in the chapel and gym.

One of the biggest accomplishments of this bishopric was in regard to the Missionary Farm. With a "let's go do it" attitude, they had the Ward resume the operation of the farm. They extended the gravity pressure irrigation system across the farm and purchased sprinkler pipes. Doing much of the work themselves, the bishopric made sure the farm was operated in an efficient and profitable manner. The land was plowed deep, rocks were hauled off, fertilizer applied, crops planted at the right time and irrigated. The results were phenomenal. The old Missionary Farm that had been a millstone around the Ward's neck was translated into one of the best farm in all of Newton. Profits increased over ten times and the money raised from this endeavor went to pay for Ward expenditures and has allowed the budget of the Newton Ward members to be much lower than would normally be the case. A man from Newton predicted nothing but dire results from changing of the farm from a Missionary Farm to serving other purposes. He felt that a farm dedicated to assist missionaries would not produce for the other causes. So far the prediction has been in error and just the opposite has occurred. This should not be too surprising as the record shows that since 1884 only a small portion of the farm's proceeds have gone to assist missionaries and the land, when farmed properly, brings forth her fruit in rich abundance.

Bishop Roundy had the opportunity to personally interview two of his sons for mission calls and for a short period both were out at the same time.

Of great credit to Bishop Roundy is the high regard and esteem that is accorded him by all members of his ward, whether they be active or inactive. He has also had a special rapport with the young people of the Ward and is constantly going the second mile to shake their hand and give them a warm smile and greeting.
On one occasion after assuming the office of bishop, he stated in a testimony meeting, "They were looking for a bishop and got a blacksmith instead." There is no getting around the fact that he is a fine blacksmith but his greatest contribution is not with the hammer and torch but as he forges the Newton Saints into being stronger members.

Biography of Parley P. Christensen--Presidential Candidate

Parley P. Christensen was the fifth of thirteen children born to Peter and Sophia Christensen. Parley's father and mother came from Denmark and crossed the plains separately with ox teams, walking most of the way. When Peter married, he and his wife started to rear their family in Sanpete County. The three years spent at Sanpete were filled with sadness as their first two children died within two weeks of their birth. In 1865 they moved to Logan, Utah, where two more children were born; but only the fourth one survived, being a son named John Andrew. Next the little family moved to Weston in the southern most reaches of the Idaho Territory. Here on July 19, 1869, Parley was born. Death was still not through with the family as two more children, number six and seven, died before the age of 18 months. A third son to survive was born in 1874 as Arthur Eugene joined his two older brothers. In 1877 a little girl Elsonoma Bargitte and in 1879 another boy Peter Albert joined the family. The three last children were Florence Matilda in 1881, Lawrence Adolphus in 1884 and Esther Sophia in 1886. The last six children were born in Utah; Arthur at Clarkston and the rest in Newton. Of the children, death had taken five at very tender ages, but premature death had one more blow for the Peter Christensen family.

Peter Christensen and M. P. Peterson had married sisters and each had a boy 10 or 11 years of age--Peter Albert Christensen and Ezra Peterson. On June 2, 1890, the two boys with one of the mothers and a couple of brothers and a sister went into Bear River Canyon. At the time there was a considerable amount of blasting powder scattered around as construction work was being done on the canals. The mother and the other children walked ahead to get a better view of the river when they heard an explosion that startled them. When they turned around, they saw the two little boys with their clothing on
fire running around and screaming. The older boys ran and tore off the burning clothes and large pieces of flesh came off with the clothes. The boys Peter Albert and Ezra had filled their pockets with the blasting powder and then built a small fire. They discovered that by throwing a handful of the powder on the fire that it looked pretty. But in the process the fire spread to other powder and then caught onto the boys' clothes. The badly burned boys were carried home and that night Ezra died. Peter lived and suffered for about 40 days and then died before he reached his eleventh birthday.

Parley's father was a freighter while he lived in Weston and for a short time after moving to Newton. He drove freight wagons from the railway terminus in Utah—usually Corrine—up across country into Idaho and Montana, and occasionally into the Dakotas. Finally the Indian trouble became so bad that he quit and started farming. Peter took up some land that the bishop had reserved for new settlers. Threats were made to move him off the land he had taken; these threats were countered by Peter telling the brethren that he, "slept with one eye open, one leg out of bed and his hand on his gun." Peter took a second wife, Mary, who died at an early age after bearing six children. This made it so Sophia had to raise the second family as well as her own. Peter had Church and family problems, the former ending up in his excommunication from the Church and the latter in being divorced by Sophia. After the divorce, Peter had a little house built on his farm west of town. While living on his farm, he took another wife and four more children were born into the Christensen family. Finally Peter sold out and moved the family to a small community near Fresno, California.

Parley, like his father, was a large man. He was 6 ft. 4 inches in his stocking feet. In 1920 when he was running for the Presidency, he was described to the readers of the magazine *The Nation* as the "Utah Giant" and as "towering more than six feet in height and with breadth and depth to correspond." While he was campaigning in Utah in July of 1920, he told his Salt Lake City audience that he moved to Newton "when he was about a year old." There is some doubt as to the accuracy of this statement as his mother gave birth to children in 1871 and 1873 with Weston, Idaho, being the place of birth. More than likely young Parley was in his fourth year when he came to Newton.
However, his father may have come earlier to make preparations for the arrival of Sophia and the children.

Parley received his early education in the Newton District School. Although he may have started school at age four or five years of age, the earliest Newton School census lists him as a six year old attending the school taught by A. P. Welchman in the fall of 1875. Parley is listed on the school census through 1886 when he is seventeen years old. In 1878 and 1879 Parley was the last boy enrolled in the census, where the normal procedure was to list the prospective students in alphabetical order. Due to a lack of information one can only speculate as to whether or not this had any connection with his father's problems with his families and the Church in those same years. Another interesting fact about Parley's schooling in Newton was the fact that until 1884 he was always listed as a year older than his actual age. His size probably made it possible for this error being repeated until he was fifteen and approaching the age of sixteen which was normally the cut off age for the school.

From the Newton school he went directly to the University of Utah and received his A. B. degree from that institution in 1890. Desiring a career in the legal field, he attended Cornell University and received his LL. B. degree in 1897. Between these last two degrees he served as principal of the Murray and Grantsville schools and served as superintendent of the Tooele County Schools. In September of 1897 he was admitted to the Utah Bar and in 1905 was allowed to practice before the United States Supreme Court. He served as city attorney of Grantsville while in that city. He moved to Salt Lake City and served two terms as prosecuting attorney for Salt Lake County from 1901 to 1906. In 1916 he was the arbitrator of the street car strike.

Parley was also active and interested in politics during the early years of his career. In 1895 he was the secretary of the Utah Constitutional Convention. From 1910 to 1912 he was a member of the House of Representatives in the Utah Legislature. He twice sought to represent Utah in the United States Congress and failed.

In his personal life Parley never married and gave up his affiliation with the Mormon Church and became a Unitarian. He left Newton when he was
18 years old and only returned for short visits. But when he did return, he visited his friends. The following accounts from the Logan Journal, the first in 1897 and second in 1906, tell of his return.

Parley P. Christensen Esq., who has just returned from his law studies in the East, has been visiting with his relatives and friends in Newton, which is his old home, and we are proud of the distinction.

P. P. Christensen in Cache County... still calls Newton home... wants to run for Congress.

At one time or other Parley had been a Republican, Democrat and Bull Mooser, but the summer of 1920 found his opposed to all his former allies. Now he was one of the political malcontents who gathered in Chicago to form a new political party. The third party delegates were hoping to give the American voters an alternative from the Republican choice of Senator Warren G. Harding and the Democrat candidate Governor James M. Cox. The potential party claimed that policies and principles and not personalities were its greatest contribution to the country.

The new party, after much controversy, named itself the Farmer-Labor Party. The party had a group of lawyers and intellectuals plus labor and socialist groups. Its battle cry became "to hell with anything but radicalism." Its platform called for amnesty for political prisoners (Eugene V. Debs imprisoned for his words and actions during World War I being a case in point); repeal of the espionage laws; the election of federal judges to four-year terms with provisions for their recall; and a plank for extended suffrage. It also called for working men to have an increasing share of the management of plants; an eight hour day and forty-four hour week for labor; the recognition of the right of government employees to strike. Farmers were promised public markets and the extension of the federal farm loan system. Planks called for public ownership of public utilities and natural resources, and a more progressive income tax to shift the tax burden to the "war-rich." In foreign policy the party stood for isolationism, no participation in the League of Nations; the recognition of Communist Russia; American withdrawal from our "dictatorship" over the Philippines, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Samoa, Guam and other areas where U. S. troops or officials were stationed.
The Farmer-Labor Party chose Parley P. Christensen as Permanent Chairman of the party's nominating convention. He was introduced to the convention as "one of the first defenders of International Workers of the World" and this caused such a round of cheering that it did not stop until he acknowledged his fellow delegates by bowing. A wiser choice for chairman could not have been made for the party was made up of many groups each seeking to dominate the convention and most threatening to pull out if they did not get their way. When Parley assumed the chair, he was heard to say, as if telling himself, "I'm going to be fair, I'm going to be considerate, but I'm going to handle this bunch." Using a hammer instead of a gavel, for obvious symbolic reasons; he smoothed out the kinks and maintained control of the diverse almost unwieldy group.

When it came to nominating their presidential candidate, most delegates favored either Robert M. LaFollette or William Jennings Bryon, but Henry Ford, Eugene V. Debbs, Dudley Field Malone and Jane Addams were also considered. But Bryan decided to remain in the Democratic Party and LaFollette refused because the party's platform was too radical. Malone, Debbs, Ford and four others including Parley P. Christensen were nominated. On the first ballot Christensen finished second to Malone, the rest were then eliminated and on the second ballot Christensen won to become Utah's first presidential candidate.

But Parley was not destined to be Utah's favorite son. The state being conservative and with the beginning of a two party system had little sympathy for third parties. The Salt Lake Tribune expressed its feelings as follows:

A great majority of the people of Utah will not take pride in the nomination of Christensen. Indeed, it is highly probable that many of them will be annoyed that a standard-bearer for the malcontents should be a Utah citizen. After a while they will see the joke and appreciate it. (July 16, 1920)

The Deseret News was somewhat kinder in receiving and reporting the news of his nomination.

... it is quite within the truth to say that the honor of being even nominated for the chief office in the nation is a distinction that comes to but few among the many who feel that they would like to gain it. Our fellow-townsman, Parley Christensen, is now to be reckoned as entitled to this distinction. He doubtless went ... to the "third-party" convention without the least
intention of capturing or even striving for its nomination. He had other uses for his good straw hat than to shy it into the political ring. Yet apparently without any great deal of maneuvering, wire-pulling or diplomatic finesse he became the choice of the "Farmer-Labor" party, winning at last over so prominent and prounced a figure as Dudley Field Malone of New York. (July 15, 1920)

Parley's campaign consisted of personal appearances around the country along with open-letters and telegrams. He went at a feverish pitch and was the most colorful of the candidates. The New York Times said:

He seems a most virile and extensive person, this Mr. Christensen, and though the country knows nothing about him, he is evidently determined that it shall... Compared to him Harding is as idle as Debs, and Cox is a slow poke. (Aug. 1, 1920)

Due to his constant movement, colorful language and issues he raised, he was given wide press coverage. Christensen and his party were at first thought of as a joke but as the campaign progressed some newspapers feared he might throw the election into the House of Representatives by preventing one of the two major candidates from getting a majority. The New York Times predicted that he would carry nine states, Utah being one of them.

But the votes cast in November of 1920 showed that Americans voted for the parties and not the candidates as Parley P. Christensen "finished fourth, behind the innocuous Harding, the inept Cox, and the imprisoned Debs." The home town of Parley failed to give him a vote as Newton cast 98 voted for Cox and 79 for Harding. In Utah, Christensen out polled Debs the perennial Socialist candidate. The Deseret News laid the native son to political rest with this tribute:

Parley P. Christensen, as the head of the Farmer-Labor ticket, was not a real contender for the electoral votes of the nation, but from the returns he had a large following in every part of the country. Locally he drew more votes than any candidate of a minor party since the Progressive split in 1912. (Nov. 3, 1920)

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Parley lost the race and lost bad, and with that defeat he was forgotten by Americans as well as Utahans. And yet Utah should be far from being ashamed of her first and most serious presidential candidate. Gaylon L. Caldwell paid this tribute to the man who grew up in Newton:

If there is a political lesson to be drawn from the campaign of 1920, it must be that the bulk of the American people voted for parties, not candidates. The alternative is to accept, at face value, Mencken’s appraisal that the average American is the "archetype of the Homo boobus." Even in the gay and careless "twenties," Christensen must have appeared as a most attractive candidate, for who could disagree with the description of Harding by the "Sage of Baltimore" as "simply a third-rate political wheel-horse, with the face of a moving-picture actor, the intelligence of a respectable agricultural implement dealer, and the imagination of a lodge joiner," or that Cox was "no more than a provincial David Harum with a gift for bamboozling the boobs?"

The irony of history was probably never better reflected than in the subsequent Harding administration. Tired of political idealism, strong presidential leadership, and fearful of accepting international responsibilities, the American voters chose an honest but weak president who gave them none of these. Instead of "normalcy," Warren G. Harding’s legacy to his fellow citizens was a series of scandals which rocked the nation. Parley P. Christensen gave the American people the phenomenon of an unheralded man who rose to the nation by real ability and who gave excitement in his energetic, brilliantly conceived campaign. His fellow citizens rewarded him with political oblivion--although he is not without company. In retrospect, one thing is certain: Utah need not be ashamed of her one presidential candidate.

After his 1920 defeat, Parley moved from Salt Lake City and settled in Chicago, Illinois, in January of 1921. Between other activities he continued to practice law. During a part of 1921 and 1922 he toured the world, and in 1926 and 1927 he studied social and economic conditions in Europe. In 1926 he was the unsuccessful candidate for the U. S. Senate in Illinois. Again he ran on a third party ticket, this time as a Progressive.
In 1941, Parley moved to Los Angeles, California, and a short time later he became a member of the Los Angeles City Council. On February 10, 1954, Parley Christensen, at the age of 84, died and was buried in the Forest Lawn Cemetery.

The year 1969 is both the centennial of the town of Newton and one hundred years since the birth of Newton's most famous citizen. Maybe 1969 will be the year that Newton rediscovers Parley P. Christensen, Esq., and is proud of the accomplishments of the boy who left Newton when he was seventeen with patches on his trousers and holes in his shoes, who returned to mortgage his mother's farm so he could go to law school, but with ability and heart rose to run for his nation's highest office.

Newton Dam and Reservoir

Today visitors to Cache Valley could find the Clarkston Cemetery and the Newton Dam easier than the communities they serve due to the numerous road signs directing people to the places of most renown in the area. Newtonites would like to believe that the dam built in 1871 created the "first storage reservoir in Utah" as their reservoir's historical marker proclaims and possibly the "first reservoir for irrigation in America" as they claimed during their celebration of Cache Valley's centennial in 1956. In the hope of not being redundant and by adding more light than heat, the author of this work seeks to present a new account of the Newton Dam and Reservoir.

Before commencing with the history, there are two matters that need to be discussed. The first issue is the matter of whether or not the reservoir was first. A letter to the Utah State Historical Society requesting any information they had to prove or disprove the claim of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers' monument in Newton and volume 6 of the Daughter's publication Heart Throbs of the West about the Newton Reservoir was answered as follows:

October 28, 1966

Mr. Larry D. Christiansen
P. O. Box 3
Newton, Utah

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

As you may know, we have a tendency in Utah to claim "firsts" or "biggest" or "best" for all sorts of things.
We have looked up a number of references to the Newton reservoir, and find that several of them claim it is the "first." Dr. William Peterson, one of Utah State University's great experts, said "one of the first" in Sutton's Utah.

Leonard Arrington does not try to rank it as far as we can tell.

We have in our library a Master's thesis (University of Utah, 1959), by Challis, entitled, "Handbook of Utah First Facts," and Mr. Challis quotes from the Deseret News of July 30, 1957, that Holmes Creek Reservoir near Layton, Davis County, was Utah's first reservoir "for the storage of irrigation water" in 1852.

I would suggest that you write to Mrs. Carter of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers and ask her to prove her statement.

Sincerely yours,

John James
Librarian

Accordingly a letter was sent to the Central Company of Daughters of Utah Pioneers in Salt Lake City. Their reply failed to answer any questions and said, "we do not have any further information on this topic."

Researching Mr. Challis's thesis found that he claims that "the first reservoir started in Western America for the storage of irrigation water" was the Holmes Creek Reservoir. Construction on this reservoir began in 1852 and when completed, held an estimated 1,500 acre-feet of water. The Newton Reservoir was probably not the first storage reservoir in Utah, but it was "one of the first" both in Utah and the United States. By not being first does not detract from the achievement of the people who built it. The very fact that Newton's citizens have for so long thought of their reservoir as being first may mean that they did not know of the Holmes Creek Reservoir or of any other like facility, but the early settlers used their own ingenuity and foresight to create the storage facility because they had to have water to remain in Newton.

The second issue is to whether or not President Brigham Young chose the site for the dam. A small history of Newton written by a daughter of one of Newton's original settlers states that when President Young came to Newton and Clarkston the following happened:

To settle the dispute Brigham Young came up and held a meeting in Newton, then went up and met with the people
of Clarkston. While here he drove over the area and when he came to the west side of the Little Mountain he pointed to the low place with a knoll in the center and said, "there is a natural place for a reservoir, go to work and build a dam and store the waste water from spring freshlets and there will be ample (plenty) of water to supply two towns. Those who wish may remain in Newton and those who desire may return to their homes in Clarkston.

A second history written much later states that "President Brigham Young had recommended a site for this reservoir east of Clarkston and north of Newton on the Clarkston Creek."

The argument that opposes this view would state something to the effect that if President Young could speak for himself, he would protestingly say, "I did not say all they say I said when I stopped at Newton and Clarkston on my way north visiting the settlements in the area." And if President Young made the side trip over to the place where the dam was finally built and recommended the site and told the people to go to work and build a dam, why did not Wilford Woodruff record it in his record of the trip. Brother Woodruff recorded the happenings on the President's tour and sent them to George Q. Cannon in Salt Lake City. He recorded the drive over the mountain from Malad and the arrival at Newton at 12 o'clock. If we assume that they ate dinner before or after the meeting at which two apostles spoke to the people in the bowery built for the occasion, and then the party went to Clarkston and held another meeting, and then returned to Newton where three more men including President Young addressed the people, then it could be argued that President Young did not have any time for side trips. The President's party spent the night at Newton and were on their way north early the next morning. Brother Woodruff details the movements of the group, reflects on "splendid view" from mountains, refers to wells they passed, small hills they go around, but not one word on a possible new reservoir for Cache Valley that will be one of the first in Utah and the United States.

Today probably no one knows for sure whether or nor President Young selected the site for the Newton reservoir. No contemporary source mentions it, but a person one generation removed did. Circumstantial evidence would suggest that it did not happen, and a silent testimony is added to this evidence
when the Church records, the diary of Bishop Rigby, and especially Brother Woodruff’s account of the visit of President Young do not mention the occurrence.

The First Newton Dam

The first settlers in Newton had sufficient water in 1869. They did not have a lot of land under cultivation due to starting from scratch. Amid all their efforts of building homes and taking care of other necessities, they were able to break some land and plant it, but needed water to keep the crop alive. That needed water was forthcoming largely due to the settlers who resided at Clarkston and who planned to relocate in Newton the following year. These Clarkston men came down to Newton twice in early June of 1869 and started and finished a main "Newton water ditch" which took the water out of Clarkston Creek a couple of miles above Newton and brought it out onto the land where it was needed. These same men examined all the springs that fed the creek and cleaned the springs to bring forth their maximum supply of water. On the 13th of June the Clarkston men resolved to let two streams of water come down to Newton while Clarkston would use the water out of City Creek to water the South Fields for one week. So Newton received enough water and the crops were good considering the problem of cultivating new land all in one spring and summer.¹

The next year was different, for the plan to have most of the water come down to Newton was forgotten when some of the Clarkston settlers decided to remain in the old community. They retained their water right to Clarkston Creek which amounted in mid-June of 1870 to about two-thirds of the water. Being somewhat generous, the Clarkston people decided on June 12, 1870, to allow half of the water of Clarkston Creek to go to Newton for the season of 1870 only. Then they would keep their rightful share. In 1869 Newton received over two-thirds of the available water, and this was with low crop expectations and few settlers, so the crops were good enough. But 1870 brought higher expectations

and more settlers and only half of the available water. The summer of 1870 was also very dry and most of the crops perished. There were no gardens and little, if any, seed wheat for the next season. All of this was due to a serious shortage of water. The small portion of water for Newton had to travel a long distance and there was considerable loss due to evaporation and seepage. At the height of the summer, water "sank before it could be put on the land at Newton." Even if there had been no water loss, it is doubtful that half of the water of Clarkston Creek could support the needs of the new settlement.  

The crop failure of 1870 was a harsh lesson to the Newton settlers but more was to come. When the Clarkston people decided to remain in Clarkston, some who had already moved to Newton picked up and went back to Clarkston, again taking their water rights with them. Now Newton's share of the water was down to about one-fourth. This touched off the long conflict over water between Newton and Clarkston. On August 23, 1870, Bishop Simeon Smith of Clarkston and W. F. Rigby recently released bishop of Clarkston and soon to be Newton's first bishop, got together to try and settle the trouble over the water. The two men found a basis for agreement subject to the approval or disapproval of the water owners of Clarkston, who gave a tentative approval.  

As Newton faced 1871, they had arranged to borrow 600 bushels of wheat for seed by mortgaging the South Field and promising to pay an interest of one peck on the bushel. But in these days before dry farming was a proven venture, the question arose as to why plant the grain if the prospects for success are even worse than they were in 1870, as Newton was to receive exactly half of what they had received in that disastrous year. During moments of doubt and discouragement, fruitful thinking and discussion took place. The Newton settlers were not beaten.  

On March 30, 1871, in a business meeting, a regular early Church meeting held under the auspices of the ward leaders for directing the affairs of

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2 Ibid., p. 58. Hovey, p. 110. Jensen, "History of Newton Ward."


4 Hovey, p. 110.
the community, the problem of insufficient water was brought up and discussed. Thomas Beck made a motion that the citizens of Newton build a "reservoir" and "draw water therefrom in proportion to labor done thereupon." After discussing the matter, the people of Newton voted to accept the motion. At the same meeting William F. Rigby, Franklin W. Young, Stephen Catt, Swen Jacobs, and John Jenkins were appointed as a building committee. A site was selected on the Clarkston Creek where the creek made a right hand turn after passing through the Clarkston meadows. A dam built on this site from the east bank to the small knoll on the west side left a natural basin upstream for the reservoir.

When the busy season of 1871 had passed and water for irrigation was no longer needed on the farms and gardens, the call was issued for the men to work in constructing a dam. The people met at the proposed site and held a celebration on the first day of work. With oxen they plowed the ground adjacent to the place where the dam would stand. Then the men hitched their oxen to scrappers and filled them with dirt and lined up. Because Bishop Rigby was the leader of the ward, the people felt to honor him by letting one of his sons dump the first load of earth for the dam, but the boy's oxen refused to cross the creek and another man went around him and the dam was started. With the scrappers a rock and earth dam was built. It was finished enough to hold water for the 1872 season. This dam was years later, after much repairing and adding to, referred to by the people as the one built with oxen. It had a small wooden flume to let the water out and did not have a spillway and was not adequately protected to prevent washing on the water side of the dam. Work continued on the dam in 1872 and 1873 for on May 25, 1873, the dam is referred as "to be built."

During these years only small crops were raised due to a scarcity of water. Newton's settlers found that they could no longer divide the water in

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5 Newton Ward Historical Record "B" 72529, p. 12.

6 This man could not possibly have been Christian Larsen as three histories of Newton purport, because he did not move to Newton until 1873.

proportion to the amount of work done on the dam. On June 22, 1873, in a business meeting a motion was moved and carried that changed the original policy. The motion went as follows:

After watering all round once should the Reservoir then be empty, men owning Clarkston water are the only ones that have any right to more water this season except the reservoir should get water in over and above that owned coming in from Clarkston. City lots excepted. 8

Following is a list of the water claims in Newton as of June 20, 1873, showing the breakdown between claims on Clarkston Creek and claims on water in the reservoir. 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creek</th>
<th>Reservoir</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atkinson, A. J.</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, R. P.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, C.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beck, J. N.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barker, J. H.</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell, W.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bates, T.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benson, P.</td>
<td>11 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtis, H.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtis, F.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christensen, J.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christensen, L. N.</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarke, A.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunn, J. J.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christensen, Chris</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fredrickson, C.</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffin, J.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffin, W.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gasberg, J. C.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodsell, A.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hansen, J.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The summer of 1973 proved to be a dry one and the reservoir was getting low when on July 20, 1873, Bishop W. F. Rigby made a motion that was accepted. He moved that on the next round of watering one-four time be given in the field and one-half in the city. The reservoir had held out for one full round of watering

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8 Newton Ward Historical Record Book 72529, p. 27.

and still had enough for a partial turn before the men owning Clarkston Creek water would be the only ones with water to use. 10

Irrigation District

The county court had the responsibility for regulating the water in the county; it appointed watermasters in each precinct to assist in controlling the water. Newton's farmers sensed the importance of their reservoir and canal system to their livelihood, and feeling the need to make new policies as they had on June 22, 1873, without having to go to the court, they desired to have the authority to administer their own irrigation policy. On February 3, 1874, Bishop Rigby made the motion "that we petition the County Court to organize an Irrigation District for this precinct." Accordingly a written petition was received by the court on March 9, 1874, but the court laid over the petition because they wanted more information. The court requested Newton to send a representative to give them more information before they would act on this new request. 11

When Clarkston found out about Newton's request to create an irrigation district that established their "irrigation district in the Clarkston field," they were upset. Clarkston protested Newton's request and petitioned the court in April of 1874 that Newton "may not be allowed the privilege of establishing their Irrigation District in our field but that they shall keep within their own precinct lines." On May 4, 1874, Clarkston followed their initial petition with another asking that an irrigation district be created for Clarkston, and that its "boundary lines shall extend south as far as the boundary line of Newton District or Precinct." On September 7, 1874, the court took up the case of the irrigation district with representatives from both towns present. Newton's petition was read and it was followed by a remonstrance to the petition from Clarkston. After "due deliberation of the Court" it granted the petition to Newton. Thus the court established on that day the Newton Irrigation District

10 Ibid., p. 28.

which was the first such district in Cache County. The district created was:

To commence at the Newton Dam on Clarkston Creek on the Clarkston hay bottoms, thence running due east and west from said dam until on a line with the east and west lines of Newton Precinct, thence following the lines of said Precinct.

Clarkston continued to dislike the idea as well as the reality of Newton Irrigation District having jurisdiction over a part of Clarkston Precinct. On September 21, 1874, they asked the court to reconsider the grant of the Newton Irrigation District. Clarkston finally amended their petition on the boundary lines for their irrigation district, and on December 8, 1874, the court established the Clarkston Irrigation District. Newton set the precedent for giving the local area the authority to administer their own irrigation policy subject to review by the county court. By the end of 1874 Wellsville, Hyrum, and Paradise had districts and the other precincts by the end of the following year. On December 28, 1874, Newton petitioned the court to amend the boundaries of their irrigation district. The court granted the change the same day to be as follows:

All of Newton Precinct, and as much of Clarkston Precinct as is within the following boundaries: the whole of the hollow to the highest point on both banks that Clarkston Creek runs in. Provided, however, that it shall not exceed twenty rods from the centre of said creek on either side from the North line of Newton Precinct to the point where the present Clarkston field fence intersects it, and two (2) rods wide around the Newton Dam on Clarkston hay bottom, and thence in a Southerly direction two rods wide of the highest land on which we can run a ditch to the North line of Newton Precinct, with the right and possession of all the water of the Clarkston Creek one-fourth of the time.

As of December 28, 1874, not only had the irrigation district's boundaries been amended, but the county court had officially decided the division of water between Newton and Clarkston. Prior to the irrigation district the court appointed

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14 Ibid., pp. 235, 237-245.
15 Ibid., p. 240.
a watermaster in each precinct to work under the direction of the court to control and regulate the water distribution. On April 1, 1873, the court appointed Jonas N. Beck as Newton's first watermaster, but there also existed an ad hoc committee which also sought to control and regulate the water. This committee was a continuation of the building committee and it existed until April 10, 1874, when Newton, confident that the court would grant their petition for an irrigation district, began to prepare for that eventuality. The people instructed "the old Reservoir Committee to settle up all old accounts and credits before giving over the accounts to the new committee." The new group called the "Temporary New Committee" who were "appointed and sustained by vote" consisted of W. F. Rigby, J. Griffin, J. C. Gasberg, P. Larsen, C. Anderson, J. N. Beck, and J. H. Barker. 16

This temporary committee was to function until the district was created and trustees of the irrigation district could be elected. It was to be the predecessor to an irrigation district, but it acted as if it had the full authority of one of the special districts. Some of the major policies it made are as follows:

May 15, 1874--"All cultivated land be taxed 25¢ per acre, all broke uncultivated land 12 1/2¢ per acre, cultivated city lots 50¢ each and uncultivated broke city lots 25¢ each, for cleaning and repairing the water ditches for the year 1874."

June 1, 1874--"That before the watering shall commence the committee shall take from the Reservoir credits of those who have not done their work enough to pay their tax."

Dec. 30, 1874--"That in taxing lands for the water ditching of 1874, land raising volunteer grain shall be classes as cultivated."

Only the last policy had any official standing and that only if the temporary committee can be taken to represent the irrigation district. The power to tax resided solely with the county court until September 7, 1874, when it was passed to the Newton Irrigation District. There was no precedent to follow and the ditches had to be cleaned, so necessity took charge and no one protested the

16 Newton Historical Record Book 72529, p. 74.

17 Ibid., pp. 74-75, 81.
extralegal measures. In 1875 the water holders elected their irrigation district trustees. Following is a partial list of trustees and the years they served:

1875
Jonas N. Beck
John H. Barker
Swen Jacobs
John Jenkins
A. P. Welchman

1876
Jonas N. Beck
Amos Clarke
A. P. Welchman
Peter Larsen

1877
Foster Curtis
Swen Jacobs
J. N. Beck
Peter Larsen
Wm. H. Griffin

1885
Moroni Jenkins
John Griffin
Christian Nelson
Wm. H. Griffin

Newton-Clarkston Water Dispute

This dispute included the fight over the Newton Irrigation District extending into the Clarkston Precinct, but it began and was primarily concerned over the division of the water. Starting in 1871 the two towns could not agree as to what portion belonged to Newton. In December of 1874 the county court decided the issue, so it thought. The problem of the proper division of water arose again and on July 3, 1877, a meeting was called to settle the matter. President M. D. Hammond of the Cache Stake presided, with Bishop Rigby representing Newton and Bishop John Jardine, Clarkston. The position of the two sides were as follows. Newton maintained that the "Probate Court" had granted them one-fourth of all the water in Clarkston Creek, but they had never received it and now they needed it and wanted it. Clarkston contended that Newton owned one-fourth of the water "lacking 18 acres" and they could have that much and no more. When both sides appeared to be taking uncompromising positions, President Hammond told both sides to "settle the matter like brethren without going any farther." The two sides took the counsel and agreed to settle the matter. Bishop Rigby proposed that they make a "permanent division of the water for all future time." After discussing the matter for some time, John Barker made a motion that was carried unanimously. His motion and the new division policy was:

That Newton have all the water (except City and Myler Creeks) 49 hours every week and that the water be turned down to
Newton every Friday evening at 7 (seven) o'clock and turned out Sunday evening at 8 (eight) o'clock.  

In March of 1878 the issue was brought up again when a petition by John Jardine and others was given to the court asking for a change in the division of water between Newton and Clarkston. Newton was represented by Bishop Rigby and Clarkston by Martin Harris, Jr. Both presented their sides and then the court denied the petition. In March of 1880 the irrigation district trustees of Newton and Clarkston met to have the agreement on water division put into writing according to a law just passed by the state legislature. At this meeting Newton requested that Clarkston allow them more than the one-fourth of the water in the winter—"Newton wished to get one-third of the water in the winter season." Clarkston would not make a decision at the time since they were contemplating building a reservoir at the time.

The next dispute arose over Newton feeling it was not getting its legal share of the water. The board of the Newton Irrigation Company passed the following resolution on February 24, 1902.

Whereas the Newton Irrigation District has now for many years been the rightful owner of one-fourth of all waters flowing continuously in the streams that make the Clarkston Creek, above the points where any water is diverted therefrom, and whereas it appears from information received, that the one-fourth flow of said waters, has not in the past and does not now flow continuously . . . into the Reservoir of this Company but are wrongfully diverted by the residents of Clarkston Precinct.

The company resolved to see what their water rights were protected. They were going to try and secure a proper measurement of the water in the streams. Later they gave John Griffin the job of "looking after the water that is due us from Clarkston." In 1903 the argument over sharing the water arose again and President Wm. H. Lewis of Benson Stake advised Newton and Clarkston to settle their irrigation dispute peacefully among themselves and avoid the

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contentions in the court.

In 1913 a new issue came into the dispute when the Newton Irrigation Company, due to increased demand for water, tried to hold as much water in the reservoir as possible and just as late in the spring as possible. This developed a problem with the Clarkston people who owned land surrounding the reservoir. When the reservoir was up to the high water line, it covered some of the land farmed by these men and it raised the water table and damaged some of the crops. Some of the land owners pulled a few boards out of the spillway to lower the water level. This problem was finally resolved when Newton hired a surveyor to establish a high water line for the reservoir. 20

In February of 1922 the water rights of Clarkston Creek were adjudicated along with the other streams in the Bear River System under what is known as the Kimball Decree. The decree gave Clarkston a date of priority of May 1, 1864, and Newton May 1, 1869, to divert Clarkston Creek waters and confirmed the distribution as set up by an earlier agreement, except it was silent on the winter flow of water. It gave the Newton Irrigation Company the right to store 2,000 acre-feet of water in Newton Reservoir with a priority of May 1, 1873. 21

The water rights were further defined in 1934 when Judge Melvin C. Harris tried the case of Thompson-Godfrey vs. Newton-Clarkston Irrigation Companies. This case came to the District Court when four Clarkston men, without water rights, diverted water onto their fields and refused to stop the practice in 1933. The four claimed water rights not in accord with the regulation of the two irrigation companies. The court ruled that the four men had no rights to the water, even where springs arose on one of the men's fields. The men were forbidden to interfere with the stream or the springs. This decree became known as the Harris Decree. It also confirmed the distribution of water during the irrigation season as made by the Kimball Decree, and it


directed that the winter flow be divided equally between Newton and Clarkston.  

The last major dispute between the two towns came when Newton, trying to get the legal rights to build a larger reservoir, filed an application with the Utah State Engineer for the purpose of getting the right to appropriate 5,000 acre-feet of Clarkston Creek water to be stored each year in the Newton Reservoir. This application of May 13, 1938, was approved July 23, 1941, over the formal protest of the Clarkston Irrigation District. Clarkston claimed that "its stockholders have used water from Clarkston Creek to flood approximately 700 acres of meadow land during the winter season." Newton answered Clarkston's protest agreeing to the written agreements on water distribution and admitting that Clarkston had at times diverted small quantities of water in the winter. But Newton alleged that it was not practicable to use large quantities of water in the winter and that most of the water thus diverted returns to the creek above the reservoir. Newton also claimed that approximately 5,000 acre-feet of water runs to waste each year. Newton maintained that Clarkston could use one-half of the winter water but could not increase it nor store the water at a point above the Newton Reservoir. 

History of the Old Dam and Reservoir

The dam built in 1871 was worked on each spring and fall for several years to improve it but also to repair damage caused by washing. In the spring of 1873 the water side of the dam was washed and had to be repaired. Part of the dam was riprapped with rock to cut down the water erosion. In the spring of 1875 the spring runoff caused the dam to break and extensive repairs had to be made. But no amount of effort could restore the lost water. On May 3, 1875, arrangements were made for repairing the dam. It was decided that one share in the reservoir on water claim for five acres of land would be raised from $25.00 to $30.00 and a tax of one per cent was to be levied on all taxable

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22 Ibid., pp. 28-32.
23 Ibid., pp. 36-38.
property "as a donation towards repairing the dam." The tax was payable before the spring watering commenced; with the funds raised from the special tax, eighteen scrappers were hired and the dam was repaired.  

In 1877 the spring runoff was again too great to be released through the small flume in the dam, and the water in the reservoir was threatening the dam. The spring runoff came as a result of a sudden thaw. The dam had washed out before but now a more substantial dam was in existence and its destruction would be a great loss. Mr. A. P. Welchman came up with a plan to save the dam. This entailed cutting an outlet in the reservoir so the excess water could escape over the grassy swail to the west of the dam and the knoll. Accordingly a ditch was dug to allow the water to escape where the grass sod seemed the most favorable. The pressure on the dam was relieved but the water running over the grassy bank cut down through the embankment and released most of the stored up water. "Welchman's Folly" as the attempt was called, saved the dam from all but minor washing damage. But now a second dam had to be built across the swail west of the knoll where the water escaped. Work began immediately to close the cut made by the escaping water. Work on constructing this second dam continued until 1880 when it was completed. The new dam was called the "Little Dam" and on occasions, the "West Dam" and even by some the "dam built with horses." The dam on the spot where the original dam was built was called the "Big Dam" or "East Dam" or the "one built with oxen."  

The work on the reservoir progressed over a period of 15 years to 1881. By this time the dimensions of the dam were: Length 127 feet, width at bottom 110 feet, height 28 feet. The water was backed up 1 1/2 miles, making a small lake. There are two outlets. The east gate being 12 inches by 36 inches and the west gate 20 inches in diameter. There are four spill gates, each 4 feet and 2 inches by 6 feet.  

The dam had cost about $10,000 up to 1886. The dam as described must  

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24 Newton Historical Record Book 72529, p. 94.  
26 Daughters of Utah Pioneers, "History of Newton Reservoir."
have been the "Big Dam" for the dam had two parts in 1886. Each dam had an outlet works as was described above.

In early June of 1888 a plank in the upper end of the flume went out and the people were unable to stop the water from rushing through it. "Tons of sacked dirt were lowered into the whirlpool with no effect." A Newton man, having read in The Utah Journal that the dam went out, wrote the newspaper telling what happened.

We have lost four or five thousand dollars worth of water, through one end of the flume bursting or the great weight of water crushing in one of the side boards of the north or gate end of the flume. This break allowed the water to pass through while we were powerless to stop it. A portion of the dam is also washed way... we are now busy making repairs, and expect in the event of rain to be able to save a little water to moisten our city lots, as we do not expect to water our field crops.27

The repairs started in June were not completed by fall. Some hoped to complete the major portion of the repairs in 1889. Others decided that a better location was desirable. They persuaded the people to move downstream about a mile and began to build a new dam to eventually replace the old dam and reservoir. At the new location, known as the Funk site, after Bishop Funk who had just been released from the penitentiary, a natural dam crossed the main part of the creek hollow on the east. Early in 1889 the men were working on the new dam. John H. Barker wrote to his sister on February 3, 1889, telling her what her nephews were doing. He stated that "a new reservoir to hold water for irrigating is being built here--and when the boys feel like it they go and work on it--but it is too cold now for much work to be done." The work continued slowly at the new site until 1892, the work mainly being to fill in with dirt and rocks on the west side of the creek to match the natural embankment on the east. The Newton Irrigation Company had Dr. Fortier of the college and his pupil T. H. Humphreys inspect the new dam that was being built. They suggested abandoning this dam and instead raising the old dam. Accordingly the new dam was abandoned and in 1897 the old dam's height was raised three feet. Now the

27 J. J. Larsen, "Struggles."
reservoir had a storage capacity of 1,566 acre-feet and the Newton Reservoir irrigated about 1,500 acres. 

In 1897 a new spillway was built but proved to be unserviceable and in 1899 improvements were made on it. The next spring it failed to work as planned when it filled with snow and ice. When the first excess water was to escape out of the reservoir by way of the spillway, the snow and ice in the spillway would not cut out and the dam was threatened once again. To save the dam, the "bank on the lower side of the spillway was cut and the water was allowed to run over it into the creek." This expedience caused a "large washout." The same year spill gates were positioned at the head of the spillway and a cement floor or slip was placed just below the gates and the spillway was cemented. The improvements on the spillway lasted a year then it washed out. In 1903 the old pine flume in the "Small Dam" was replaced by a new round, redwood stave flume. The new flume had a cast iron elbow with a slide gate at the upper end. To install the new flume, a cut was made across the dam down to the old flume which was removed. The new flume was placed and the dam repaired. In the spring when the water came against the flume, it pushed the flume ahead eight to ten inches even though each stave contained an anchoring device. This shifting of the flume eventually allowed the water to seep around the outside of the flume. The leak that was created finally became so bad that in 1933 the flume was uncovered and encased with cement.

In the early spring of 1908 the rising ice on the reservoir pulled the upper slide gate out of its groove. At the time there was sixteen feet of water above the gate, and it appeared that all of this water would be lost. But by "making a run of two by fours" the men were able to slide the gate back into position and finish filling the reservoir. In February of 1911 the "Newton Reservoir" had "a narrow escape." With the ground frozen, warm rains started to fall late in January. On the 30th of January a very heavy rainfall came and

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29 J. J. Larsen, "Struggles."
water from the rain and melting snow rushed into the reservoir. Men stayed at the reservoir night and day during the crucial period to watch and try to prevent the dam from going out. The weakest spot proved to be on the back side of the "Little Dam" where the spillway emptied into the waste ditch. The water going through the spillway cut through the bank of the waste ditch and began to wash away the back part of the dam. To stop or retard this erosion, the men cut down several big trees in town and hauled them on wagons with four head of horses to the reservoir. The trees plus branches, willows, and rocks were put where the dam was being washed away. The dam was saved primarily because the weather changed from warm and rainy to cold and clear. Newton's correspondent to The Journal in surveying the extent of the damage stated that "the body of earth that was washed away through the falling of the water from the waste ditch is almost incredible."

In 1912 a short wooden flume about 50 feet long was placed in the spillway to carry the excess water beyond the dam. Loads of willows wired together were placed at the end of this flume to protect the ground from washing. Later the willows were removed and the flume was extended to the level of the creek bed and a concrete water cushion was poured at the end of the flume. 30

The dam was threatened on other occasions, and on at least one of these occasions the railroad sent its employees to help guard the dam for they felt that if the dam went, it might take out the tracks where the creek goes under the railroad.

In 1937 the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers had erected a sandstone and split cobble monument on the northwest corner of the public square. A copper plaque tells the story of the original reservoir. It states:

NEWTON RESERVOIR
Located three and one-half miles north of this marker the first storage reservoir in Utah was begun in 1871 and completed in enlarged form in 1886, after going out three times. Length of Dam, 127 feet, height 28 feet, made of earth and rocks. Cost $10,000. Reservoir length one and one-half miles. Capacity 1,566 acre-feet.


**Old Dam description**

The report published by the Bureau of Reclamation while planning the "Newton Project" described the dam in December of 1939 by stating, "It consists of two portions, 325 foot dam and a dike 500 feet long. Both structures abut against a knoll near the center of the channel." The same report gave a more thorough description along with the condition of the dam as of May, 1939.

The dam consists of two sections, the main dam at the southwest end in which the spillway and outlet works are located and the dike at the east end. The height of each is approximately 35 feet. Bedrock at the site is probably at considerable depth. At the time of inspection the reservoir was practically full with water flowing through the outlet works and spillway. It was noted that a very small freeboard was provided (about 2 or 3 feet). Portions of the upstream slope were sparsely covered with coarse gravel and cobbles to protect the dam from wave action. A growth of small trees, willows, and brush had accumulated over the downstream portion of the dike and all along the upstream side above the high water line. . . . Considerable seepage appears at various points along the abutments and base of the dike. . . . The outlet works consist of a 24 inch wood-stave pipe under the low portion of the main dam with an upstream gate for control. . . . The spillway with a capacity of about 500 second-feet is constructed near the right abutment of the main dam and consists of a small timber flume supported on timber bents and controlled with four small slide gates. The outlet end discharges almost at right angles to the direction of flow below against a rather precipitous clayey slope.31

It is interesting to note that with the old dam, the first one became last and the last became first. The oldest dam located on the original site became to be the lesser dam or a "dike" and after 1944 it became the last dam on the old reservoir. The dam that was built over the swail due to the washout connected with "Welchman's Folly" was the last dam built and it eventually became the "main dam." In 1944 the gates were removed on the main dam at the old

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31 Newton Project, pp. 89, 14-16.
reservoir and a short time later the west dam was breached as it gave way to progress. After nearly three-quarters of a century, starting in the pioneer era and extending nearly half way into the twentieth century, the old reservoir was no longer adequate to be anything but a supplement storage area for the new reservoir. Today almost a century after its beginning, a few visual remains can be seen of the original reservoir and the "dike" or "oldest dam."

Newton Irrigation Company

The year following the last disastrous loss of water the trustees of the Newton Irrigation District gave way to the directors of the Newton Irrigation Company. The new company was formed in October of 1889 and was incorporated under the laws of the Territory of Utah on January 14, 1890. The company had a corporate life of 50 years and as a mutual irrigation company was allowed to issue capital stock in the amount of $10,000 representing 10,000 shares. The first directors of the company were Peter Larsen, John Griffin, William F. Jensen, Amos Clarke, Sr., and James Parsons. The company restored the reservoir but it was slowly searching for ways and means of getting a bigger reservoir. Between 1889 and 1892 it worked on a dam at the Funk site before going back and raising the old dam. In 1910 the company's directors made a resolution to engage an engineer to survey for a better dam location and to make an estimate of the costs for an enlarged reservoir. The stockholders, voting by shares, supported the resolution 1950 to 220. At the company's annual meetings of 1916 and 1917 the stockholders again gave its board of directors the authority to have a survey and an estimate of cost made for a larger reservoir. 32

In 1918 the company retained engineer T. H. Humphreys to make a survey of the possibility of enlarging the existing reservoir plus other promising sites. The engineer's report covered the raising of the existing dams, building a fifty foot dam a little above the Funk site and constructing a hundred foot dam approximately three-fifths of a mile below the present dam which exists in 1969. The state engineer made a later survey of raising the existing dams plus five other possible

dam sites. In 1936 the irrigation company helped from the "New Reservoir Committee" with two members form the company--J. J. Larsen and Alphonzo Christensen--joining with three members of the town board--M. R. Cooley, Jr., Jesse B. Barker and Royden Benson. This new committee was responsible for getting the Reclamation Bureau to build the new reservoir. On January 14, 1940, the corporate life of the Newton Irrigation Company lapsed, but the organization continued to function. On May 8, 1941, the Newton Water User's Association was incorporated. The company executed to the Newton Water User's Association by a quit claim deed all of its property and water rights. The company continued to control and distribute the irrigation water through the 1944 season when in October of 1944 it was decided that since the new dam was "nearly completed" that the Newton Water User's Association would control and distribute the irrigation water for 1945. The old Newton Irrigation Company ceased to exist the same year the old dam was breached. 33

New Dam and Reservoir

In December of 1936 at the annual meeting of the Newton Irrigation Company a committee was appointed composed of two members of the company--J. J. Larsen and Alphonzo Christensen--and three members of the town board--M. R. Cooley, Jr., Jesse B. Barker and Royden Benson--and known as the "New Reservoir Committee." Newton filed an application with the Utah State Engineer on May 13, 1938, for the right of appropriating 5,000 acre feet of water to be stored in its reservoir, and in July of 1941 the application was approved. In October of 1938 the committee met with representatives of the Soil Conservation Commission and the Rehabilitation Office to discuss the possibility of building a small reservoir for Newton. The two agencies were only able to offer a loan of $50,000 and the committee considered this loan offer as much too small for the needs of Newton. In 1939 the committee--now consisting of M. R. Cooley, Alphonzo Christensen, J. J. Larsen, Royden Benson, D. R. Clarke, Jesse B. Barker, and Parley Petersen--looked at the twenty year old report made by

T. H. Humphreys. The portion of the report that appealed the most to the committee was that part showing that raising the old dam five to seven feet with the reservoir covering 600 to 700 acres would be less expensive than building a new dam.  

In July 1940 representatives of the Bureau of Reclamation, upon being contacted by the state engineer at Newton's request, came to Newton and looked over the present reservoir and the survey reports that had been made previously. The Bureau preferred a new dam over the idea of enlarging the existing dam. They pointed out that to enlarge the existing reservoir to a capacity of 5,200 acre-feet that the reservoir would cover 980 acres. This would allow a great evaporation loss and surely cause opposition to such a project in Clarkston, plus the fact that the old dam was unsafe and would have to be rebuilt in any case. The Bureau offered to finance a new dam which would be repaid in 40 years without interest. The cost was estimated at $4.60 per acre but Newton felt the cost was "rather high and doubted that it would be carried."

Newton at times moved hesitatingly toward their goal. At a July 30, 1940, meeting of the stockholders a motion was made to call a vote to see if the stockholders wanted to go ahead with a new reservoir, but it died for lack of a second. A meeting called for August 5, 1940, for the purpose of seeing if the stockholders would sell or transfer their stock in the old reservoir in favor of a new reservoir. Voting by stock, 8,367 shares voted out of 10,000 shares held in the old reservoir, the stockholders voted 6,421 to 1,946 in favor of "whatever was necessary to go ahead with a new reservoir." A short time later M. R. Cooley, Jr. and D. R. Clarke were sent to Great Falls, Montana, to attend a special water meeting called by the Bureau of Reclamation. At this meeting Newton representatives talked with Commissioner Page about Newton’s attempts and desires for a new reservoir; they also held an informal discussion with him regarding a reclamation project in Newton. By October 8, 1940, Newton knew that the proposed Newton Project would cost the local people

34 Jones, "Development."

$350,000 with the rest being a W. P. A. expense to the government. A few days later Newton received word that President Franklin D. Roosevelt had signed the bill for the Newton Project, making it the first to be authorized under the terms of the Case-Wheeler Act as approved by Congress in August of 1939 and amended October 14, 1940.  

In 1940 a new company, The Newton Water User's Association, was formed with seven directors; M. R. Cooley, Jr. as president, Royden Benson as vice-president, J. J. Larsen as secretary, Stanley Griffin as treasurer, Alphonzo Christensen, David R. Clarke, and Thomas Griffin. On May 8, 1941, it was incorporated under articles providing for a corporate life of 100 years and the issuance of 6,000 shares of stock. Stock in the old reservoir was absorbed into the new company on a $5.00 credit per share basis. The Bureau of Reclamation chose to build the new dam at the "Cooley site" and were ready to go to work. 

On August 29, 1941, at a special meeting called by the Newton Water User's Association the contract between the company and the Bureau of Reclamation was read and then put to a vote as to whether the contract was acceptable. Voting by shares with 4,834 shares voting, the contract was approved by a 3,874 to 960 margin. The contract had previously been signed by M. R. Cooley, Jr. and J. J. Larsen, and the stockholders vote ratified the board's action. 

On September 3, 1941, ground breaking ceremonies were held at the new site "despite a steady downpour of rain." Those present were Governor Herbert B. Maw and T. H. Humphreys, Director of Federal Public Works Reserve in Utah and the engineer who made the first survey for a new reservoir back in 1918. Work commenced on the new dam but the 1943 completion date was not reached due to the effects of World War II. By September of 1944 the dam was "nearly completed but the two high line canals were a problem. The farmers were to use WPA and CCC labor to construct these canals but the war abolished these two depression agencies. The Bureau of Reclamation, sticking close to its contract, was only required to build the dam and 4,000 feet

36 Jones, "Development."

37 Newton Water User's Association Minutes, pp. 3-8, entry of June 1, 1945.
of canal. In June of 1945 a supplemental contract to amend the original was entered into whereby the construction of two high line canals and the rehabilitation and extension of the existing canal were made a part of the Newton Project. The Newton Dam was officially completed in 1946. After a two year development period in which payments of $1,500 and $900 were made, Newton Water User's in December of 1948 commenced repayment of $350,000, the amount of the project reimbursable to the Federal Government. 38

The Newton Reservoir was a great assistance to agriculture in Newton, it now extended water to 2,225 acres. For a few short years after its construction, it was a fisherman's paradise, and today road signs are directing more and more people to enjoy it for recreation.

School in Newton

First Schoolteacher

Credit for being Newton's first schoolteacher has usually gone to John H. Barker, Franklin W. Young, or Elizabeth Griffin, and in some histories or recollections the honor has been given to Jonas N. Beck and Mrs. Franklin W. Young. In researching this point the following information was gathered.

John H. Barker kept some notes in which he eliminated himself by writing that the "first school teacher" was "Bessie Griffin or J. N. B." Above this last statement he inserted what appears to be "FWY." In a letter written November 16, 1871, John stated that for the winter he was doing "a little school teaching." In his notes he maintained that meetings were held in the log house of Franklin W. Young beginning in 1871. Furthermore, the Young and Griffin families did not come to Newton until 1870.

When this evidence is put with the "Annual Report of the School Districts of Cache County" the dispute slowly resolves itself. The report for 1870 which covered the 1869-1870 school term listed Newton as the twenty-second school district in the county. Newton became a school district automatically for the county court had passed a law that made each precinct also a road district and

38 Ibid., pp. 10-14.
a school district. The annual report from Newton district only stated that the community was a "new settlement—no schoolhouse." The report for 1871 which covered the 1870-71 school year gives the following information:

- One male and one female teacher
- 30 boys between age of 4 and 16
- 34 girls between age of 4 and 16
- 64 total children school age
- 15 boys enrolled
- 20 girls enrolled
- 35 total children enrolled in school
- 27 average daily attendance
- Male teacher $60.00
- Female teacher $36.00
- Number of months school taught—6
- Raised $150.00 for building fund.

There is a strong possibility that no formal school was held during the winter of 1869-1870 and school began in the fall of 1870. Since the Young's log house was not ready until 1871, school was held in smaller homes, necessitating two teachers. In 1871 the school was held in the log house that was built extra large to hold all the school children, then one teacher could take charge of all the students. In the 1872 report, and for many years thereafter, Newton had only one teacher serving at a time. So it is likely that Newton had two teachers who were tied for the honor of being first.

The following is a list of teachers who served in the Newton School District. The names that are in the left column served at the same time; the names that are on the same line show who took over for someone who quit. The information in parenthesis gives dates of hiring or money received for teaching in order to give an idea of length of service.

1870-71 Jonas N. Beck--Franklin W. Young--
Elizabeth T. Griffin
1871-72 John H. Barker
1872-73 Franklin W. Young ($6.00), Alfred Goodsell ($15.05),
Mellisa Haws ($108.00)
1873-74 Mellisa Haws - Alfred J. Atkinson ($30.72)
1874-75 A. P. Welchman (hired Feb. of 1875)
1875-76 A. P. Welchman - Johanna M. Welchman taught
spring quarter while her husband attended school in Logan.
1876-77 A. P. Welchman - Elizabeth Clarke (summer quarter
of 1877)
1877-78  A. P. Welchman - Mary Neff (summer quarter of 1877)
1878-79  A. P. Welchman - James P. Low (hired April of 1879)
1879-80  James P. Low - Assistants: M. Rigby ($5.20) - 1879
          Hynus S. Johnston - 1880
1880-81  James Langton
1881-82  Mary Crocket
          James Langton
1882-83  Mary Crocket
          Thomas W. Thomson
1883-84  Charles England
1884-85  Charles England
          Robert Fife
1885-86  Charles England
1886-87  Charles England
1887-88  Philip A. Sorensen (and unknown female teacher)
1888-89  Libbie Merrill
1889-90  Luella Parkinson
1890-91  John J. James
          Luella Parkinson - Hattie Homer
1891-92  John J. James
          George Clarke - J. T. Miller (Dec. 1891)
1892-93  Lorenzo C. Larsen
          Ira R. Bowen - Lucy Barker
1893-94  Charles M. Christensen
          William E. Jenkins - Lucy Barker
1894-95  Charles M. Christensen
          Lucy Barker
1895-96  Charles M. Christensen
          Elizabeth Griffin
1896-97  Lorenzo C. Larsen
          Willard R. Ballard
1897-98  Samuel Clarke
          Willard R. Ballard
1898-99  Charles M. Christensen
          Maggie Sparks
1899-00  C. Walter Nelson
          Maggie Sparks Cutler
1900-01  J. C. Hogensen
          Lydia Baker
1901-02  J. C. Hogensen
          Lydia Barker
1902-03  --- -Anna Bernhisel
1903-04  ---
1904-05  Charles M. Christensen
          Ruth Jenkins
          Bertha Jensen
1905-06  J. J. Larsen
          Maud Williamsen
          Eva Maughan
On August 1, 1870, in an election three trustees were chosen to direct education in the Newton School District. Only three trustees served at a time. On the following list where four or more names are shown, it means that one or more of the first three or elected trustees quit or did not qualify and were replaced.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1870-71</th>
<th>1871-72</th>
<th>1873-74</th>
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<tr>
<td>F. W. Young</td>
<td>Hyrum Curtis</td>
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<td>Thomas Beck</td>
<td>Jonas N. Beck</td>
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<td>1876-77</td>
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<td>John H. Barker</td>
<td>Foster Curtis</td>
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<td>William H. Griffin</td>
<td>William H. Griffin</td>
<td>William H. Griffin</td>
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<td>1877-78</td>
<td>1878-79</td>
<td>1879-80</td>
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<td>John H. Barker</td>
<td>John H. Barker</td>
<td>William F. Rigby</td>
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<td>William H. Griffin</td>
<td>William H. Griffin</td>
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<td>Amos Clarke</td>
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<td>A. P. Welchman</td>
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<td>P. L. Nelson</td>
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<td>1880-81</td>
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<td>John H. Barker</td>
<td>William H. Griffin</td>
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<td>John Griffin</td>
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<td>Moroni Jenkins</td>
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<td>Ludwig Erickson</td>
<td>William F. Jensen</td>
<td>William F. Jensen</td>
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<td>George Rigby</td>
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<td>Year</td>
<td>Male Teachers</td>
<td>Female Teachers</td>
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<td>1894-95</td>
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<td>J. N. Hansen</td>
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<td>1906-07</td>
<td>William F. Jensen</td>
<td>Amos Clarke</td>
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</tbody>
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Excerpts from "Annual Report of the School District of Cache County"

for a few years may prove of interest as well as being informative.

1870 - "New settlement - no schoolhouse."
1871 - (See under "First Schoolteacher")
1872 - One Male teacher
   Boys between 4-16 - 35  Enrolled 21
   Girls  4-16 - 41  76  16  37
50% of eligible children are enrolled.
School held for 6 months.

1873 - One female teacher
   Boys (4-16 years)  25  Enrolled 20
   Girls  13  38  12  32
84% of eligible children enrolled.
68% actually attending
Amount of building funds raised - $700.00
School held for 9 months.
1874 - Male teacher

Boys (4-16)  40  Enrolled 29
Girls  "  28  25

68  54

79% of eligible children enrolled.
44% actually attending
Amount of building funds raised - $1,200.00
School held for 3 months.

1875 - Male teacher

Boys (4-16)  50  Enrolled 34
Girls  "  37  24

87  58

66% of eligible children enrolled.
30% actually attending
Estimated real value of school grounds, buildings, furniture and all other school property - $2,100.00
School taught for 4 months.

1880 - Two male teachers

Boys (6-18)  52  Enrolled 46
Girls  "  35  31

87  77

88% of eligible children enrolled.
Number of days school taught during year - 150
Real value of school property - $1,500.00

School Items: The following are short excerpts of interest connected with the school.

M. C. Rigby, who was born on May 23, 1868, said this about the first schoolhouse and discipline at school:

The first school I attended was a little log house at Newton. It was about sixteen feet by twenty-two feet. The benches were made of slabs (just one piece sawed off logs with bark still on one side). Holes were bored--two in either end and two in the center and pegs were inserted for legs. Teachers disciplined sometimes when mischief has been done. Children's hands had to be held out to be hit according to how bad they had been--and a strap was used. Other times students were made to stand in a corner and hold one hand out for so many minutes. Sometimes books, one, two, or three were put on your hand if your hands were to fall, it was struck from beneath by a hickory stick. One time the teacher had me up. She had a desk with a lid on top where she kept her books. She made me put my head in the desk and then she put the lid down over it! One of the teachers had a little hickory stick about sixteen inches long and one inch in diameter and while you were studying or pretending to study
the first thing you knew you'd get a rap on the head with that hickory stick. Other times he'd stand at his desk and throw the stick at you.

Another early student, Mary Jane Roskelly, remembered that when she attended school in the log schoolhouse where John H. Barker was the teacher, the girls sat on the west side of the room and the boys sat on the east side. There was a stove to furnish heat and a bucket of water and a tin cup to quench a student's thirst. She also remembered that in some years the students stayed out of school for two or three days to kill grasshoppers. This was the equivalent of twentieth century work period known as "Beet Vacation" for in the 1870's the grasshoppers came almost every year.

The wood for the stove in the school was furnished by the men in the town as a result of a policy passed on October 21, 1874, that stated that "every man in Newton owning a team shall haul a good load of wood to the schoolhouse and those who do not haul, shall cut it up."

A problem came to a head in 1879 when several townsmen asked for the dismissal of teacher A. P. Welchman. Reason for dismissal was being based on discipline measures used by the teacher and several school patrons complained that their children were making no progress in school. This trouble had been brewing for about three years, and some of the people blamed Bishop Rigby for the longer tenure of Brother Welchman who was an important aid in the Church. This charge upset Bishop Rigby and he countercharged "that if the teacher, Brother Welchman, had not done justice to the school, it was the fault of the trustees." The trustees stated that they had given the teacher an assistant expecting him to introduce a new system then coming into the county, but the teacher had not established a new system and his school had no system or progress.

Brother Welchman in his own defense stated that he had been invited to come to Newton to teach and had done his best. But he never claimed to be "a thoroughly educated man" with the ability to conduct a school systematically in the manner of the new and "most approved methods." He denied being unjust with discipline. He announced that he would "no longer be a block in the progress of the children, but would leave the schoolroom for some abler
teacher." He ended by saying that only one side of the matter had been presented at the meeting that demanded something be done about the school. The school record shows that following the teacher's offer to withdraw that "the trustees, with the approval of Bishop Rigby also, are willing to release Brother Welchman at the close of the present quarter."

Another incident in regard to teachers and their quality came in the 1890's when the county superintendent visited the Newton school. The superintendent had no authority to hire or fire teachers at this time but could oversee the expenditure of county funds. His big job was in serving the districts and helping them do their jobs better. In the superintendent's notebook he wrote his opinion of Newton's two teachers. He observed the teacher of the older group as trying to keep order but was having a difficult time doing so. He felt that this teacher was trying hard but was not "particularly bright." On visiting the second teacher, he shortened his comments to two letters when he said the teacher was "N. G."

In January of 1876 and in January of 1880 there is a record of a "night school" being held in Newton. There is no explanation given as to what was taught and who attended except that in 1880 some children attended along with some adults. In 1880 there was also an evening "singing school" held in the rock schoolhouse.

In 1879 the trustees were presented with objections of interruption of school in order for meetings to be held in the schoolhouse. Two of the trustees were also counselors to Bishop Rigby, and they answered that they did not like the interruption, but that "many important meetings are demanded in the interest of the ward." The trustees felt that a "vestry room" should be added to the town's only public building. Bishop Rigby said "that he would be pleased to see the trustees take action in this matter."

The length of school during the year varied greatly in the Newton District ranging from a low of three months to over nine months. Taking 1876-77 as a test year, we find that the fall quarter began the fourth of October and ended December 30, 1876, and 68 students enrolled with an average daily attendance of 45. The winter quarter ended March 30, 1877,
and had 58 enrolled and an average daily attendance of 30. There was no school held during the spring quarter. The summer quarter began July 1, 1877, and ended September 30, and had 47 enrolled with an average daily attendance of 28.

Money and pupils were factors in deciding the length of the school year and how many classes were held. In December of 1891 the "primary school was discontinued, so an arrangement was made that from the "3rd order" of pupils and up would attend school in the morning and the remaining students would attend school in the afternoon. In 1897 the length of the primary school was based on the attendance of the students ("as long as there are puble enough for 2 Schooles") and the financial resources of the trustees ("long as . . . the money will hol out").

Teachers' contracts were interesting documents and the following gives two examples.

**Agreement**
between the School Trustees and people of Newton School District (No. 6), on one part; and A. P. Welchman, teacher, on the other: under which the Newton Day School was opened on the 29th of March, 1875:

Said A. P. Welchman is engaged to teach said school for one school year (240 school days) at a salary of $40.00 pr. mo. (20 days).

One third (1/3) of said salary to be paid in cash for the payment of which the Board of School Trustees are responsible:

Two-thirds (2/3) payable by the patrons of said school in general pay as the teacher and individuals may agree upon: each person paying a just proportion as per number of days actual attendance of the children they send.

The teacher may demand a quarterly settlement of accounts, and also the notes of the respective parties who maybe owing, drawing two per cent interest pr. mo. (2%) from date of debt; but the teacher pledges himself to demand this interest only of those who do not make satisfactory exertions to pay up.

Any cases of serious disagreement between the teacher and the other party to be settled by arbitration of disinterested persons, not citizens of the district. P. S. The object of this is to form a basis for a permanent school.

School books, and other stationary necessary to the efficient conducting of said school to be furnished to the teacher, subject to his control for six mos., at least.

The teacher does not assume responsibility for the proper advancement of the pupils whenever the daily attendance exceeds 50, without additional assistance.
The Board . . . proposed that Brother Welchman teach school, for the school year of 1879, on the following terms:

1st: To receive from the Trustees, for each individual pupil sent to school, the sum of one dollar per quarter; and

2nd: to receive, in addition, from the trustees, for each quarter taught, one-third of the appropriation from the Territory to Newton Precinct.

Each quarter to consist of ten weeks of five days per week.

Brother Welchman acceded to these terms as a Latter Day Saint, and not by any means as a mutual business contract.

The early days of the school were not free from administrative paperwork. Reports were required from the teacher by the trustees who in turn sent their report to the county superintendent. The following is an example of each for the year 1875.

Synopsis of Teacher's Reports to Trustees for '75, 1875
Quar. ending Dec. 22nd School No. 1, District No. 6.
A. P. Welchman teacher: No. of pupils 42; from 6 to 16: males 18; females 24; Av. daily attendance 24; branches taught, Alphabet, spelling, reading, writing, geography, arithmetic: books used; Readers & Spellers, National Series, also Webster's Elementary Speller; Ray's Arithmetics, practical 3rd, mental 2nd; Monteith's Geographies: Remarks, School books, stationary, etc., purchased by Trustees and placed in hands of teacher; plan works well.

Reports (Synopsis thereof) of Trustees to County Superintendent
District No. 6. 1875. Nov. 1st.
No. of Schools; 1: Grade; comon: branches taught; Reading, Writing, Spelling, Geography.
No. of teachers; 1: School children in the ward - male 50; female 37; enrolled in school; - male 34; female 24
Average daily attendance; 26;
Amount paid to teacher; $140.00
Amount paid to male teacher, $140.00
No. of mos. school taught; 3 1/2
School libraries, 1: No. of books; 8
Condition of school-house; unfinished
Building funds raised; $600: No. of school-houses; 1: Material; rock:
Cost $3000.00; School furniture, etc.; $100.00
Tax used for schools. $200.00; unseated:
Miscellaneous furniture; lamps, blk-board, clock, stove, etc.: Name of teacher; A. P. Welchman, holding County Examiner's certificate.
for year ending Sept. 30th 1876.
Trustees: J. H. Barker, Wm Griffin, J. N. Beck (Successor Foster Curtis not qual.) 1 School: Comon: taught - Alphabet, Reading, Spelling, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar & Composition: 1 Male teacher; No. of boy 37; girls 28; Males enrolled 34; females 24; Av. daily att. 29; pd. to m. teacher $200.00 days taught during year 100; libraries 1; Vol. in li. 8; Condition of school buildings "good:" building funds raised "none:" Taxes appropriated to use of schools $100.00; Val. of sch. property $3000.00 F. C. since qualified.

The school also had a set of written rules that governed the protection of property and conduct of students.

Rules of Newton Day School
as presented to and accepted by the people in meeting assembled October 28, 1878

1. Pupils will be held responsible for any want of personal cleanliness or neatness; and for unclean or untidy conduct about the school or premises generally

2. No pupil affected with contagious disease, or coming from a house in which such disease exists, shall be allowed to remain in school.

3. Pupils may appeal to the teacher if imposed upon, but must not quarrel, nor fight.

4. Pupils, or their parents, will be responsible to pay for any damage done to school books, or other school property, or to the school-house, whether done accidentally or not.

5. Tuition fees shall be paid for each individual pupil from the time that he, or she, commence to attend school until notice is given to the teacher of the intention to withdraw any particular pupil: except in case of sickness, or other cause acceptable to the Trustees.

6. For refusal to pay for damages done, or for neglect to pay tuition fees, or for disorderly conduct persisted in, pupils may be dismissed from school.

The following is a list of purchases made for the use of the school.

Also A (No. 3) Bill for sundry purchases made during Oct. conference 1875 to wit:
Subscription to "Utah Journal of Education" .50
1 qt. blk. ink (100), bot. red ink (75) 1.75
Course paper (15), 1 bx. chalk crayons (50) .65
Rewards for pupils 4.00
6.90

Treasurer's Account:
July 24, 1876 Candy for children 2.40
Dec. 25, 1876 Candy for children 1.20

Books purchased by Trustees for use of School 1878-1879
1 doz. catechisms 6 Voice Warning 6 ER Snow Poems
6 Book Mormon 6 Key Theology 25.92
School Buildings

The first schoolhouse was Franklin W. Young's log house and was used until 1874. In 1873 construction began on the one-room, rock schoolhouse, although not completed, school began in it in the fall of 1874 and in 1876 the building was finished. When overcrowding caused split sessions of school in 1891, the trustees proposed an addition he built in the form of a "T" to the building. In 1892 the addition was made which provided three rooms, only two of which were used for classrooms. By November 1896 there was the problem of an overcrowded condition in the "primary school room." The trustees decided that instead of hiring a third teacher and dividing the primary school into two parts, that they would take the cheaper expedient of remodeling the schoolhouse. In 1897 the rock partition was removed between the south wing and the north wing. A lumber partition was installed ten feet south of the old rock partition, thus enlarging the north room. Another partition was placed across the south room making a smaller classroom and two "entrance rooms."

In June of 1900 the school trustees purchased a 30 inch alloy bell and in August and September a tower was built in which to hang the bell. This wooden addition was made to the north end of the building. In 1904 the two school classes were overcrowded and there arose an urgent need to start a "third school" or class. In order to get by, the school rented the Relief Society Hall and fixed it for school. The problem of overcrowding came up again in June of 1905, and the school trustees favored bonding to obtain adequate funds to build a new modern schoolhouse. Many prominent members of the community spoke against the bonding in the special meeting called to consider the matter. One of these men charged "that certain trustees were to blame for the present lack of school rooms as there originally were three rooms in the building but which had been changed into two rooms." The June 15, 1905, vote on bonding for $6,000
was defeated by a vote of 25 to 8. A new board of trustees took over, and in August of 1905 they erected a partition in the "east room" (north room) to create three classrooms in the schoolhouse.

This measure brought only temporary relief, and on March 18, 1907, a mass meeting was held to consider building a new schoolhouse. The motion carried unanimously, and the big question debated was over how to raise the funds. It was finally resolved after a "lively discussion" and bonding won out over passing special taxes. On April 12, 1907, a $10,000 bond election for the purpose of building and furnishing a new school passed by a vote of 36 to 6. Those voting in the election were:

1. William H. Griffin  
2. John H. Barker  
3. M. C. Rigby  
4. Horace P. Jenkins  
5. Soren P. Petersen  
6. Wm. F. Jensen, Jr.  
7. Moroni Jenkins  
8. Frank Griffin  
9. Michael Anderson  
10. William F. Jensen  
11. Amos R. E. Clarke  
12. Niels Christiansen  
13. John Griffin  
14. Andrew Petersen  
15. James E. Haskell  
16. Peter E. Benson  
17. Eugene Nelson  
18. Edward Haskell  
19. William J. Barker  
20. Niels Jacobsen  
21. Erastus L. Larsen  
22. George L. Jones  
23. Isaac Benson  
24. John E. Griffin  
25. Joseph J. Larsen  
26. Nephi Nesson  
27. Christian Christensen  
28. Frank M. Hill  
29. W. R. Ballard  
30. Ernest Jensen  
31. Carl Johnsen  
32. John Hansen  
33. Fred Fredericksen  
34. Soren M. Petersen  
35. William P. Hansen  
36. Amos Clarke  
37. Thomas E. Griffin  
38. Ezra Cooley  
39. Lorenzo Larsen  
40. John Benson  
41. Jonas N. Beck  
42. Lars A. Christensen

There are several things to note about this bond election. This was the second bond election and the first successful one in Newton. Twenty-two of the people voting in this election had also voted in June of 1905 when the first bond election was defeated by a vote of 25 to 8. Within twenty-two months most of them had made a change of heart and now favored the $10,000 bond issue as opposed to the early $6,000 bond. It will also be noted that only men participated in this election while in 1905 two women voted. This was due to property ownership being a requirement for suffrage in bond elections. In regular elections the
women of Newton had on occasions cast more votes than the men of the town.

On May 31, 1907, a bid from Olsen and Mathew of $10,470 for a six-room building was accepted. In August of 1907 the trustees changed the schoolhouse plans from a six to an eight-room building and decided to complete all of the lower story but only to put in the stairs, rough flooring and all windows in the upper story. The addition to the plans were effected with an extra cost of $633.00.

On January 8, 1908, the Newton students moved into the new two story brick schoolhouse. The building erected at a cost about $13,000 had four classrooms completed each with a "seating capacity of 50 students per room," a basement with a steam heating system, and a second story that awaited completion. Newton was proud of its new achievement and boasted that their school was the "finest in Cache Valley." In August of 1908 The Journal, in a survey of the school properties of the newly created Cache County School District stated that "Newton, for its size, has the largest and best furnished schoolhouse in Cache County." In 1907 Newton had planned big and were prepared for many years with better than average school facilities. They had taken a giant step by themselves, although events would occur in the consolidation movement that had the county take over the indebtedness of the Newton School District.

On February 28, 1908, the old rock schoolhouse was sold to the Newton Ward for $110.00 under the condition that removal of the building would begin at once and be completed within 90 days. On March 4 a group of men assembled at the bishop's call and the tearing down began. The bellfry was the first part to be removed; men attached ropes to it and pulled it down. When it hit the ground people came with containers and took away about 200 pounds of honey that was in the bellfry. The Ward sold the lumber out of the old school for $281.40 and gave some large rocks and timbers to the town for bridge repairs.

Consolidation of local school districts in Cache County came in 1908. The county commissioners, acting on the advise of the professional educators and with a knowledge that the county's poorer school districts were in serious trouble, tried to get the local school districts to join in a consolidation movement to create one school district. The commissioner promised Newton that
it would take over its bonded indebtedness, but Newton and the majority of the other school districts were opposed to consolidation. A vote on the matter of consolidation was set for March 3rd, and late February saw the two sides wage a propaganda battle. Newton’s opposition to consolidation and the answering of all charges made by the group favoring consolidation was ably made by trustee William F. Jensen. Mr. Jensen answered the charge levied against local school boards by the superintendent of the Salt Lake County Schools. He denied the charge that local school board members knew only about farming and horses and he reviewed the achievement of the so-called "scrub boards" that the Salt Lake visitor suggested should be turned out and replaced by "educated men." He also answered the charge about poor teachers in local district schools by stating, "We too get both good and bad teachers, and the bad ones we also let go again." Mr. Jensen also felt that consolidation would destroy "local self government" and a town member occasionally on a county school board amounted to taxation without representation. He also countered the Salt Lake superintendent’s plan of hauling children from small schools to larger ones by saying that he felt it was all right to haul children a "couple of miles" to attend a graded school, but to go any further was ridiculous and he emphasized his point in these words:

   But, Great Scott! Hauling children 4 to 7 miles as they say they do in Salt Lake County, is cruel . . . better . . . to get along with the smaller mixed schools . . . rather than risk the life and health of my children by the hauling process.

The vote came March 3 and the county voted against consolidation. Newton’s vote was 34 to 25, Clarkston 30 to 3, and Trenton unanimously against consolidation. The county commissioners ignored the vote and on March 23, 1908, created the Cache County School District and abolished all the former districts and directed them to turn over to the new district all school district property, whether real or personal.

The preserved school censuses for the Newton School District are as follows: The spelling of the names is as it is recorded in the record book.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Names of males</th>
<th>When born</th>
<th>Years of Age</th>
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<td>Oct. 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geo. C. Rigby</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
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<td>May 23</td>
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Brigham Atkinson 42 Feb. 4 1862 13
Chris Christiansen 43 Aug. 26 1864 11
Chas. Christiansen 44 Nov. 17 1868 7
Jos. Christiansen 45 Apr. 17 1871 4
Christian Hanson 46 Apr. 6 1860 15
Jas. P. Hanson 47 1869 7
Antoine Yenson 48 Feb. 2 1870 5
Neils P. J. Hanson 49 Mar. 13 1862 9

Newton District School 1875 to 1879

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</table>

Total Males=49  Total Females=36  Grand Total=85
Census of School Population of School District No. 6 Newton, Cache Co., Utah  
As taken by A. P. Welchman, Clk. of Board of Trustees  
For the School year ending Sept. 30, 1877

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Boys 47  
Girls 39  
Total 86

J. N. Hanson's boy omitted  
Henry Anderson boy omitted
Census of School Population Children Between Six and Sixteen Years
A. P. Welchman Clk. of Board

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<td>1878</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>Nelson, Mary A.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1877</td>
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<td>52</td>
<td>Peterson, Sarah</td>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>1869</td>
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<td>53</td>
<td>Peterson, Anna</td>
<td>Aug.</td>
<td>1876</td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>Peterson, Sophia</td>
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<td>1877</td>
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<td>Peterson, Anna H.</td>
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<td>Peterson, Elenora A.</td>
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<td>57</td>
<td>Parsons, Mary</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>1872</td>
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<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Parsons, Fanny</td>
<td>Mar.</td>
<td>1875</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Parsons, Elizabeth</td>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>1877</td>
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<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Rigby, Emma</td>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>1872</td>
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<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Rigby, Martha</td>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>1872</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Rigby, Fina or Tina</td>
<td></td>
<td>1878</td>
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</table>
Newton School in the Cache County School District

The new school district appointed its first teachers in the fall of 1908; it retained only one of the teachers from the previous year. Those first teachers were J. W. Kirkbride, Annie Christensen and Mary Redford. In August of 1914 cement walks were approved for the school. A request for a 9th grade class at Newton and that the school be made a branch of the newly approved North Cache High School was put as a motion, but it was disapproved by a 3 to 2 vote.

In the spring of 1915 the Cache Junction school was closed and the students were transported to Newton beginning in the fall of 1915. However, the objection of Cache Junction persuaded the board of education to reconsider, and in May of 1916 they decided to build a new two room school at Cache Junction. The students then returned to their home school until the spring of 1933 when the Cache Junction school closed for good.

In September of 1916, shortly after Newton's culinary water system was in operation, a committee from Newton asked the school district for an "inside toilet system." The school board denied the request but promised to have "outside toilets placed in a sanitary condition." During the summer of 1922 the school district spent $10,000 remodeling the schoolhouse and installing "in-door closets and lavatories."

In June of 1919 the Newton Relief Society initiated a petition for a 9th grade or "one year high school" at Newton. A year later in 1920 Newton's School
had five teachers and had 30 students in the 9th grade.

On the Fourth of July 1923 the people of Newton were ending their celebration with a dance in the Meeting House when a severe electrical storm hit the town. Some of the people were outside and saw the lightening strike the schoolhouse and start a fire on the roof. The efforts of the people were in vain in their attempt to save the schoolhouse. "There was not enough force on the water to put the fire out and the building was practically destroyed." J. J. Larsen stated that the lack of water pressure was due to there being no gaskets in the connection of the hoses.

On August 11, 1923, the school board contracted to have the remaining debris torn down and removed at a cost of $175.00. And on September 25, 1923, the contract was let on constructing a new four classroom schoolhouse that also included a gymnasium. There arose a difficulty over the financing of the new school for the superintendent of the county schools and members of the school board met with the county commissioners and asked for "their moral support" in a difficulty that had developed in building the Newton school. The school district had figured that the building would cost $27,500 but it turned out to be closer to $32,000, and the district had no way of providing a deficit except to borrow which was prohibited by law. The school board, with the aid of the county commissioners, resolved the financial problem. On February 15, 1924, the new schoolhouse was dedicated. The following Monday school resumed in the schoolhouse after being conducted in the Meeting House for a little over five months.

In 1956 the issue of consolidating the high schools in Cache County came up and the people of the valley rejected it in a vote. In 1959 it again came up and was defeated the second time. On December 4, 1959, the Cache County School Board decided to build a central high school and construction began. The school board was building, so they said, a high school but it would be built in several stages and actually be occupied by junior high students at first. This changed when a third vote on consolidation passed by a 60 vote margin in November of 1961. The following is the voting results on the high school consolidation for five communities that would have a future struggle over elementary school consolidation.
The struggle over the consolidation of the elementary schools is covered in another section of this book, and so only one passing comment will be made in regard to it.

Many people in Newton could not understand why the school board did not survey the school situation and decide where to build a new elementary school to serve Mendon, Benson, Newton, Trenton, and Clarkston for the school board had never asked the school patrons to make locational decisions before. Newton finally became suspicious of the school board, feeling that the board knew that the five towns could not agree, and after they had loosed their hostilities on each other, the board would remove all schools from the West Side and incorporate the students into existing schools on the East Side without too much opposition. The people felt that the board had no intention of building a new elementary school in any of the five towns but were skillfully avoiding the knockdown drag-out battles that past boards had had with Clarkston and Trenton over the removal of the 7th and 8th grades. Both communities fought the move for over ten years and Trenton even set up a private school in their little old red brick schoolhouse. Therefore, since the five towns could not agree among themselves, they each lost the opportunity to have a consolidated elementary school on the West Side.

The following is a list of the teachers who taught in the Newton School during the six decades it existed under the Cache County School District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June 7, 1956</th>
<th>For</th>
<th>Against</th>
<th>October 17, 1959</th>
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<td>Trenton</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clarkston</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>101</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Newton</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benson</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mendon</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>116</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mendon &amp; Petersboro #1</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>107</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Cache County</td>
<td>1197</td>
<td>2453</td>
<td>2087</td>
<td>2462</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>November 22, 1961</th>
<th>For</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trenton &amp; Cornish</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>243</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clarkston</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton &amp; Petersboro #2</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benson</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mendon &amp; Petersboro #1</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cache County</td>
<td>2723</td>
<td>2663</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1908-09  J. W. Kirkbride
          Annie Christensen
          Mary Redford
1909-10  J. W. Kirkbride (6, 7, & 8)
          Lewis L. Allen (4, 5)
          Beatrice Burns (2, 3)
          Annie Christensen - Hazel Benson (Beg. & 1st.)
1910-11  A. A. Johnson
          Beatrice Burns
          Mable Oldham
          Elizabeth Shipley
1911-12  A. A. Johnson
          Mrs. C. A. Christensen
          Elizabeth Shipley
          Mrs. Anna May Ralph
1912-13  A. A. Johnson
          Maud Seamons - Norma Benson
----
1913-14  A. A. Johnson
          Norma Benson
1914-15  A. A. Johnson
          Lloyd Adamson
          Norma Benson
1915-16  A. A. Johnson
          Emma Christensen
          Amos Griffin
          Veda Merrill
          Gladys Hill
1916-17  W. H. Hoskins
          Amos Griffin
          Archie Jenkins
          Norma Benson
1917-18  W. H. Hoskin
          Amos Griffin
          Archie Jenkins
          Norma Benson
1918-19  Amos Griffin
          Orpah Rigby
          Lilllian Griffin
----
1919-21  Amos Griffin
          Orpah Rigby
----
1921-22  Amos Griffin (Principal & 9th)
          Archie Jenkins (7 & 8th)
          Mamie South - Lulu Griffin (5 & 6th)
          Orpah Rigby (3 & 4th)
          Margaret Woodsides (1 & 2nd)

NOTE-
During the period from 1912 to 1916, the following teachers also taught.
Emma Christensen
Veda Merrill
Gladys Hill
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Names</th>
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<tr>
<td>1922-23</td>
<td>Amos Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Archie Jenkins</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lulu Rigby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vela Clarke</td>
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<tr>
<td>1923-25</td>
<td>Amos Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Archie Jenkins</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lulu Rigby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vella Clarke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925-28</td>
<td>Amos Griffin</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Archie Jenkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lulu Rigby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hazel Rigby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928-30</td>
<td>Amos Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Archie Jenkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Martha Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hazel Rigby</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930-31</td>
<td>Amos Griffin</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Archie Jenkins</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Martha Jones - Ilah Maughan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hazel Rigby</td>
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<tr>
<td>1931-32</td>
<td>Amos Griffin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Archie Jenkins</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ilah Maughan</td>
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<td>Hazel Rigby</td>
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<tr>
<td>1932-33</td>
<td>Amos Griffin</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Archie Jenkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ivene Petersen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hazel Rigby</td>
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<tr>
<td>1933-34</td>
<td>Amos Griffin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Archie Jenkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lena Miner</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hazel Rigby</td>
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<tr>
<td>1934-35</td>
<td>Amos Griffin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Archie Jenkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corrinne Godfrey</td>
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<td>Hazel Rigby</td>
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<td>1935-36</td>
<td>Amos Griffin</td>
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<td>Archie Jenkins</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Murphy</td>
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<td>Hazel Rigby</td>
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<td>1936-39</td>
<td>Amos Griffin</td>
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<td>Archie Jenkins</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Blanche Read</td>
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<td>Hazel Rigby</td>
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<tr>
<td>1939-40</td>
<td>Amos Griffin</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Archie Jenkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joy L. Jones</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hazel Rigby</td>
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1940-41  Amos Griffin  
         Archie Jenkins  
         Doris Ward  
         Hazel Rigby

1941-42  Amos Griffin  
         Archie Jenkins  
         Donna Larsen  
         Hazel Rigby

1942-44  Amos Griffin (Principal 7 & 9th)  
         Archie Jenkins (5 & 6th)  
         Orpah Fabricius (3 & 4th)  
         Hazel Rigby (1 & 2nd)

1944-52  Archie Jenkins (Principal 5 & 6th)  
         Orpah Fabricius (3 & 4th)  
         Hazel Rigby (1 & 2nd)

1952-59  Archie Jenkins  
         Orpah Fabricius  
         Eunice Jones

1959-64  J. Murray Rigby  
         Orpah Fabricius  
         Eunice Jones

1964-65  Max Cooley  
         Callie Clark  
         Eunice Jones

1965-67  Harold Grunig  
         Callie Clark  
         Eunice Jones

1967-68  Heber Barzee  
         Colleen Hardman  
         Eunice Jones

Newton's Mail Service

The first letters were carried by settlers who were by chance going in the same direction as the letters were addressed. This per chance system was replaced by a regular mail service in 1860. In that year President Brigham Young called Samuel Whitney to carry the mail into and out of Cache Valley. Mr. Whitney provided his own horse, saddle, and mail pouch; and since he considered his work as a mission, he would accept no pay except for a little flour, bacon, and other produce from the Logan Tithing Office. On his route he would leave Logan on a Monday morning and call at Providence, Millville, Hyrum, Wellsville, and Mendon and go on to Brigham City by way of the Valley View Summit. At Brigham City he deposited his outgoing mail to another mail service and then rested for a day. Then he picked up the mail for Cache Valley and returned to the valley by the
same route. On his next trip he would leave Logan call at Providence, Millville, Hyrum, and Paradise and then travel west over an Indian trail into Hunsaker Valley (Mantua) and on to Brigham City. Again he rested a day and with the Cache mail retraced his second route. This biweekly service was only for the south end of the valley. The communities to the north (in 1860 - Richmond, Smithfield, Franklin and Hyde Park) had to carry their own mail to Logan, and they also received their mail at Logan.

In 1861 Ben Halliday and Egen and Company received a contract for carrying the mail in Utah. The company sublet the carrying of mail into and out of Cache Valley to three valley residents. Now the valley received the mail twice a week. The improved services were due to the fact that one carrier covered the area between Brigham City and Wellsville, another went between Wellsville and Logan, and the third went from Logan to Franklin.

The first distributing point for mail in Logan was the Tithing Office. In 1869 after the transcontinental railroad was connected, the Cache mail came from and went to Corinne instead of Brigham City. After 1873 the Cache mail came into the valley via the Utah Northern Railroad.

Newton's mail service

Franklin W. Young writing to the Deseret News in March of 1869, after the decision to relocate the Clarkston settlement but before anyone moved, gives the first information about the mail service on the west side of Bear River. He stated that the residents of the West Side had petitioned the Post Office Department for a semi-weekly mail service from Bear River to Oxford. In the meantime they had started "a mail" of their own. Furthermore, he requested that all friends writing to people in the new settlement to direct it to "Newton, Cache County via Bear River North."

Before 1871 the mail carriers used the Rees Ferry to cross Bear River and the mail was carried to Newton, Clarkston, and a string of houses that eventually came to comprise Trenton and Cornish, and then to Weston. This mail first came to the Logan Post Office. After 1871 the passage over the river was facilitated by the Newton bridge. By 1871
outgoing mail from Newton began to take advantage of the increasing traffic between Newton and Corinne. Letters were carried by Newton's one merchant or anyone carrying produce to the rail center. Incoming mail usually came via the normal mail carriers.

The first postmaster of Newton was Bishop William F. Rigby, who received his official appointment on June 2, 1871. For approximately ten months the mail was handled at Bishop Rigby's home or at the home of anyone he designated. With the establishment of the Co-operative Store in 1872, the mail was handled in connection with the regular business of the store as it did not take a lot of space to keep the accessories such as stamps, envelopes and other items needed to transact the affairs of a post office in the 1870's. Although Bishop Rigby was officially the postmaster according to the records of the Post Office Department, he was only nominally involved in the post office once it went into the Co-op Store. The manager of the store had the direct charge of the mail. By March of 1872, Newton had mail service twice a week and this continued until 1890 when the railroad came to Cache Junction. Those who had charge of the mail in the Co-op Store were Alfred Atkinson, who handled the mail for a couple of months beginning in March of 1872; then John H. Barker took over and ran the store and post office out of his home until 1876, when the store and post office were moved out of the home and into a small building on Mr. Barker's lot. Mr. Barker gave up the store and post office at the end of 1877.

William H. Griffin took over the managing of the Co-op Store and also had charge of the mail. The store and post office were in a small temporary building until the spring of 1883 when a new store was completed. While the post office was in the new store, an ingenious signaling system was used. The store had two glass doors in front equipped with blinds. When the blind on the south door was up, the store was open and ready for business; when the north blind was up, the mail was in and ready to be handed out. The post office remained in the Co-op Store until July of 1886.

By 1886, the Post Office Department was no longer willing to go along with the way the Mormons were managing the mail service in their
areas. Using Newton as the case in point, the Post Office Department acknowledged Bishop Rigby to be the Newton postmaster in 1886, but in reality he had not personally handled the mail in over fourteen years and had even left Newton two years earlier. Newton had qualified for a post office up to the appointment of the postmaster by complying with the government's regulations, but thereafter they reverted to their standard method of doing things—that of having the bishop appoint or call the people he thought best to a position. Another factor that may have been instrumental in bringing about a change in 1886 was that the mail service was becoming more sophisticated and conscious of records and reports. But the main reason for the change in the way the Newton and many other Mormon communities' post offices was in the attitude of the government towards the Mormons and their practices in the mid 1880's. This was the period of time in which the government was trying to abolish polygamy and one of the best ways of accomplishing this was to break the Church's economic control over the areas where Mormons were dominant. So the government was not anxious to continue the old system whereby Mormon bishops were the ones who in reality assigned the individual who was in charge of the mail. The government even thought it was desirable to give the postmastership to someone not affiliated with the Mormon Church. So control of the mail passed from the Church at the same time as the great push against polygamists, and the two movements are directly related.

In 1886, Peter Christensen accommodated the government by offering to take the post office at Newton. Peter was no longer associated with the Church nor did he have any sympathy for the polygamists, so he was ideal for the job. Accordingly he was appointed postmaster on July 13, 1886. Peter then built a small enclosure on the west end of his south porch of his house where he kept the post office. Peter lived in the southwest part of town on the slough. People in the opposite end of town did not like the location of the new post office and grumbled about having "to go way out there" to get their mail and to post their letters. Since it was out of the way, many people tried to give their outgoing letters to the mail carrier directly as he was coming into or going out of town. The carrier at this time used
a horse cart and the frequent stopping to pick up mail became a nuisance, so a rule was passed that the mail carrier could not be stopped. This did not stop the problem, but it did eliminate the repeated stopping as the people now handed the carrier their letters as he moved along. Mr. Christensen was the postmaster for seven years and gave up the job as he prepared to leave Newton.

The post office moved back to the center of town when James Peter Jensen became the postmaster on April 24, 1893 and located the office on his porch. The Jensen home was across the street and south of the schoolhouse. The new location was well received by the people, but they wanted improved service and the volume of business was making necessary to put the post office in its own quarters rather than use part of a building used for another business or be cramped up on a porch.

On June 17, 1899, Jens N. Hansen became postmaster and in 1900 the Newton Post Office finally moved into its own quarters. Jens N. Hansen built a building south of the Co-op Store; a short time later People's Mercantile Company constructed a store south of the new post office. Mr. Hansen served as postmaster through 1905. On February 3, 1906, Ephriam C. Schneider was appointed postmaster and served through 1908. Newton's first official postmistress was Elizabeth M. Christensen, who was appointed on June 29, 1909. She served until the middle of 1913. She was in charge of the mail when a reporter from The Journal of Logan came to Newton in July of 1909 and described for his paper in vivid detail what he found between Newton's two stores.

There is one little affair in all Newton - let me locate and describe it. It is situated ten steps south of the Co-op and ten steps north of the People's store. It is ten feet wide and ten feet long; it lacks a fraction of ten inches of being ten feet high. It opens its doors for business at 10 minutes past 10 o'clock in the morning at this instant behind a ten inch opening through an inside partition may be seen two of the most beautiful eyes in all of the great city of Newton. It has not cost 10 cents during the last ten years to keep this building painted, but it is beautifully decorated on its front by ten large black letters P-O-S-T O-F-F-I-C-E.
On July 8, 1913, John Griffin became the postmaster and in January of 1914 a new building replaced the old building described above. The new post office was provided by John Griffin and was equipped with "call and lock boxes." The call boxes were the regular pigeonholes with a glass front so a person could see whether or not he had any mail without bothering the postmaster. There were only a few lock boxes in this post office. The Newton Post Office was doing a business of about $350.00 per month in 1914. On November 5, 1915, Ruth A. Jenkins was appointed as Newton's second postmistress and she served until 1921. When People's Mercantile burned down and the post office also caught fire and burned down. An effort was made to save some of the mail inside the building and a few men went into the post office while it was burning and tore out the call and lock boxes and put them in the street, but little, if any, mail was saved and the rest of the building went up in smoke.

John E. Griffin had the next post office built and again it was put in the same location as the two previous post offices. He became the official postmaster on June 9, 1921, and served in this capacity until his death in December of 1932. Although John E. Griffin was the postmaster of records, he had assistants or clerks who did the actual handling of the mail. Usually these clerks were from his family. Ruth Rolph was one of clerks who handled the mail under John E. Griffin's postmastership and when he died, she was in charge of the mail. On April 26, 1933, Mrs. Ruth Rolph was appointed as the acting postmistress; she served in this position until February of 1934.

In the fall of 1934 Amos Rigby moved a building from Cache Junction and set it up on the corner where the present post office is located. The post office shared the building with a store and a barber shop until the fall of 1935 when an addition was made on the west side of the store; this addition served as the post office for thirty years. It was remodeled in 1951 and 24 new boxes were added. At this time Newton had a third class post office. Again in July of 1956 twenty-seven new boxes were added to the post office. In November of 1963 the regional director of the Post Office Department came to Newton on an inspection tour and requested improved quarters for Newton's post office. Accordingly, in February of 1965 the old building was moved a
few feet north, and in April of the same year a new building was started. On
October 6, 1965, Amos Rigby provided Newton with a modern white brick post
office. At the present this post office has 168 boxes.

During the period since Amos Rigby has provided the buildings for a
post office, two persons have served as postmaster. Joseph R. Tuddenhan
served for fifteen years from 1934 to June of 1949. When he retired Cora
Rigby became the acting postmistress from July of 1949 to June of 1950 at
which time she became the postmistress.

The first mail came to Newton carried in a leather sack which was
strapped on the back of a saddle. Later it came in a horse cart. In the
second decade of the twentieth century it came from the railroad station to
the town in an automobile. The 1960's have witnessed still another change
as the railroad no longer brings the mail to Cache Junction, but a fleet of
private carriers under contract with the Post Office Department carry the
U.S. mail.

There has been a big improvement of service since the beginning.
For example, in 1876 a letter from England to Newton, Utah, took between
21 and 30 days to arrive at its destination, by 1890 it took two weeks, and in
1969 it takes only three or four days. The post office's efficiency has like­
wise improved as in 1871 the mail service of both England and the United
States could be questioned as the following account points out. This is an
excerpt from a letter John H. Barker wrote to his sister Jenny in England
after receiving his first letter from her. He wrote, "the postage between
this country and England is three pence or six cents. You only put a penny
stamp on, but it came safe." If one were to do this today, the receiver
would have to make up the difference.

There were early complaints about the mail service and Newton's
postmasters. Complaints against the mail service were largely that of lost
mail. Certainly some mail has been lost, but in proportion to the total volume
handled it is very, very small. One recorded account of lost mail bound for
Newton later proved that parcels traveled much slower than letters. The
incident began in August of 1875 when John H. Barker received a letter from
his sister in England informing him she was sending one of her nephews a book. In 1875 books were hard to come by in Newton as Ogden and Salt Lake were the nearest places where books could be obtained. When the much awaited book did not arrive by October 24, 1875, John returned a letter to his sister telling her that the book had not come and that "somebody in the mail service must have took a notion to it." He told his sister that it was best to register such items and thus insure their delivery. In January of 1876 the errant book finally arrived in Newton.

The second grievance was directed at Newton's postmasters and was primarily voiced in the days when Newton received the mail twice a week. The people knew when the mail came in and when it took the postmaster longer than they thought necessary to get it ready for distribution, they accused him of reading all the newspapers and magazines.

Probably the strangest order a Newton postmaster ever received, and yet strange only if thought of in 1969 terms, came in January of 1901. The Newton Town Board, trying to preserve the health and lives of its citizens from contagious diseases, instructed the postmaster to disinfect all mail received in his office at his own expense.

Last, but certainly not the least, the Newton Post Office has served and is still serving as a place of socialization. Many Newtonites like to congregate at the mail and visit for a while or their day has not been complete. Back in May of 1912 Newton's correspondent to The Journal wrote the following to the paper: "We are industrious as bees these days. We no longer find time to collect at the post office and talk about the other fellow." This was not a typical situation, and it was not many days before the push with spring work was over and the Newtonites were again collecting at the post office with more in mind than just picking up their mail.

**Sports**

**Newton School**

Football played a small role in competitive sports for the school boys. They played each other before and after school and during the recess periods
on occasions persuaded one or two of the teachers to participate. Only a few games were sponsored by the school. Only two incidents will be reported here.

The first case will only affect Newton in a secondary way. It seems that the Mendon and Cache Junction schools had challenged each other to a football game. There was one little technical problem that faced the Cache Junction team, and to correct it Dan Dyson came to the Newton School and asked, "Mr. Griffin and Mr. Jenkins, could I borrow some boys to play a football game?" After he explained the challenge and pending game and made his request for players once more, the Newton teachers responded by saying, "I guess you can if the boys want to." Before asking the boys if they wanted to, the Newton teachers asked Dan how many players he needed. Dan answered that he needed ten, for Cache Junction only had a couple of boys old enough to play. The Newton boys answered the call of their neighbor school to the south and the game was played. The results of the game is not known to the author.

In the fall of 1946 Mr. Jenkins took his fifth and sixth grade boys plus a few fourth graders to Trenton to play a game of tackle football. The contest required the aid of the fourth grade since the sixth grade only had 3 boys and the fifth grade had 4 boys. The Newton team was victorious.

Basketball was the big competitive sport for the school boys and in this sport even the girls competed. The boys at first played at an outside court south of the schoolhouse. Thus, may of their games were played in the late spring and summer when the weather allowed good footing for the court. As an example that basketball was not just a winter sport, on July 19, 1906, a game was staged at sunset between the Agricultural College of Utah (now USU) and the Brigham Young College.

The existing records pick up school teams in late May of 1907 when it is reported that "the sporting fever is raging here, we have several basketball teams, both male and female." The reporter goes on to say that the teams have been defeated in nearly all games played but expressed confidence that they would win several before the season was over.

By 1909 the situation of 1907 had reversed itself and instead of losing most of their games, the Newton boys were winning. As reported May 22, 1909,
the "Newton boys are way up in basketball playing. If they beat Mendon they
will be champions of Cache Valley." The outcome of the Mendon game was not
reported, but whether the team won or lost, they began a winning tradition that
many Newton teams would repeat.

In December of 1912 basketball for the school moved inside and the
games were played in the winter time. Flooring was laid in the upstairs of
the schoolhouse which had one classroom, a room used as a library, and a
gym. The flooring was rough and one side and both ends of the gym were just
the rough brick and mortar wall. But it was an improvement over the outside
facility and it was reported that:

The school boys were elated over the new floor in the up­
stairs of the schoolhouse and are busy getting baskets
and other material in shape for some lively games very
soon. Already four teams have been organized.

Fortune smiled on the eighth grade team that initiated the new gym as
it won most of its games. Then the boys journeyed to Lewiston to play a game
that would decide the champions of the north end of the valley. On a February
day in 1913 misfortune struck and the Newton team went down to defeat by a
score of 41 to 7. The Newton correspondent had a ready excuse for the disaster­
ous defeat for "the boys were at a disadvantage on the polished hardwood floor
and could not keep their feet." There was grounds for the excuse as the Newton
school gym had a rough floor while the Lewiston gym was of polished hardwood.

The 1913-1914 season was another good one for the local five. An
article in The Journal invited the townspeople to "come to the gym and see them
practice." The eighth grade team had R. Benson at right forward, S. Jensen
at left forward, P. Petersen at center, P. Nebeker at right guard and S. Jenkins
at left guard. In March of 1914 the Newton team dumped Smithfield 29 to 20.

Moving ahead to 1929 found in that year "three basketball teams from
the Junior High School from Clarkston came down and played Newton." The
boys from Newton found it tough going against the Clarkston teams as the
Newton 1st. team lost by a score of 15 to 7, while the Newton 2nd. team made
a better game but still lost 10 to 8. The day was saved from complete defeat
when the Newton girls defeated the gals from Clarkston 20 to 4. In 1929 Smith­
field beat Newton 23 to 22 at Newton, but as the correspondent declared "our
team took sweet revenge at Smithfield in the return game, "as Newton defeated Smithfield 8 to 5.

In the 1941-1942 basketball season the Newton eighth grade team went undefeated. They defeated Mendon and Providence three times each, Clarks­ton and Trenton twice, and Smithfield once. The team consisted of Dale Benson, Glen Benson, Kay Benson, Eugene Butelo, Max Christiansen, Harvey Larsen, Marineer Rigby and Dean Sanders. Principal Amos Griffin took great pride in the team and took them to their away games and dismissed school for the home games. The games with the Darrell Hughes coached Mendon team were thrillers, each being decided by three points. The third encounter was a night contest with a large audience of adults from both towns. The Smithfield game that year is of special interest also for two reasons. First, Mr. Griffin or another teacher could not take the team over to Smithfield, so the boys "thumbed" their way over and back. Second, they played for an hour and a half. This was due to Smithfield being on the short end of the score and having about twenty players, they hoped to wear down the Newton boys and finally get ahead. They got away with their deceit as long as they did because no adult was with the Newton boys. Finally, one of the Newton boys told them he had had enough and the rest of the team agreed, so the game was called.

After the seventh and eighth grades went to the Smithfield Junior High, the Cache County School District discouraged competitive sports for the fifth and sixth grades. Neverthe less, Principal Archie Jenkins and principals from adjacent schools agreed to continue to play games between their schools. The season of 1946-1947 was the last year that this competition in sports for the grade schools was allowed.

The 1946-1947 season saw the school with three boys in the sixth grade and four in the fifth grade. Robert Grimmes, Ramon Hansen, Doyle Sanders, Clayne Benson, Larry Christiansen, Arthur Jenkins and Maurice Miller were the team members. The team was undefeated in five contests as they beat Mendon three times and Clarkston twice.

A word in conclusion about sports in the Newton school should mention Amos Griffin and Archie Jenkins. Their willing co-operation and support aided
sports and helped develop athletes. They were not coaches in the true sense of the word, but they did on occasion take time out to play with or against the boys. More important, they showed interest and provided the opportunity for many to participate which enabled them to play in the junior high and the high school.

Baseball

Newton has played baseball on four different diamonds in Newton and played many games at Cache Junction in the days of Sunday games. The Church would not allow games to be played on Sunday in Newton, so they had to be played where the mores of the community were not offended. The diamonds in Newton were located as follows: the first one was in the southeast corner of the public square, the next was on the old tithing lot, then in the middle of the square, and lastly where the present diamond is in the southwest corner of the square.

Baseball in Newton has had its ups and downs, and at times, has bordered on the point of feast or famine. In the earliest years "baseball was not big in Newton until Heber Beck's day." Affectionately called the "iron mule" he was as fine a player in his day as the valley could produce. He was a good man back of the plate and a very good hitter. Heber later played semi-pro ball. He and his teammates brought baseball alive in Newton. By 1905 Newton could say "we now have two organized teams." In 1905 the nine from Newton defeated the Clarkston team by a score of 20 to 3, and Clarkston was always tough in baseball. The Newton team ended the season with 9 wins against 2 losses.

In 1906 the Newton team got off to a slow start in more ways than one. In the last part of April they lost to Petersboro 18 to 10. The team had not practiced and "didn't own a ball until the day of the game."

The following year saw Newton and Clarkston join together to form a baseball team. During the early years of the twentieth century, baseball became exceedingly popular with the people and the fans traveled several miles to see their team in action. On one occasion in Newton, part of the fans happened to be the Cache Junction team and when the Clarkston team did not show up, they happily offered to step in; thus, no one was disappointed.
In 1909 Newton dumped Clarkston 15 to 3 and beat Mendon. In 1916 the Newton and Clarkston teams exchanged games with each scoring a victory on their home grounds. During the second decade of the twentieth century, Newton players often played for the Cache Junction team, and boys from Cache Junction played for the Newton team. If a team came to play and one of their players did not come, then someone else would fill in for that team such as when Newton's Perry Nebeker would catch the offering of Clarkston's Leo Jardine when the Clarkston catcher did not show up.

An amusing incident happened in 1911 when the Cache Junction team journeyed to Wellsville and lost 7 to 2. George Ecklund, the Cache Junction Giants pitcher, allowed only three hits yet he lost "due to the fact that the Giant fielders are not used to cellar diamonds nor to sagebrush outfields." Upset over losing on a three hitter and putting the blame on the poor field, the correspondent to the Logan newspaper made the following offer: "Cache Junction will donate lawn mower if Wellsville will mow its sagebrush and furnish the ground and shovels if Wellsville will fill up its infield so that its ballplot will look like a real diamond." The Cache Junction team may have been a little upset over losing the purse which had totaled $100 two weeks before and $125 the week before the Wellsville game.

The 1912 team was comprised of H. Miller, R. Griffin, J. Mallemberg, W. Mallemburg, A. Griffin, G. Ecklund, W. Jenkins, W. Cooley and L. Clarke. This team beat Clarkston on the Cache Junction field 8 to 3 but were humbled by Mendon 14 to 3. In later years the Newton team began to travel beyond Cache Valley to play ball. Trips to Bear Lake, Box Elder County, and as far north as Soda Springs were made.

In 1930 Newton had two teams that were having good seasons - the first team with Emory Benson as captain was, according to the newspaper, "doing very well," and the second team with Waldo Barker as captain was "doing equally well." In April of 1931 Clarkston, Weston, and Newton organized a baseball league and invited others to join. The Newton team beat Logan 13 to 9, lost to Honeyville 16 to 6, and slipped by Mendon 7 to 6. The season was concluded by a Sunday trip to Bear Lake where the Ovid
nine nipped the Newton team by one run in eleven innings. The same day the Newton second team traveled to Cache Junction and defeated Clarkston.

A look at the 1946 and 1947 seasons will conclude our look at Newton’s ups and downs. The season went as follows:

- Weston 18 Newton 1
- Clarkston 9 Newton 5
- Southwest Lewiston 5 Newton 1
- Cornish 17 Newton 10
- Trenton 10 Newton 1

- Weston 8 Newton 4
- Clarkston 24 Newton 6
- SW Lewiston 16 Newton 1
- Cornish 25 Newton 5
- Trenton 25 Newton 1

At the end of the season the sports writer for The Herald Journal stated that "the 1946 season was the worst in history for the Newton team as they failed to score a single victory during the summer play."

The 1947 season started off to the same tune as Newton registered seven straight losses. The scores were as follows: SW Lewiston 11 Newton 5, Clarkston 9 Newton 7, Hyde Park 11 Newton 4, Fairview 17 Newton 12, Franklin 7 Newton 2, North Logan 7 Newton 5, Trenton 9 Newton 1. Then came June 4th and Newton made the headlines of the sport page:

NEWTON CRASHES THE WIN COLUMN
Give the headlines to Newton. They won their first hardball game in just about two years. Such was the cry from Valley League baseball supporters after a weary but nevertheless game the Newton diamond nine crashed the win column Wednesday afternoon by edging past Lewiston 6 to 5. Thus no longer is Newton embeded deep in the cellar of the twelve team organization, but left that uncomfortable role to the club they knocked over who still has yet to win a ball game.

Newton had a short stay out of the cellar as on Saturday June 7th Lewiston won its first game while Newton lost to Cornish 5 to 2. The following Saturday Newton beat Weston in ten innings, causing the newspaper to comment that "the rebellious spirit of the Newton club cannot be underestimated because they slipped past Weston 8 to 7 for their second win."

In the remaining part of the season Newton tamed Clarkston 12 to 5, took Lewiston 9 to 6, and won a protested game from Weston when the latter used an ineligible player. The season record showed Newton with 5 wins against 17 losses, and Newton was not in the cellar.

In the 1960's the Newton baseball team terminated. The old diamond is not the scene of lively contests on a Saturday afternoon. But memories linger...
on and many can still remember the games played by Heber Beck, Wilford Jenkins, George Ecklund and many more. Many can remember the day at Cornish when the winning team was to have the ball. When Archie Jenkins struck out one of the Bergeson boys to end the game, catcher Perry Nebe-ker kept the ball. But one of the Cornish players demanded it back; when Perry refused and reminded him of the agreement before the game, a fight ensued. Newton kept the ball. In the post World War II period, who can remember the second baseman who could bobble the ball or let it through when the team was warming up or throwing the ball around the infield; but when the game was on and it counted, he never let the ball go through. He shortly thereafter became bishop and then president of the Smithfield Stake. How many hearts stopped a moment when another second baseman hit a hard line drive into left field and started towards first base when suddenly he fell to the ground. We all wondered if Darrell Goodsell would walk again, yet he did more than that, he returned to hit more line drives.

Gun Club

In 1912 some Newton men got the urge to join in competitive shooting; inasmuch as Newton did not have an area to trap shoot, the men were welcomed at Cache Junction shooting grounds. By 1913 Newton had an unofficial team which in February of that year challenged in a practice meet the highly regarded Cache Junction team. When Newton won the meet, they were no longer welcomed to use the facility at Cache Junction. Newton, in an article in the Logan newspaper, charged that "the Cache Junction . . gun club has evidently gotten sore at the results of a recent practice meet with Newton's nimrods. Their grounds are now held sacred to 'Club Members Only!'"

Cache Junction denied the charge, but Newton was convinced that their expertness with guns had forced them to organize sooner than they would have normally done. On February 24, 1913, the "Newton Gun Club" was organized with John Hansen as president, George Clarke as secretary, and Jesse Barker as field captain. Initially there were twelve members including Bishop M. C. Rigby. Later club membership rose to seventeen. They chose a site on R. A. Dowdle's property to be their shooting grounds.
Newton Athletic Club

Shortly after World War I, a group of Newton fellows organized the "Newton Athletic Club." This proved to be one of the great basketball teams ever fielded in Newton and they had few equals in their day. In 1921, the team rolled up an impressive record as they took on all comers. In late December of 1920, the team beat Weston twice, Wellsville twice, Hyde Park and Bancroft once each. These six games were played in a ten day period and in the games Newton "made a score of about 2 to 1 over their opponents." In January, the squad routed Clarkston 38 to 25 and Lewiston 38 to 22. In February, the team reached its peak as it knocked over the Brigham Young College team 37 to 23 and followed up with a 55 to 22 rout of Providence. Then came the "biggest basketball game of the season." The Oakley Athletic Club had journeyed from Idaho to Logan to engage the BYC, but illness on the BYC team caused the game to be cancelled. Bishop M. C. Rigby persuaded the Oakley team to come over to Newton and engage the local five. The Oakley team was highly regarded and was a heavy favorite over the BYC and they wanted to play ball. The game was played before a full house which saw the Newton fans cheer their team on to a 24 to 18 victory. Strong performances by an iron-man five - Royal Griffin, Archie Jenkins, Amos Griffin, Perry Nebeker, and Howard Griffin - provided the margin of victory.

The season of 1921-1922 held in store a surprise for the Newton team. They traveled to Hyrum for a routine game but were surprised by an upset by the Hyrum team. It seems that Hyrum "played the new high school rules on them unawares." Now basketball in the 1910's and 1920's was much different than it is today. One of the big changes is in the amount of contact that is allowed. Prior to the use of the "new high school rules" fouls were seldom called. In the Hyrum game Newton found itself in foul trouble and was thrown off its normal game. The Newton team was big and strong, and they played the game for all they were worth. An example of the old style basketball can be illustrated by recalling a time when the BYC team came to Newton to play the Newton Club. Joe Jones, a Newton boy playing for the BYC, had shoulder and hip pads on, and as he maneuvered on the floor, he used his pads to knock several of the Newton team down.
The remaining 1921-1922 season was a repeat of earlier seasons. In February they defeated Lewiston's Athletic Club twice. The following is a box score of one of the contests:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lewiston A. C.</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Pt</th>
<th>Newton A. C.</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Pt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jorgensen l.f.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>A. Griffin l.f.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabot r.f.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>A. Jenkins r.f.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Wiser c.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Royal Griffin c.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bergeson l.g.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>H. Griffin l.g.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waddoups r.g.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>P. Nebeker r.g.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Wiser l.g.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Roland Griffin r.g.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Orden l.f.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Petersen r.f.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On Valentine's Day of 1922 the team went to Clarkston and poured it on in the first half for a half time lead of 53 to 1. They finally eased up in the second half and the game ended with a score of 67 to 7. During the remaining season Newton won games at home and away, beating such teams as the Bear River Athletic Club 34 to 30. The Newton Club lost its last game to Wellsville 27 to 18.

The strength of the Athletic Club may be seen by the fact that in 1922 Newton had a "second team" which had an impressive record also. The team members were G. Rigby, A. Rigby, Anderson, S. Rigby and Jenkins. They took Lewiston 19 to 12, beat Benson 48 to 36, edged Clarkson 26 to 22, and routed Weston 40 to 11.

The last record of the Newton Athletic Club was in April of 1929 when the club met and elected Roland Griffin as president and Waldo Barker as vice president. At that time the club said that "they expect to develop some first class league players in the near future." The future of the Club in 1929 could not match its past glories. This was the team that even in the days of slow deliberate basketball ran up a score over one hundred against Grace, Idaho. This team could rent a gym and hold a basketball game and a dance and gross over $150. This is the team that Bishop M. C. Rigby bet the Bancroft team that Newton could trim them.

Church basketball

Shortly after 1910 a Church sponsored team came into being in Newton. It was known at the time as the "Mutual Team" and is the parent of
today's M-Men teams. In its first years the team did not have a schedule but played any games it could. In 1914 the mutual team composed of Royal Griffin, Amos Griffin, Alphonso Christensen, David Rigby, and Harold Rigby edged Mendon 39 to 37.

After World War I the stake set up a league and scheduled games between the various ward teams. In the 1920's the Benson Stake was divided into three divisions - the Western, the Northern, and the Southern. Newton was in the Southern Division along with Smithfield's three wards. The 1928-1929 season saw a team with Linford Jorgensen, Ralph Tuddenham, Allan Jenkins, Ora Jenkins, Mervin Benson, Burton Jenkins and Grenville Crookston. They defeated Clarkston 28 to 21 and Smithfield Second was dropped 16 to 6.

The 1929-1930 season saw Newton defeat Logan Third 29 to 19. And in stake play they toppled Smithfield Third 24 to 17. Then at the North Cache High School gym the Newton team defeated Smithfield First 16 to 10 to win the Southern Division. In the playoff Newton lost and Clarkston was the stake champions.

The 1930-31 season saw Clarkston repeat as stake champions while Newton, finishing second in the Southern Division, did not make the stake playoff. In 1933 Newton beat Clarkston 22 to 17 but Newton, losing to Smithfield First 33 to 28, was forced to watch from the sidelines as Smithfield First beat Clarkston in the championship game.

In 1938 the Smithfield Stake was organized and two teams that had somewhat dominated the Benson Stake--Clarkston and Smithfield First--were also in the new stake. But their years of dominance had passed. This came not as a result of their teams not performing on par with past teams but as a result of a greater effort on the part of the Newton teams.

Following is the Smithfield Stake Champions for the period from 1939 to 1968:

1939 Smithfield Second
1940 Smithfield Second
1941 Newton
1942 Smithfield Fourth
1943 Smithfield Third & Fourth
1944 Smithfield Second
1945 Stake unable to field teams for tournament
1946 Newton
1947 Smithfield Fourth
1948 Newton
1949 Newton
1950 Newton 1960 Newton
1951 Newton 1961 Smithfield First
1952 Clarkston 1962 Newton
1953 Clarkston 1963 Clarkston
1954 Smithfield Second 1964 Clarkston
1955 Newton 1965 Smithfield First
1956 Newton 1966 Smithfield First
1957 Newton 1967 Newton
1958 Clarkston 1968 Smithfield First
1959 Newton

Excluding 1945 when there was no champion and the stake could not field a team to enter the division tournament, Newton has won 13 stake championships in 29 years and has participated 19 times in the Church's division or region tourneys.

In 1940 Newton took third place in the stake when Smithfield Third beat them 24 to 18 for second place in the Church tourney. Newton's year was 1941 as they won their first stake championship. On the way to this honor, it had at least one very hard contest. Late in January of 1941 "in three extra periods Newton Ward M-Men defeated the Clarkston town team 46-44 in an exciting and well played game." The box score for the game went as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>G</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Pt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newton</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Cooley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Griffin</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigby</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Petersen</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Griffin</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Petersen</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarkston</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Thompson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Jardine</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archibald</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goody</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Thompson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The same year the Washakie Indians with 25 of their people accompanying them came over and engaged the Newton team. Newton won the game 37-34. In the district M-Men tournament the opening round saw two games in the Newton gym. Logan Third humbled the local five 34 to 15 before the home town fans. In the second round Newton beat Lewiston Second 27 to 22, and then were eliminated by Wellsville First in the semi-final by a score of 28 to 26.

In 1946 Newton's servicemen had returned and Newton again won the stake. During the season the House of David team came to Logan, and
since Newton and Logan Sixth had not lost a game, they joined to play the
House of David. Prior to the "main event" Newton and Logan Sixth staged
a preliminary game. The box score shows Newton going down to defeat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Logan Sixth</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Pt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burns</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hailstone</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffin</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bailey</td>
<td>1</td>
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In the main event Newton played the House of David one half and
Logan the other. Still the House of David beat the Newton-Logan Sixth team
41 to 36. In the district tournament Newton again hosted two games of the
opening round in the Newton gym. Newton lost the game at home 25 to 42 to
Logan Fifth. Then Newton beat Mink Creek 40 to 30, edged by Mendon 31 to
30, and finished off North Logan 37 to 34. Newton's achievement was re­
corded by The Herald Journal along with the box scor as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<td>V. Nyman</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consolation honors -- and a new basketball -- in the
division were won by Newton M-Men champions of
Smithfield stake. Under the coaching of Howard Hansen, famous Utah Aggie Athlete, Newton last night
subdued North Logan of Cache stake 37 - 34, Hansen
again achieved starring honors by making 20 points,
playing an indefatigable floor game, and rustling
the ball with abandon.

In 1947 Newton was the Smithfield Stake runnerup and entered the tourna­
ment play. Newton lost to Swan Lake 31 to 22, and came back to beat Logan
Seventh 39 to 35. Wellsville First eliminated Newton in the semi-finals. The
1948 season saw Newton take stake championship; part of Newton's scores were:
Newton 37 Clarkston 16, Newton 27 Smithfield Second 13, Newton 49 Smithfield First 11, Newton 20 Clarkston 24, Newton 23 Smithfield Second 16, and Newton 32 Smithfield Third 17. Newton, with opening night jitters, followed its old history of losing the opening round of the district tourney to Logan Fourth 25 to 21. Regaining their composure, the team beat Logan Tenth 29 to 23, walloped Lewiston Third 42 to 18 and won the "Consolation Championship" by defeating Logan Seventh 52 to 30. The box score of the contest was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newton</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Pt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Christiansen</td>
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<td>Goodsell</td>
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<td>Griffin</td>
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<td>Anderson</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigby</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Logan Seventh | | | |
Jorgensen | 12 |
Flammar | 1 |
Kellar | 6 |
Christensen | 14 |
Doutre | 6 |
Marsden | 0 |

Even though the box score totals do not add up to 53, it was a decisive win for Newton and The Herald Journal commented that the Newton Club appeared to be better than the Logan Fifth or Mendon teams that played the championship encounter. The newspaper further stated:

Newton, boasting a well-trained group of former North Cache High School cagers, secured high esteem for its 53-39 trouncing of Logan Seventh in the consolation flight. Newton lost but once - on the opening night and that surprised Newton no end, for this club was touted as championship material.

In 1949 the Newton team beat Clarkston 16 to 15, took Smithfield First 38 to 23, nipped Smithfield Third 21 to 19, hammered Smithfield Second 40 to 19, beat Clarkston again 30 to 21, but lost to Smithfield Third 24 to 26. Newton then won over Smithfield Second 23 to 20 and beat Smithfield Fourth 29 to 22. The second contest was forfeited to Newton and the boys beat Smithfield Fourth twice. This left Newton and Smithfield Third tied and the deciding game was played at North Cache; the game was a real barnburner in which Newton barely won 30 to 29. Tournament play saw Newton lose the opener once again, this time to Richmond North 25 to 29. The team bounced back the
next game to down Preston First 46 to 20, but Logan Fourth bounced Newton out of the tourney with a 34 to 30 win.

In 1950 the "Newton Ward annexed the Smithfield Stake Championship."

In the tourney they even won the first game, a sweaker over Mendon 22 to 21. They followed up with another one point win over Logan Eleventh, then Newton stumbled as Cokeville beat them 25 to 22 and Afton South took their measure 27 to 18. So Newton won sixth place in District Four tournament.

Newton's year was 1951. After defeating Clarkston in a hard struggle, The Herald Journal reported:

Newton M-Men laid claim to 1951 Smithfield stake basketball championship by beating Clarkston recently 31 - 28. . . . Ten wins and no losses is the record compiled by Newton. That victory skein includes two three point victories over Clarkston, who wound up in second place with eight wins and two losses.

The scoring for the Clarkston game went as follows:

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<td>G. Salisbury</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Jones</td>
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</table>

The Howard Hansen coached team with four consecutive stake titles entered the tourney. They easily subdued Franklin 44 to 29 and College Hill 42 to 24. They knocked over Richmond South in a come from behind game 33 to 29. Next they faced Logan Fifth who was shooting for their fourth straight Division Four title. Newton started fast and lead during most of the first half. After halftime the Fifth Ward walked away with the title and a 55 to 39 win. Logan Fifth went to the All-Church tournament and became the first Cache Valley team to win it. The box score for the 1951 championship is as follows:
In 1952 Newton finished behind Clarkston in the stake. In the tournament they lost to Malad 25 to 20, then beat Winder 33 to 27 and Logan Eighth 36 to 30, and in the consolation game they lost to Logan First 18 to 32 to take eighth place. In 1954 Newton finished as stake runner-up. After defeating Preston Seventh 52 to 34 to get into the tournament only to lose the first two games in the tournament - Providence First 28 Newton 26 and Logan First 43 Newton 37.

In 1955 after winning the stake championship, Newton lost first tournament game to Hyrum Third 40 to 39, but came back to take the next three--Newton 56 Downey 48, Newton 29 Winder 26 and Newton 24 Logan Thirteenth 21--to take consolation honors. In 1956 Newton won the stake crown and entered the tourney with high hopes due to inflicting defeats on Logan Third and Hyrum Third in practice games. Newton won the first two games--Newton 52 Clifton 44 and Newton 41 Logan Thirteenth 30--then took on Logan Third in the semi-finals. Newton had a member of its first five foul out early in the second quarter and the Logan team rolled to a 60 - 45 triumph over Newton. Newton defeated Logan First 58 to 42 to take the third spot in the district.

In 1957 Newton, as stake champions, lost the first tourney game to Logan Eighth 57 to 55 then took three in a row -- Newton 55 Weston 38, Newton 45 Logan Eighteenth 42, and Newton 48 Oxford-Clifton 41 -- to win its fourth consolation honor. In 1959 Newton won the stake title. In the district playoffs Newton defeated Logan Fourth 29 to 24, then they tangled with the tourney favorite Logan Eighteenth and lost 60 to 40. Newton won the remaining two games -- Newton 51 Logan Third 35 and Newton 68 Paradise 36 -- to take the tourney’s fourth position.
In 1960 Newton tried once more to earn a berth to the All-Church Tournament. In this year it had two chances to go and lost both. As stake winner and remembering 1959, Newton entered the tourney looking for a rematch with the tourney favorite Logan Eighteenth. Newton beat Providence Second 56 to 27, routed Mendon 79 to 38, and defeated Hyrum Third 53 to 38 to earn another try for the district championship. In the rematch with Logan Eighteenth, Newton lead during the first half and at the end of the third quarter was trailing 38 to 39. But then by way of personal fouls Newton found a problem in losing its players and could not guard the frequent foul shot of the Logan team. Although outscoring Logan from the field, it still was defeated 61 to 44. The box score tells the story.

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Newton had come in second best twice, but this year they were given another chance to go to Provo. The second place winner was to play the winner of the eastern half of Division Four. A strange combination of let down and disappointment of their earlier loss plus a bad case of over-confidence at playing such a small team proved disastrous and Laketown dumped Newton 50 to 43.

In 1961 Newton and Smithfield First ended the season tied for first place. The stake title was decided at North Cache in a foul filled "donnybrook" that saw Smithfield victorious 58 to 56. Entering the tournament Newton won the first two games -- taking Wellsville Second 54 to 41 and Logan First 54 to 48 -- and lost the last two -- Benson 53 Newton 44 and Hyde Park 39 Newton 35. This gave Newton sixth place and was the last time that Newton finished in the tourney.
Basketball reached a new plateau in the Smithfield Stake in 1962, the stake had been heading in this direction for sometime, but this was the year, anything that happens after this time can only be anti-climactic. This is the year that Newton won the stake crown after they had participated in the Division Four tourney as a stake winner. When the regular stake play was over, Newton and Clarkston had identical season records and it appeared that the two would have to engage in a playoff. But no, the stake decided that instead of going on a team’s overall record, the winner would be selected on a two half season record. This was a thunderbolt out of the blue to Newton and Clarkston. This decision threw the stake in a "mess" for by going on halves, a situation was produced where Newton, Clarkston, and Smithfield First were tied for the first half and Newton and Clarkston were tied in the second half. Now time was of a premium as the district tourney was only a week away and how could such a three way involvement be settled equitably. The Smithfield team and the stake athletic director had a ready solution -- why not have Newton and Clarkston play and then Smithfield play the winner to see who was to be the champion. Newton and Clarkston rejected this and protested that this undermined the farce of determining the stake winner on a half basis. The two towns in the west insisted that if the settlement was to be on a half basis, then there must be a playoff between the three teams to see who won the first half, then Newton and Clarkston play to see who won the second half; and then if the halves were won by different teams, a final playoff between the winners of the two halves. This would be a long process but it would make an ex post facto half settlement fair. Smithfield would not accept the latter offer, and it would not even think of settling the winner on overall season records. The quarreling continued while games should have been played with the tourney only a few days away. With no settlement in sight, Clarkston withdrew from the stake contest in disgust, and then Smithfield consented to let Newton enter the district tournament, but it had to play off the stake championship afterwards. Hence Newton went to the tournament and beat River Heights 66 to 38 and Logan Fourth 61 to 59. Then in the semi-final Logan First edged Newton 53 to 51.
Since the district tourney was changed from a double to single elimination tournament for all but first round losers, this one loss eliminated Newton. Logan First played USU Second for the championship.

Now the stake championship had to be settled, and since Clarkston had unhappily withdrawn, this left Newton and Smithfield First. The two met at the Smithfield Armory to engage in battle and when Newton inquired of a stake councilman as what this game was to decide, they were told that the winner would be stake champions. Newton, who had only half of their team there due to shift work at Thiokol, protested that the only reason Smithfield was in consideration was due to the stake settlement on a half basis and that this first game was to determine who was to be the winner of the first half. This argument was accepted and in the game Smithfield defeated Newton. The following night Smithfield, the first half winners, again faced Newton, the second half winners. Newton, with all its players present, had an easy time in downing the First Ward, even though the Smithfield Stake athletic director charged onto the floor while the ball was in play to try and throw a Newton player off the court. Coach Norval Jones, whose team had a large lead and just over a minute to play, told the referees that if a person could come onto the floor and eject one of his players, the whole team would leave. Another person walked over to one of the referees while all the excitement had delayed the game and asked him what that "wild man" was doing on the floor. So the athletic director was ejected from the floor and Newton finished the work at hand and thus won its strangest and most bitter stake championship.

In 1965 as the stake runnerup, Newton entered the district tournament and was beat 84 to 52 by Providence First. Since the tournament was a single elimination except for first round losers, Newton played a second game and was defeated again by the same score of 84 to 52, this time at the hands of Logan Second. In 1967 Newton was again the winner of the stake for the thirteenth time. In the Zone 11 playoffs Newton lost the opening round 63 to 43 to Logan Fourth. Then they came back to down Mapleton 56 to 38 only to be eliminated in the semi-final 67 to 59 by Richmond. In
1968 Newton was stake runnerup and represented the stake in the district or zone tournament for the nineteenth time. In the opening round they defeated Richmond 57 to 53, then were eliminated by Smithfield First, the stake champions, by a score of 46 to 48.

**Newton in tournament play**

The Herald Journal gave the best description of Newton's performance in tourney play when it stated, "Newton, for many times a bridesmaid but never a bride." The Newton M-Men never realized their hopes of participating in the All-Church tournament. All they had to do three times was win the last game, but good fortune smiled on their opponents. They came in second twice, received consolation prize four times, third once, fourth once, sixth twice, and eighth once.

**No Sportsmanship Trophies for Newton**

Newton has been accused, especially at the stake level, of being rough and sometimes the word "dirty" is thrown in. But Newton plays a different type of basketball only in the fact that they play a Jay Whitman brand which is give it all the team has got. When this has been coupled with players who were fairly big, it has been mistranslated into the term "dirty." Newton plays it hard but it never has tried to win by deceit, forfeit or manipulation. Contrary to some of the efforts of the Smithfield Stake teams, Newton wants to win on the court and not try other devices. A good example of Newton's true sportsmanship is shown in the following account. In the 1951 Division Four semi-finals Newton faced Richmond South with the winning team to play the next game for the championship. "Newton trailed Richmond South until the last quarter." While leading, Richmond, which had only six players, lost Leon Webb and a second player by fouls. This left Richmond with only four eligible players. Even though his Newton team was behind, player-coach Howard Hansen would not play a team with the disadvantage of having only four players. Being extremely generous he told the referees that not only the last player to foul out could continue but that Richmond could play any of its team. It goes almost
without saying that Leon Webb, the former North Cache player and Richmond's leading scorer, was put back into the game. In the closing minutes of the game Newton "came from behind" to defeat a fully staffed Richmond team 33 to 29.

Newton went on to play Logan Fifth and was defeated to take second place. Newton did not receive the sportsmanship trophy, but the team that did played either one or two of its games in which its opponents were forced to play with four players. The team with the "best sportsmanship" considered winning over four players more important than the Newton philosophy, "Whether we win or lose we will play them at their best."

Mr. Basketball

Newton has had many fine basketball players and several good coaches. But the man who has done the most for sports and especially for basketball in Newton was Howard Hansen. Howard, a star athlete at North Cache and at the Utah State Agricultural College, played and coached for several years at Newton. Affectionately known as "Hook", after his favorite shot, he was the one who gave Newton's basketball fortunes the boost that began in 1946 and has carried over to the present. As a player, Hook's performances was described by The Herald Journal in the consolation game of the District Four Tournament in these words: "Hansen again achieved starring honors by making 20 points, playing an indefatigable floor game, and rustling the ball with abandon."

As a coach, often a player-coach, his teams were well trained and disciplined and functioned as a unit. Under his direction Newton became the best team in the Smithfield Stake and made good showings in the district tournaments. Newton could not have acquired a better coach for its team even if it had tried to hire one at a large salary. One player paid the tribute to his coach by relating that the practice sessions were so grueling that the games were easier and were looked forward to.

Howard's greatest contribution came as he influenced many young men to love the game of basketball. This influence came at watching him
play, by his talking about the sport that he loved, and by his work with boys as their coach and friend. Several Newton boys who were full of mischievousness and were plaguing the town were caught up by his influence and forgot their old ways and used their energies on the basketball court. Newton was fortunate to have such an individual as Howard Hansen numbered among her citizens.

**Explorer and Jr. M-Men basketball**

Members of Newton's Explorer Post played a few games in the 1930's but it was not until the 1940's that an organized schedule and tournaments were set up for the boys. Newton's fortune in Explorer or Senior Scout ball came in 1949 when Newton entered the tournament and won two games while losing two to take eighth place. The Claude Petersen coached team returned in 1950 and won the stake championship. Entering the tourney, they defeated Logan Third 28 to 16, beat Logan Fourth 21 to 14, and took Lewiston Third 21 to 16. Playing Paradise for the championship, Newton lost a heartbreaking double overtime contest by a score of 31 to 28.

In 1951 Claude Petersen's team swept the stake and entered the Cache Valley Scout Tournament. They won their first three games and then faced Mendon for the championship at USAC fieldhouse. Where "a smooth-functioning, deliberate Newton Senior Scout basketball aggregation walked off with top honors." By handing a 23 to 9 defeat to Mendon, this Newton team became the first and, to the present, only Newton team to win a tournament championship. The team members were Myron Benson, Robert Jenkins, George Jones, Don Larsen, Malden Miller, Clayne Benson, Arthur Jenkins and Doyle Sanders.

In 1955 the Explorers were renamed Junior M-Men and an annual All-Church Tournament was set up for leading teams of district playoffs. Newton's first Jr. M-Men team won all its games except the Clarkston game at Newton to win the stake championship. The Max Christiansen coached team made a bid for the All-Church when it entered the district playoff and won its first two games -- beating Lewiston 41 to 21 and Arimo 45 to 14. Then Newton was edged by Winder 33 to 36 and then Newton defeated Logan Fifteenth 49 to 25 to take third place in the district.
In 1956 Newton repeated as stake winners and went into the district tournament. Newton won its first three games -- dumping Winder 38 to 14, defeating Clarkston 53 to 33 and beating Franklin 39 to 34. In the championship game Logan Eighteenth defeated Newton 38 to 30. As the second place team, Newton had the opportunity of representing the stake and ward in the second annual All-Church Jr. M-Men Tournament held in Logan. Newton won its first two games by defeating Orem Fourth 40 to 30 and Las Vegas Sixth 34 to 30, then they lost the next two games by bowing to Pocatello Eleventh 37 to 35 and then Eugene, Oregon, eliminating them in the semifinal by a score of 33 to 27. This team was coached by Max Christiansen and the members were LaMar Ballard, Gordon Jenkins, Michael Maughan, Noel Cooley, Larry Parker, Thomas Anderson, Bruce Jones, Trevor Jones, Ferris Larsen, and Glen Roundy. Through their efforts Newton finally participated in an All-Church tournament.

**Softball**

In the days when the Smithfield Stake played fastpitch, the Newton team won the stake many times but always founder ed in the district tournaments. Newton came the closest to playing in the All-Church Softball Tournament in 1959. In that year it won the stake by beating every team that showed up to play them. But when time came for the tournament, Newton was not entered because the Smithfield Stake told the district that the stake had no teams. Newton and Clarkston had teams all season and it was only the Smithfield teams that quit before the season was completed. When the district discovered this, they found an opening in a tourney at Soda Springs. Newton went there and won the first game and the next night played at Preston and also won. Winning this small tourney gave Newton the opportunity to play the second place team of the Division Four Tournament that Newton should have been in. The winner of this playoff would get to go to the All-Church tournament. The team from Providence destroyed this chance by routing the Newton team with an easy victory.

In the 1960's the stake changed to the slow pitch game, Newton alone voted to retain the fast pitch. Since then Newton's softball fortunes have taken a slight dip and others have usually won the stake championship.
Whence came the Name--Newton

Various persons have been given credit for the name of Newton--the most popular idea being that either President Brigham Young or Bishop William F. Rigby gave it the name. The many accounts vary but as a general rule they state that the settlements were called New Town and after a period of time, this was contracted into Newton. Several of the short histories tell of the period between 1869 and June of 1870 that the old settlement was called "Clarkston Old Town" while the new location was called "Clarkston New Town."

In going into the original accounts, it was discovered that Presiding Bishop of Cache County William B. Preston gave the town the name of "Newton" with its present spelling. This name was given in early March of 1869 when Stake President Peter Maughan and Bishop Preston agreed to the location chosen a week earlier for the relocation of Clarkston. Hence, the name was given before anyone moved to the town. A search of the original sources -- Church records, diaries, letters, Probate Court records and newspaper articles--shows no reference to the town except as "Newton."

The idea of "New Town" does not appear until the second generation as it began to retell the story of Newton and explain whence came the name. While Bishop Preston may have contracted the idea of a new town into the name "Newton", it should now be firmly understood that the town was never called "New Town" or "Clarkston New Town" and that all of the second and third generation histories were trying to explain something when they did not know the full story.
An Early Gentile visit to Clarkston and Newton

In 1873 John Codman from somewhere in the East came to Salt Lake City and spent the summer touring and visiting the various Mormon settlements. He returned to the East and wrote the book *The Mormon Country* telling of his experiences and impressions while among the Mormons.

One very short part of this visit was spent in Cache Valley. He rode the narrow gauge Utah Northern Railroad to Logan. After visiting Logan, he journeyed to Franklin and then to Soda Springs, Idaho. On this portion of his visit he had a companion, Jeff Davis, who was well acquainted with the area and its inhabitants. The two men were making their way to Corinne when the summer evening overtook them as they entered the town of Clarkston. They arrived at 7 p.m. and met Bishop Simeon Smith in his oxwagon. The two visitors talked with the bishop and told him they hoped to spend the night in the town. Thereupon the bishop invited them to "supper." Both of Bishop Smith's wives greeted the two visitors with "pleasantry" and set about getting supper. The bishop arrived to say grace and all sat down to eat milk, bread, and stewed gooseberries, "all of which were very appetizing."

The visitors' horses were put into the corral and given oats and hay. The bishop was called to go to a meeting and since the party planned to leave very early the next morning, they tried to pay the Mormon family for their hospitality, "but neither the Bishop nor Bishopesses would hear of it." A bed was made on the floor of the house where the visitors spent the night.

The next morning before 5 o'clock the visitors were off on their journey and passed through another settlement an hour later. Mr. Codman recorded his passing through Newton with the following words:

The Bishop of that diocese was just coming out, economizing time by buttoning his suspenders on his way to his daily labor.

"That's Bishop Littlewood (Rigby)," said Jeff, "has got four wives, and so many children as you see chickens running 'round here; how he packs them all in that house"--it was a small, one story log cabin--"is what I can't understand myself. I would try to go in and see how he fixes things sometime, if I thought there was room to get inside the door amongst the crowd."
Newton's Military Company

In the first years of the settlement of Cache Valley there existed an Indian threat. The Indians were unhappy about the invasion by the white man. To the natives the newcomers were trespassing upon their rights on their hunting and fishing grounds. Some of the natives like Indian John, a sub chief under Chief Washakie, claimed land that the white man was also claiming and possessing. Indian John claimed all the land west of Bear River. Cache Valley was also one of the main trails for a number of bands of Shoshone Indians who migrated north and south according to their search for food.

The Mormon settlers were posed with a problem of self defense. Although taking Brigham Young's advise about feeding the Indians rather than fighting them, the Cache Valley settlers nevertheless organized a military body under the command of Colonel Ezra T. Benson. The headquarters of this militia was at Logan with smaller units in the outlying towns in the valley. When the Indians appeared threatening, the militia drilled frequently. Most of the Indian troubles were over the stealing of horses and cattle. After the encounter at Battle Creek the real Indian threat was almost gone. The following year Clarkston was settled. Indian John was especially unhappy about the new settlement on "his land." He came to Clarkston one day and demanded 150 head of cattle and several hundred pounds of flour in payment for the settlers squatting on "his land." After much discussing and bargaining the old chief settled for a few beefs and a smaller amount of flour. In 1866 the Clarkston townsite was abandoned, the people moving mostly to Smithfield due to a renewed Indian threat. Early in 1867 the Clarkston people returned and built their homes in such a manner as to form a fort. The militia at Clarkston were drilled and ready to meet any Indian challenge and a signal system gave them a reserve of the other units in the valley if they were needed. But the Indian did not cause any trouble so the settlement of Clarkston Fort survived.

When Newton was settled, one of the military units which had existed at Clarkston Fort came to Newton. This was the company named after Newton's first bishop. The cadre of the company consisted of:

Captain -- W. F. Rigby
Lieutenant -- John H. Barker
1st Orderly Sgt. -- J. C. Gasberg
2nd. Orderly Sgt. -- W. Bell
1st. Corporal -- J. Peterson
2nd. Corporal -- A. Goodsell
Every man in the company—not recorded as to who and how many—provided himself with the necessary arms, ammunition, blankets, provisions, and cooking utensils. The company had infrequent drills at home, probably a result of no Indian threat in the area. Until 1875 the company went to Logan annually and joined the parent organization for a three day drill. The last record of Newton's military company is a bulletin to the men planning to attend the fall drill in Logan. The bulletin dated September 20, 1874, states: "All who go to the three day drill pay one dollar each towards buying a tent and other expenses."

Newton's military company was disbanded shortly after the last drill with all the units. Thereafter, Newton used President Young's suggestion that it would be better to feed the Indians than fight them. Realizing that Indian troubles in Cache Valley were largely due to starving Indians stealing the settlers' animals, the people began to feed the Indians when they passed through. As early as 1873 the Newton Relief Society spent $57.00 on "the poor and the Indians." The Newton Ward's fast offering fund of 1875 lists a donation of 50 pounds of flour to the Indians. The same fund for 1877 shows a gift of 175 pounds of flour. Food and other goods given by residents of the town cannot be counted, but many gave from the goodness of their hearts to Indians who asked for aid as they passed through town. A letter written on January 11, 1875, by a resident of Newton gives a glimpse of the situation prevailing at that time. The man wrote "the only people of color we see is the poor Indian when he comes to beg something to eat—and that is not very often."

Newton's Military Company had no encounters with the Indians and the nearest thing to a struggle between Indians and Newtonites came when the Washakie basketball team came over the mountain to give battle to the local five.

Sources: Hovey, pp. 105, 133-144
Barker, Letters of Jan. 11, 1875.
Newton Ward Historical Record (Book 72529), pp. 30, 80, 101, 139.
A Gypsy's Prophecy or Curse

A notation in the Journal History of the Church for September 20, 1883, states, "Newton is a fast growing town. Among the improvements I noticed that Mr. Amos Clarke has erected a commodious dwelling house. Mr. John Jenkins has made a very respectable addition to his residence, and a new building is being pushed forward upon the city lot of Bishop W. F. Rigby."

The new building was a very large house being constructed of sandstone. It was located on the lot east of Bishop Rigby's first rock home. Some time during 1883 while Bishop Rigby was working on the new building, a gypsy came through Newton and stopped at Bishop Rigby's home and asked for some food. When the bishop refused to give any food, the gypsy put a curse upon the house that the bishop was building saying that it would never be completed. This account of the gypsy has been passed down by way of family stories: if it is basically correct, it is unique and interesting. The gypsy's prediction has proved correct for over 85 years.

Bishop Rigby left Newton in 1884 with the house still being unfinished. Michael Anderson and M. T. Beck bought the home from the bishop, but they likewise did not complete it. In about 1900 Hyrum Larsen purchased the house and before he started to work on the house, he was able to store a steam engine in the house by driving it in the place where the east front window would later be installed. In 1913 or 1914 he started to work on the house. He tore down a wooden room on the east side of the rock house. He tore down the gables and brought the rock to a square and then put up the four slope roof that is covering the building today. Hyrum did a lot of work on the house but did not finish it.

Some time after Hyrum's death, his daughter Arta sold the home and then repossessed it. Recently the house was sold again. But as 1969 comes around and some 85 years after the gypsy's curse, the building is not completed.

Silk culture and Locust trees

In accordance with the Church's desire to be self-sufficient, the early pioneers tried different types of crops and cultures. They raised cotton,
sugar cane, tobacco, and one of the most exotic attempts was that of silk culture. In several areas the culture existed for a short time, but nowhere in Utah did it prosper. The following account tells of Newton's attempt to establish the silk culture.

On May 8, 1878, Sister Elisa R. Snow and her company made an official Church sponsored visit to Newton. She commented about the progress that had been made in the new settlement. She was especially pleased to see the fine nursery of trees in Bishop Rigby's lot, but was "rather sorry there were no mulberry trees." She advised the sisters in town to get mulberry trees and plant and care for them. Then she felt the Newton sisters could get some silk worms and provide silk for their needs.

It took sometime before the sisters attempted the experiment with the silk culture. In the spring of 1897 the first step was taken with the purchase and planting of "mulberry trees" but as a man related to the Logan Journal in June of 1897 the experiment was nipped in the bud.

While speaking of trees, let me relate a joke played on our good sisters recently; they are all interested in silk culture, and to make a start bought 500 mulberry seedlings this spring. The sisters had those trees divided among them and planted and tended to them with much care; but lo and behold! When they leaved out every blessed one proved to be a locust tree. Mr. Editor, do you know if silk worms will feed on locust leaves? If not, that nursery man had better steer clear of Newton.

So Newton ended up with no silk but with plenty of locust trees and some suspicious ladies for this was the second time within a year that they had been taken in. On October 22, 1896, the following newspaper article explained the first time.

Have you not seen him? Who--why that big fat, smooth-tongued sharper, who did Newton up in great style about three weeks ago. The fellow was selling Catarrh cure at $2.00 per box and then he had hundreds of samples of fine cashmere dress goods from which our ladies could have their choice of a piece for a dress free. The money was paid and purchasers received the medicine, worth perhaps 25 cents while the dress goods would be delivered a week later. And alas! That's the last of it. Our ladies are still waiting for their pretty dresses, so if you see the fellow, send him this way.
Public Square

The location for the public square was selected in early March of 1869. In 1873 the first public building, the rock schoolhouse, was started on it. In 1887 the construction began on the Meeting House, and about this time the public square began to be transformed. First, it ceased to be the place where the people's cows were assembled before turning them over to the herder for the day. Second, the people were desirous of adding more beauty to their town, and with the finishing of the new Meeting House and a sizeable addition to the schoolhouse in 1892 to 1893 period, the people began to consider the public square as the place to start. Accordingly the members of the Newton Ward decided in December of 1895 to purchase material and build a picket fence around the square. In 1896 the fence was built, having a swinging gate at each corner that allowed people to walk through, and on the north and south sides of the square in approximately the middle of the block, gates were installed that allowed vehicles into the square.

Further beauty came with the planting of trees on the square. In February of 1897 Apostle F. W. Lyman told the people to beautify their square "by planting some good hardwood trees that would benefit both for shade and the value of wood." The following May 230 trees were purchased and planted. There was a few trees along the ditch banks, but now there was a lot of trees so a person was engaged to water the trees. Nevertheless, many of the trees still died and were periodically replaced. In April of 1909 a hundred more trees were planted on the square. In certain areas of the square, particularly the northwest corner, many trees grew to a fair size. In late July of 1908 a reporter from the Logan newspaper visited Newton and wrote his impressions; a part of his article stated, "The public square is well cared for. Its beautiful shade trees, flower gardens and comfortable seats seem to be much appreciated by the many tourists who visit the place."

But there was also another side to the square. The picket fence was seldom, if ever, painted and was allowed to go without needed repairs for long periods of time. This was especially true after Eric Ecklund was no longer around to keep the fence in repair. The fence and gates were to keep animals from wandering over the square, but they still got in, usually through the
swinging gates, and did some damage. The square did not possess the fine lawn of today but native grasses and even sagebrush. There was enough cover in the square for the boys to play hide and seek as well as pranks on other people. The sagebrush remained on the square for several years into the twentieth century. When the weather was wet, the square presented a problem to people walking unless gravel had periodically been hauled on the roads and walks on the square. There were four main walks that ran diagonally from each corner to the Meeting House.

Changes came to the square with a ball court and a baseball diamond built south of the schoolhouse. The picket fence finally deteriorated to the extent that it was removed. In November of 1929 in preparation for building a new Church house, many of the trees were removed. This upset a few of the older people who had seen the trees planted and cared for, but the trees were in the way of progress and had to go. The new Church house began in 1929 but due to the depression and the war, its completion was greatly delayed. In September of 1936 the area around the Church house was further beautified as a sprinkling system was installed and lawn was planted. In the late 1940's the landscaping of the west half of the square was completed with more lawn, trees and shrubs. In the 1960's the county school district had lawn planted south of the schoolhouse. Thus by 1969 three-fourths of the square has been covered with lawn or buildings or playground. Only the Relief Society lot has not been planted into grass, it being planted in alfalfa.

**Meeting House**

Construction on the Meeting House began in 1887, but the people's intentions to complete it the following summer were frustrated when all efforts had to be expended in repairing the reservoir. In the fall of 1890, six carpenters were hired to assist the donated labor in the hope of finishing the building. On December 3, 1891, the first meeting was held in the unfinished Meeting House. On March 3, 1892, Bishop Funk "urged upon the Brethren the necessity of finishing the new Meeting House and asked the Saints to be liberal in the matter." A year later on March 26, 1893, Counselor Isaac Smith of the Cache Stake Presidency dedicated the Newton Meeting House.
It was situated south and east of the present Church house and the entrance was in the east end with the stand in the west end. The rustic frame building was 38 by 60 feet and contained a single room. Curtains were used to divide the large room into several classrooms. The building was originally heated by a large pot bellied stove that stood in the middle of the room. The building cost $5,000 an early cost is broken down as follows: by January 11, 1892, the cost stood at $2,973.89 of which $1,782.35 was in cash and $1,191.54 in labor.

In the fall of 1898 a Vestry was started at the west end of the building. By February 28, 1899, the people felt it was "about time to go to work and complete the Vestry." On May 15, 1899, priesthood meetings began to be held in the Vestry. But it was not until the fall of 1899 that the Vestry was completed. The Vestry contained two rooms on the main floor and a smaller room upstairs. This addition cost approximately $1,000.00. In 1905 the Meeting House was painted and papered and new carpet was furnished for the stand and aisles. This carpet was rolled up when dances were held.

In 1914 the Meeting House was remodeled and a "T" was added to the east end. The stand or stage was put in the "T" with two rooms under the stage. One room was used as a classroom and the other as a furnace room. The warm air from the furnace came from under the stage and the air returned by a screened hole in the middle of the floor in the main room. On the stage there were two dressing rooms. In the other end of the building the partition in the Vestry was removed and the entrance was made in the west end, two new glass doors were installed and cement steps were poured. Just inside the doors, two rest rooms were built, one in each corner. The addition and remodeling cost $3,000 with another $1,000 going for plumbing fixtures and expense in connecting water lines to the building. The new building now had basic dimensions of 38 feet wide, excluding the "T," and 118 feet long.

At this time or possibly a little earlier a new hardwood floor was installed in the main portion of the building. Then to protect the floor, a large canvas was used to cover it so the benches would not scuff the floor. Again when dances were held the benches were removed and the canvas rolled up.
In the 1910's screens were placed over the windows and baskets were installed so basketball could be played in the building. In the fall of 1924 a new heating plant was installed in the Meeting House.

In January of 1929, a few hours after a "moving picture show," the building caught fire and burned to the ground. Between 1929 and 1948 work commenced and continued periodically on the Newton Church house. The new structure would only be called a meeting house by the older people who were so conditioned to the old name.

Tithing Office and Granary

In the fall of 1884 under Bishop Funk's direction "16 or 18 teams" went to the sawmills in Logan Canyon to haul lumber for the "erection of a tithing house." This first building was a tithing granary. A short time later work began on a tithing office which was completed and dedicated on October 15, 1893. The granary was of wood construction, while the office was made out of red brick. Here the bishop would receive the tithing of the ward members. Before this the bishop collected tithing at several places, some at the Meeting House, some at his home, and from 1876 to 1883 all stock given for tithing was received at the "United Order Corral," as was stock donated for the temple and the emigration fund. After 1896 all fast offering donations paid in produce were received the Monday after fast meeting. These tithing buildings were located on the lot where the service station and Amos Rigby's home now stands. The granary was eventually purchased by a farmer and moved to the east side of the same block. The tithing office was also purchased and addition was made to it and it served as a store room; part of the tithing office continued to serve as a store or living area until 1965 when the new post office was being built. During the building the walls of the old tithing office collapsed.

Music

Choir

The first organized music came from Newton's choir which was formed on August 10, 1873, when Bishop W. F. Rigby appointed Alfred Goodsell to be the leader of the choir. Little is known of this choir or how long Alfred Goodsell
was the leader as he left Newton for a few years in 1877. Perhaps the choir was reorganized at the time he left if not before.

The next choir leader was Amos Clarke who started with a choir of about twenty members. Mr. Clarke, who studied the rudiments of music in Wales, brought the first organ to Newton. He purchased the Mason and Hamlin from one of Brigham Young's families. He often hauled his organ to the schoolhouse so the choir could put on concerts. Several of these concerts helped raise funds to purchase an organ that was installed in the new Meeting House in the 1890's. Brother Clarke was also Sunday School and Ward Chorister for many years. He wrote a song "Hark! The Children Sweetly Sing" which was published in the Deseret Union Sunday Song Book. His son, L. George Clarke wrote the following about his father.

He was very fond of music and when a boy spent his evenings with friends who were able to instruct him in the rudiments of music. He served nearly forty years as chorister of the Newton Sunday School and Ward choir. He traveled from town to town to teach the children the songs of Zion in preparation for the Sunday School jubilees which were sometimes held in Logan and alternating in Newton, Clarkston and Weston." When he found a song he wanted to use, instead of asking the choir to buy books so they could have one to sing from, he copied it for them in a book.

After Amos Clarke died in 1918 the Newton choir experienced years of active performances intermingled with years of inactivity. Einer Pedersen led the choir for many years and his successor Aileen Barker for several years. Since then the choir has only performed a few times.

Orchestra

Newton had an orchestra organized in 1890 which played for the local dances plus a few outside engagements. Jens N. Hansen was its leader as well as playing the lead violin. John James played second violin, James P. Hansen the cornet and Nephi Hansen the bass fiddle.

Also in 1890 a Martial Band was organized and provided music for celebrations, weddings, and meetings. Samuel Clarke was the leader and a fife player of the original band; the other fife players were Dave and Mose Christensen, Peter and Joseph Jenson, William F. Hensen and Senus Johnson.
J. M. Larsen and Nephi Christensen played the picalos and Hyrum M. Larsen played the bass drum and Joseph J. Larsen played the snare drums. The band performed while Newton celebrated Utah's entry into statehood on January 4, 1896. The band was at its best in celebrations where it could play and march without any restrictions. The band lost its leader first by a mission and then by death, and several other members moved from town and were replaced by others.Shortly before the group disbanded, it performed in the Fourth of July celebration in 1902. The Newton correspondent to The Journal wrote the newspaper that the highlight of the parade was "our martial band." The same day following the parade, patriotic meetings and dinner were held and the martial band performed drill exercises as a part of the afternoon entertainment.

In January of 1904 Bishop M. C. Rigby, feeling the community needed an orchestra or string band, called the following men to form an orchestra: William F. Jensen, Jr., Henry Parsons, James Neilson, Eli Hansen, Horace Jenkins, Wilford Jenkins and Edmund Jenkins. The Ward helped the players purchase their musical instruments on the condition that they pay it back only if they played for money.

Brass Band

In 1911 a brass band was organized with George Ecklund as leader. The band mainly played for celebrations and dances. On February 5, 1914, the band assembled at the Meeting House and "stood before the camera." The photograph of this band is included among the pictures in this book.

A Third Orchestra

In late 1912 or early 1913 a new orchestra formed that had Eli Hansen playing the violin, W. R. Jones the coronet, Wilford Jenkins the trombone, George Ecklund and Parley Rigby the clarinets, and Mrs. Laura Z. Sloan the piano.

Piano Teacher

The first piano teacher in Newton was probably Mrs. Laura Z. Sloan, a convert from Australia. In March of 1912 the Thatcher Music Company gave her a piano and she began giving lessons in her home.
Cache Valley Winters

The valley's reputation for its winters paint diabolically opposing pictures. The early fur trappers maintained that Cache Valley usually had a mild winter climate and thus many of them wintered in the area. Captain Howard Stansbury of the United States Army in his 1849 survey of the Great Salt Lake Region was impressed by the valley, feeling that the winters were open enough to permit almost year round grazing. Captain Stansbury recommended the wintering of the stock at Fort Hall, Idaho Territory in Cache Valley.

While the opinions and observations of the trappers and Captain Stansbury are not necessarily wrong, Cache Valley is also noted for having severe winters. Whether the severe winters are the exception or the rule is beyond the scope of this work, but the following accounts will describe those winters that were harsh.

In the fall of 1849 the government drove its stock from Fort Hall to winter them in the valley. The long cold winter of 1849-1850 saw about half of the stock perish.

In 1855 Brigham Young suggested to cattle owners that Cache Valley was an excellent area for grazing and that a company should be formed to take a good portion of the cattle to Cache Valley. By fall nearly 3,000 head of stock had been driven into the valley. The decision was made that the stock could be wintered in the valley, but the winter of 1855-1856 was a very severe one. The snow started early in November and before long the forage was exceedingly scarce and difficult to get. As the company had only a little hay, the herders became fearful that the stock would starve before spring. Accordingly, the animals that were in the best condition were rounded up and driven through Sardine Canyon to winter at the mouth of the Weber River. The drive through the canyon was difficult, and because of a heavy snowfall, the herders had to drive the stock day and night to keep the animals alive and the trail open. Of the cattle remaining in the valley many died before spring.

In the summer of 1856 Peter Maughan led the first party of permanent settlers into Cache Valley. Their first winter was also a severe one. The snow was so deep that trenches had to be dug to the wood-piles where one log was dug up at a time and used for the
fires. Trenches were also dug around the haystacks to keep the cattle off the stacks.

It was the long period of snow cover at Clarkston that brought discontentment among some of the settlers, and they sought an area on the south slopes that corrected to a degree at least the problem of long winters. During the hundred years of Newton's existence two winters are mentioned the most often as being the worst.

Winter of 1873-1874

John H. Barker wrote about this winter as follows:

Last winter was a very bad one, when we all looked for spring to come and the hay was nearly all gone winter stretched out a little longer and lasted until May, and many sheep and cattle died.

John Jenkin's reflections on the same winter substantiate its severity:

The ... winter was very hard, the snow being three feet deep on the level. Feed became so scarce that before spring I fed all the hay I could get and all the straw off the old sheds and still there was no spring in sight. In order to try and save the stock, I broke a trail through the deep snow to the south slope of the Little Mountain, about one and one-half or two miles. Here the snow had blown off and some dry grass could be found. I finally got my cattle and sheep through to the mountains and built a wind break by digging into the side of the mountain and covering it over with brush, and there I stayed night and day, trying to save my stock until spring. I finally saved some of them but my losses were heavy.

Other families had similar experiences as they had trouble keeping their animals alive. Most of the people fed the straw from their sheds, and after all other sources of food were gone, they began searching for southern slopes or wind blown places where the animals might obtain food. The animal losses of the winter of 1873-1874 were probably the highest in proportion to total number of animals that Newton farmers ever suffered.

Winter of 1948-1949

A February report in the Herald Journal stated that the valley was experiencing the "worst weather in Cache history." The snow fall had "set all-time record, with eleven inches falling in November, thirty-one in December, forty-three in January and over fifteen in the first week of February."
One hundred inches of snow had fallen and as of February 7, 1949, there was a snow depth of twenty-nine inches on the level. The worst results of the winter was a snowslide in Bear River Canyon which took the lives of three railroad workers.

Clarkston was isolated for several days on a couple of occasions. A newspaper report accounts the following as happening February 4, 1949:

A busload of North Cache high school students from Clarkston couldn't make it to school yesterday, so the driver turned around from Newton, got only part way home, and then had to call for help. The students remained at Newton homes all night.

Town Mores

The mores and the reaction to them in small Mormon communities are interesting. Today some feel they are provincial and reach back to the "Dark Ages," while others accept these standards as good and true. Whatever stand a person takes today, all will admit that the Church exerted a greater influence in this area in the pioneer era than it does today. Some contrariness existed even in the early years.

A good example of the trend in small town mores is found over the use of liquor. In February of 1877 Bishop William F. Rigby stated that "Newton has been founded 8 years and I have never seen a drunkard here yet." Either Bishop Rigby did not get around or the members of the Ward who had no inhibitions against drinking kept their practice a secret from the bishop. John H. Barker gave the following information which is probably closer to reality than any assumption that there was no defiance of Church standards. Mr. Barker wrote:

There are no . . . billiard saloons, and in fact very few and little of the curses, sins, which so tempt all classes in the so called Christian world, and what there is here of drunkenness and degradation does not parade itself to the public gaze with pride and boldness to miss lead others in the same downward road, a living disgrace to the people, country and Religion where it is practiced--but the little there is here, hides itself as best it can.

In the twentieth century increasing liquor consumption worried many people and some of whom formed the Anti-Saloon League. The League wanted a
stop to the liquor traffic. In compliance to the League's request, January 10, 1909, was observed by most of the churches in Utah as "prohibition day." Newton observed the day and speakers addressed the people on the subject and a resolution was presented and adopted that the people of Newton do all they could to support this measure of prohibition.

The first crucial test of prohibition came in 1911 when the people of the state voted whether they wanted liquor traffic established or forbidden. Prior to the vote on the issue, Newtonites who attended Church services heard talks on temperance and were urged to "banish the liquor traffic from their midst." In the Liquor Election every community in Cache County voted to be "dry." Cache Valley excluding Logan voted 2087 to 452 to be "dry" with almost 60 per cent of the "wet" vote coming from Smithfield. Newton voted 79 to 13 to be "dry."

In 1917 the Prohibition Amendment was ratified and went into effect in January of 1919. Then for a decade and a half only illegal alcohol beverages could be obtained. This provided a market for "home brew" and at holiday dances Newton men, if they wanted to, could slip out to a couple of haystacks and purchase "home brew" from a moonshiner who worked the area. This situation remained until 1933 when in March President F. D. Roosevelt made beer a legal drink by an executive order and asked Congress to repeal prohibition. Congress drew up a proposed Twenty-first Amendment that would repeal the Eighteenth Amendment and sent it to the states for ratification. Many states ratified the proposed amendment immediately. When it came Utah's turn to accept or reject the amendment, there were 35 states which had already accepted it; Utah's acceptance would give the three-fourths majority necessary to ratify an amendment. The people of Utah were allowed to vote their wishes in November of 1933, and one newspaper described the results by stating "Utah jerks dry amendment from Constitution." The southern and northern counties gave a heavy dry vote, but the population centers went strongly wet. In Cache County, Trenton voted 127 to 69, Cornish 53 to 50, Petersboro #2 (Cache Jct.) 21 to 6 all to be wet. The remaining communities voted dry--Logan 2276 to 1652, Clarkston 241 to 35 and Newton 130 to 85.
In the 22 years between 1911 and 1933 the percentage of Newton's wet vote rose from 14 per cent to almost 40 per cent. Although national prohibition was outlawed, local option was allowed and when two men from Newton petitioned the town board to allow the sale of beer in the town, the petition was tabled until July of 1937 when it was finally allowed.

The following will give a brief account of three early incidents in regard to profanity and the general feeling of Church leaders.

On Sunday December 30, 1877, Bishop Rigby spoke in Church and said that he "was sorry that some of our young men were using the name of God in vain and he calculated to try all such for their fellowship."

The following April President Thatcher of the Cache Stake visited Newton and spoke at the service. He got the subject for his talk from the gate which enclosed the farming area around Newton. President Thatcher stated that "if parents taught their children properly such writings of profanity that appeared on the pasture gate would not happen."

In November of 1882 an individual was brought before a Bishop's Court "for profaning the name of Deity." When the court convened Bishop Rigby read the charge and the man acknowledged that he was guilty. Counselor J. H. Barker asked if he had been guilty of the same offense before and the man said he had. Counselor Barker asked if the matter could not be settled without the court. The bishop called upon the offender "to confess his fault and ask his brethren to forgive him."

The man replied that he "had not hurt anybody and he would not ask forgiveness." Bishop Rigby then decided that there was no need of saying anything further and that the court would give its decision. That decision was that the man must "ask forgiveness by making a public confession" and was given a time limit of two weeks, or more drastic action would follow. Two weeks to the day at a meeting of the Church Bishop Rigby told those assembled of the trial and the decision of the court. Thereupon the man "came up to the stand and asked forgiveness" which was granted by his fellow Saints.
Changes in the Ward

In the century of existence several changes have taken place in the Newton Ward, among them are the following:

Fast Meeting

One major change came in the decision of when to hold fast meeting. Originally the meeting was held the first Thursday of each month, this meeting changed in 1896. The Ward received a notice from the First Presidency in November which was read to the congregation at a Church meeting by Amos Clarke. On December 6, 1896, the first Sunday fast meeting was held in the Newton Ward. Bishop William H. Griffin instructed the people that this would be the procedure and that all donations of money were to be paid to the clerk after the meeting, while all donations of produce were to be given the following Monday. Bishop Griffin further counseled that the meeting was for bearing of testimonies but not for "long speeches." Eight months later the bishopric sent a letter to one of the brethren "urging him not to preach on Fast Day but bear his testimony." The letter also instructed him to leave the Godhead alone and speak on the first principles of the gospel to the youth of Zion.

Other changes

One practice that has changed is in regard to donations given to the Ward. In bygone days at the beginning of a new year the clerk would get up in a meeting and read the name and amount paid by each individual. This continued until February 18, 1900, at least. Tithing was not included in this, but fast offering, special assessments, and other donations were included. Today all such donations are kept confidential, thus it is not known by the members the amount paid for contributions.

Other changes include night meetings for auxiliaries began in 1887. After 1890 with the elimination of the peculiar economic and social system--United Order and polygamy--the Word of Wisdom was stressed, making it one of the principles that make Mormons distinctive. In the first decade of the twentieth century boys began collecting the Ward donations instead of girls. The new century saw the Mutual Improvement Association begin to hold meetings during the middle of the week instead of Sunday nights.
From 1896 to 1933 there was a branch of the Newton Ward at Cache Junction, and Alto was also a branch of the Newton Ward. For a short period Trenton was also a branch of the Newton Ward.

Temples and Missionaries

**Temple Missionary**

Moroni Jenkins served as a temple missionary working on the Salt Lake Temple from April to September of 1876. "He was to be paid by Newton, Clarkston and Weston." He worked 90 days at $2.00 per day and his tools were furnished by the communities. Newton and Clarkston each paid two-fifths of his wage, while Weston paid one-fifth.

Newton was asked for a contribution to assist in constructing this temple that was forty years in being built. The only record found as to a contribution being made—others were undoubtedly made—was in May of 1892 just prior to the placing of the capstone on the temple. The Newton saints were urged during a Church meeting to give freely to aid in the completion of this temple. That day $21.50 was collected and "much more promised."

**Logan Temple**

In May of 1877 President Young came to Logan for the ground breaking ceremonies for the Logan Temple. The Salt Lake Temple after a quarter century of construction was not complete and would not be for another fifteen years, but Northern Utah was to have their own. The temple was completed in the spring of 1884 and dedicated on May 13, 1884. The temple cost approximately $600,000. Of this amount the Church appropriated $37,000 while the people in Cache Valley and Northern Utah donated the rest in cash, labor and supplies.

In August of 1878 Jonas N. Beck reported to the Deseret News that the inhabitants of Newton were "donating liberally to the temple." Newton's free will offering for the Logan Temple which was started May 28, 1877, totalled $2,837.01 by the end of 1879. By April 1, 1880, it had risen to $3,090.03. While this was a good contribution from a settlement only a decade old, it still was only 55 per cent of the donation from Clarkston. In
December of 1880 the Ward tried to get each family to pay fifty cents a month on the temple. So Newton's total cash donation went still higher. Newton also had many men who went to Logan and stayed for periods of time working on the temple.

Dixie Missionary

Christian H. Larsen spent three years in Brigham City after immigrating to Zion in 1868 from Denmark. Then in 1873 he moved his family to Newton where his wife's stepfather Lars N. Christensen lived. He and his wife Mary Anne had two young sons born at Brigham City and in September of 1873 a third son was born at Newton. For this young family Chris had built a small log cabin and had acquired twenty acres of farm land and was just getting a start in Newton.

In 1874 Bishop W. F. Rigby received a call from President Brigham Young urging him to encourage a few families to move to Utah's Dixie for the purpose of colonizing the southern part of the state. Chris was the only one from Newton to make the move. He probably had fewer ties to Newton, but there was probably no one who was more ill prepared to make such a venture.

On September 20, 1874, the following motion was made and approved by the body of the Priesthood.

That the citizens of Newton be taxed according to the last assessment rolls to buy C. Larsen a new wagon to go on his mission with. And we take therefor his land and water claim in the South field 20 acres of land and 15 acres of water.

Accordingly the Co-op store and twenty-one men raised $145.60 to buy the "Dixie Missionary Wagon." The wagon was purchased in the fall of 1874, and the total cost including a cover plus interest to the date of payment came to $145.60. In February of 1875 the Priesthood decided "that the Chris Larsen farm... may be sold for 75 cents on the dollar down and the balance in the fall." The 20 acres of land and 15 acres of water right were sold March 8, 1875, to J. P. Nelson for $145.60. By November of 1876 all who had helped purchase the wagon had been repaid in full.

The Larsen family--Chris, Mary Anne, sons Lorenzo, Hyrum and
Joseph—Mary Anne's sister Annie Christensen began their 400 mile journey south in the fall of 1874. A cow that started the journey only made it as far as Brigham City before sore feet caused Chris to sell her. The family sojourned in southern Utah and northern Arizona for ten years and a thorough coverage of their experiences is beyond the scope of this work. The following excerpts from the biography of Christian Hansen Larsen written by his daughter Mary Ann Larsen Dowdle will give an insight to some of the experiences.

"After a long weary journey, they arrived in St. George, where they remained for five weeks, after which they were transferred to Pipe Spring, the famous Windsor Castle which was the headquarters for much of the Church cattle and also played an important part in the life of President Antoine Ivins. In the spring of 1875, they moved to Mocassin Springs, here their first daughter, Mary, was born. These two later places were isolated on the desolate southern waste, just over the Arizona line. Mocassin Springs was a famous Indian trail, over which the Indians made migrations in the season to gather pine nuts or to enjoy a social event with a neighboring tribe, or perhaps only a community gathering, in either event, Mocassin Springs was always a stopping place.

"Shortly after the stay here, Christian was sent 70 miles on an errand to House Rock Valley for dairy equipment. It was necessary for him to be gone six days. On the second day he met a band of nearly 100 Navajo Indians. Indians were not always friendly; they had recently committed many depradations... Christian's apprehensions at meeting the Indians proved to be groundless, but he felt anxious for the safety of the family which he had left unprotected. Mary Anne was washing on a washboard when the first band of Indians came in sight. When they arrived, they unceremoniously entered the door and as usual asked for something to eat. A little corn meal was all she had. This she shared with them, hoping they would then vacate; but they kept coming in until about thirty-five had entered the room. The small room was thoroughly jammed and there was a decided smell of Indians. Mother (Mary Anne) was sitting with the youngest child on her knee and one on either side of her. A stalwart brave walked up besides her and said something, which of course, she could not understand. At the same time, the brave unbuttoned his shirt and exposed
his chest. He led in a good natured laugh, and with his forefinger traced upon
the boy's chest a form of a cross. He perhaps meant well, but Mary Anne could
not interpret his motive. Great beads of perspiration stood out upon her face
and arms. She was completely at their mercy. They finally asked for a kettle
she had in use which she refused them. They took another without permission
and moved out. After a hurriedly prepared meal and a short rest, they moved
on. Early the next morning a loud rap at the door awakened her. Upon looking
up she saw several dark faces peering thru the window. She ran quickly to the
door and with her body braced against it, she dressed hurriedly. By this time
another band had arrived. They proved to be very friendly, however, but were
amused at her apparent fright.

"Early in the year of 1875 they moved to Kanab, Kane Co., Utah. They
rented a home from a Mr. Noble for a short time where they lived while Christian
built a small cabin of rough lumber with no lining or plaster. A small lean-to of
willows was built on one side to serve as another room. In the fall of 1876,
Christian and his family, which consisted of his wife, Lorenzo, Hyrum, Joseph,
Mary and his sister-in-law, Annie Christensen, went north. They remained in
Brigham City that winter, returning to Kanab in the spring of 1877 . . . .

"Christian built a rock house in which was built a fireplace. He sold
the old grey horses that had served him so long for $100.00 in greenbacks to
help pay for the house. Soon after this he traded half of the pasture land which
was located north in the canyon for a yoke of oxen . . . . They used these oxen
for all kinds of farm work; they used them for hauling wood and cedar posts from
the canyon, for plowing, and harrowing. Lorenzo would hold the plow while Hyrum
would walk by the side and crack the whip.

"Their house was in the northwest part of town, the first one as they
entered the valley. The Indians often camped nearby and many times the Indian
boys played with the boys of Christian and Mary Anne. The older Indians would
often come and chat with Christian. Sometimes it was difficult for them to under­
stand each other. Christian made several friends among them. They were often
amused that Christian and Mary Anne could speak a different language than the
other white men. One old Indian was known as "What Do You Want" . . . .
Old "What Do You Want" kept a bundle of things in our house for a long time, he
seemed to be afraid that someone would take it, so he brought it here for safe keeping. He would bring some parcel and put into it and take another out; we never knew what it contained. It was always kept up in the loft and because Christian's daughter, Mary Ann usually got it for him, he called her his papoose and said that he was going to give her a bow and arrow, but Mary Anne was very nervous about it knowing how tricky the Indians were. She often feared that he would kidnap their daughter. When we moved away, Christian told him we were going and that he better take his bundle, but he wouldn't believe him and the bundle was left in the house when we left.

"Christian managed and operated a tannery at Kanab, Utah, which had been built for the United Order. Here, hides were tanned into all kinds of leather. A very good product was made. Most of it was hauled to Salt Lake City and sold. Mary Anne was credited with having introduced the Indian Cling peach in Kanab . . . ."

After spending ten years in the southern part of the territory, the Larsen family desired to return to Northern Utah. When Christian received his release from President John Taylor, he sold his home for a span of mules, a used wagon and an old set of harness. He was never to receive some $425.00 in cash due him for property sold. Then the family left Kanab the first part of May, and three weeks later they arrived in Newton.

**Newton's First Missionary**

As the above accounts have described, Newton had temple and colonization missionaries in the early 1870's, but the first missionary called to go out and preach the gospel came in the fall of 1878. On November 5th a social gathering was held in the schoolhouse in honor of Jonas N. Beck who was called to be a missionary to the Southern States Mission. The purpose of the meeting was to bid farewell and "presenting means--$100, a watch and 'other means." As of 1878 Jonas N. Beck was the "first and only missionary called from the area west of Bear River." The next missionary from Newton was not called until the fall of 1882. The first missionary from Clarkston was called in February of 1883.
### Missionaries from Newton

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>William E. Jenkins</td>
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<td>Sterling Rigby</td>
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<td>Clark Anderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth Cooley</td>
<td>Central American</td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence Goodsell</td>
<td>Great Lakes</td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Barker</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Sanders</td>
<td>Southern States</td>
<td>1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Cooley</td>
<td>Northern California</td>
<td>1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Roundy</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Benson</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlene Jenkins</td>
<td>Great Lakes</td>
<td>1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Val Rasmussen</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brent Ballard</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Benson</td>
<td>Mexican</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Anderson</td>
<td>Northern Mexican</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Roundy</td>
<td>Canadian</td>
<td>1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Rigby</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Roundy</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Clarke</td>
<td>Northern California</td>
<td>1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Griffin</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyle Ballard</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1968</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

William F. Rigby Sr., first bishop of Newton, but who had moved to the Snake River country of Idaho in 1884, went on a year and a half mission to England in 1886 "to flee from religious persecution." Shortly after his return, he was arrested for unlawful cohabitation and served five months in the state prison.

James A. Hansen served a mission to Norway in the early 1890's. After his wife died he sold a piece of land and went on a six month mission.

John E. Griffin served in the Southern States Mission from 1896 to 1898. Later he served a "Mutual Mission" in the Bighorn District of Wyoming.

Samuel Clarke was the only missionary from Newton who died on his mission, but several others claimed that their health was seriously impaired during their stay in other climates. Sam left for his mission the same year that two Newton boys volunteered for the armed services. There was great concern over the safety of Peter Jensen and Oscar Jones, the Spanish-American War volunteers. They returned home safely while Sam, no one except possibly his family were concerned over his preservation, came home in a coffin.

Joseph Neilson started his mission in Norway in 1914 but with the
outbreak of World War I, the missionaries were forced to leave Norway; so he completed his mission in Alabama.

Amos Clarke spent part of 1894 in northern Wales on a Genealogical Mission.

Between the fall of 1878 and the fall of 1968 Newton has sent out 112 missionaries while Clarkston, a town of comparable size and religious orientation, has sent 160 in the years between 1883 and 1964. If Newton's century of existence is taken as a base, then the Ward has averaged a little over one per year. However, in actuality there is an ebb and flow in missionary work. Approximately half of the missionaries from Newton have departed in the last three decades for their missions. This can be attributed in part to the greater affluence of the people and the large population of the town. Add to this the fact that the early years of a settlement are hard and all hands are needed at home, and also the Church has given greater stress to missionary work in the post World War II period. Missionary work has also been slowed by World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the conflict in Viet Nam. During these periods great restrictions have been placed upon young men entering the mission field when they are also eligible and needed by the armed services. At present the Church is under a quota system.

The missionaries have written a fine chapter in Newton's history; they will be called upon to do so during the next century also.

Celebrations

July 3, 1875

The Fourth, falling on Sunday, was celebrated on Saturday, July 3rd, whereby American Independence was celebrated with a full day of activities. The celebration was initiated by the "usual flag raising and salutes, etc." Followed thereafter by a parade composed primarily of Sunday School children marching which caused one man to report to the local newspaper that the "procession showed that Newton was honoring the great commandment--'Be fruitful and multiply.'" After the parade a meeting was held in the recently constructed rock schoolhouse. It was "decorated with
evergreens and pictures" for this was a "general holiday." At the meeting several children recited poems and stories, then Bishop Rigby, "orator of the day, delivered a spirited oration."

The afternoon brought a children's dance and various sports and games for spectators and participants alike. The day closed with an adult's dance. On this occasion funds were solicited for the Sunday School so the new schoolhouse could be adequately supplied for the Sunday School scholars.

Pioneer Day--1876

Next to the period between Christmas and New Year, July was the biggest month for celebrating. The July of 1876 saw a rousing celebration for the Fourth, with focus being made upon country, Constitution, liberty and freedom, and the Declaration of Independence. Three weeks later the focus was changed somewhat as attention was directed to Mormon history. A great effort was made to impress upon the young people the importance of the Mormon pioneers migrating to Utah.

The holiday was solemnized by a meeting in the morning attended by a large number. After singing by the choir, Bishop W. F. Rigby gave a talk in which he reviewed the history of the Mormon pioneers. William H. Griffin, A. P. Welchman and Sister Parsons also addressed the audience.

In the afternoon sports and amusements were offered. Afterwards the Sunday School scholars marched to the schoolhouse. "About 105 juveniles" were seated at tables and partook of refreshments prepared by their parents. After the refreshments a "few pounds of candy" were distributed to the children. The declared purpose of the meeting, the refreshments and the candy was that for the children. "It will be a means of impressing on their minds the purpose and objects of celebrating the 24th of July."

In the evening the choir entertained the citizens of Newton with songs, recitations, and dialogues. The reporter concluded his summation of the gala occasion by proudly pointing out that "no drunkedness, profanity or other improper conduct was indulged in by anyone."
July 4, 1902

This celebration shows the growth of Newton. With the pioneering era behind them, they were able to exhibit the developments of this change. The parade still had its marching Sunday School children but more fancy floats were coming out each year. The highlight of the 1902 parade was it being led by "our martial band, followed by a finely decorated wagon containing 14 young ladies all dressed in white and representing the Goddess of Liberty and the 13 original colonies."

As usual a meeting was held after the parade; no real celebration in Newton could be without one. In the afternoon, besides the "sports and races," the people were treated to a procession of "our military company," the martial band performing its drill exercises. And if meetings were necessary for a general celebration, the dance was a must and the day ended on that note.

July 4, 1909

The celebration began with the traditional flag raising and salute followed by a short parade. At 10 o'clock a meeting was held in the Meeting House highlighted by Soren Peterson reading the Declaration of Independence and the "house was filled to overflowing with good people who were treated to lemonade by a company of boys." A children's dance was held between 2 and 4 p.m., while sporting events filled the afternoon for the outdoor lovers. The Newton baseball team toppled the Clarkston nine by a score of 15 to 3. The days events closed with a dance in the evening to "a full house."

July 24, 1947

In commemoration of the centennial of the Mormon Pioneers' entrance into the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, the Saints of Newton had a good old fashion celebration. A lively parade entertained all with its "Bachelor Wagon" being the main attraction. In reality it was a two seat white top buggy driven and occupied by the avowed bachelors of Newton. All but one of the "baches" were young men recently out of high school or the armed services. The only one of Newton's older single men was James Miller. The one individual who has still remained single refused to ride in the wagon saying, "I'm only 42."
It goes almost without saying that all of them abandoned their vows and gave up the blessedness of bachelorhood for the cares and responsibilities of husbands.

Another entry of great interest was the old Jeffrey automobile that belonged to Hyrum Larsen and put into running condition for the parade by LaVoir Dowdle.

The afternoon brought a baseball game, children's activities and plenty of refreshment. The latter proved to create some excitement when some of the young boys obtained pieces of dry ice used to keep the soda pop cold. The boys put their nickels on the dry ice and then purchased a soda pop and paid for it with the "hot nickel." When the person receiving the payment picked up the nickel, he soon dropped it as it burned his fingers from being so cold.

Cache Valley Centennial

June 2, 1956 was Newton's day in the series of celebrations that were held in Cache Valley to commemorate the centennial for the valley. People and floats from the other parts of the valley came to add their support to the celebration. The following is a copy of the printed program.

CACHE VALLEY CENTENNIAL
AT NEWTON IS JUNE 2, 1956
We Are Celebrating the Building of the First Reservoir for Irrigation in America
We Invite All to Join Us on That Day.

EVENTS

9:30 a.m. Parade--Six Blocks
10:30 a.m. Lively Program in the Church House
2:00 p.m. Children's Dance and Sports
3:00 p.m. Ball Game
7:30 p.m. Operetta
9:00 p.m. Adult Dance till 12:00 p.m.

Those in Charge--
Mayor W. A. Cooley J. J. Larsen
D. R. Clarke Mary J. Rigby
Madge Ballard

In Charge of Parade--Harlow Griffin
Dance--C. W. Jorgensen
Ball Game and Concessions--
Darrel Rigby and Darrell Goodsell
Marshall of the Day--Brooks Roundy

Queen and Attendants--
    DeAnne Nelson
    Sharron Rigby
    Kathleen Clarke

July 4, 1968

At 6:15 a.m. the siren signaled the beginning of Newton's 4th of July celebration. A sizeable number of Newton's citizenry plus a handful of visitors gathered at the public square to witness the flag raising and program and to also enjoy a good outdoor breakfast.

The sun was hidden for this occasion but still the sight of "Old Glory" being posted by the Guide Patrol was impressive. Following the flag raising ceremony, those gathered sang the "Star Spangled Banner." After an opening prayer a talk was given on the flag by Brad Benson. Mr. Myron Benson, the orator of the day, delivered a message on Americanism. He pointed out the positive aspects of the country outweigh the negative. The program closed with the singing of "God Bless America" and a prayer by David Cooley.

Those who had witnessed the program plus a number of latecomers were treated to an outdoor breakfast. The Relief Society cooked the eggs, the Bishopric the hotcakes, the Primary served hot chocolate and juice, and the MIA served the ham.

Newton's Relief Society

The history of the Relief Society in Newton has not been written yet, and no attempt is made here except to briefly relate a few facts and incidents about this ladies' organization that was established on May 21, 1871, in Newton.

As early as 1873 the sisters of this benevolent society were expending much effort to give aid and comfort to the poor, not only to their own people but to the few Indians who passed through the community. But in February of 1873 there was also the complaint that no formal meeting of the society had been held for over a year.

In July of 1877 Sister M. A. Parsons was called the "presidentess" of the society, so it will be noted that the list of officers that follows this article is incomplete. One of the sisters had a problem in 1877 when she
spoke at great length in a meeting on her displeasure at the course and conduct of "some of the members of the society or somebody else who were in the habit of backbiting and slandering her." She wanted to put a stop to it. Five years later Bishop W. F. Rigby addressed the society and told the sisters that jealousy with its associated practices were the "greatest evils" in the society as well as the community.

In June of 1878 the society was visited by Sister Elisa R. Snow who exhorted the Newton sisters to gather grain and not to follow the fashions and customs of the world. After a second thought she stated that the last caution did not apply to the sisters in Newton. Sister Snow was disappointed that there were no mulberry trees in Newton and urged that some be obtained and that the sisters try their hand at raising silk worms. It took a long time before the sisters began their silk culture project, but in 1897 an attempt was made when 500 seedlings were purchased and planted. When they turned out to be locust trees instead of mulberry, the idea of raising silk worms ended.

In 1883 the favorite topic of discussion in the meetings of the society appeared to be polygamy and corsets. The former was expounded by one lady who had lived in plural marriage for sixteen years; she told of her feelings and blessings of this marriage practice. In regard to corsets, the ladies were instructed that tight lacing of them had hurt many a young woman's health and even caused a few to die. The same year the mothers were told to not let their children have their own way too much. On November 1, 1883, the Relief Society meeting was conducted in both English and Danish languages as there were some Scandinavian ladies present who could not understand English.

The sisters have a long record of service to the Church, community, and to individuals. In the nineteenth century they gleaned wheat so they could help the needy. In 1912 they loaned $400 to the town board who were in need of funds. During the First World War the sisters of Newton were asked "to put away extravagances and buy Liberty Bonds" and by the end of 1919, they had purchased over $400 worth of the bonds. In the post war years the Relief Society was asked to study the League of Nations being it was for the "good of the whole world." When the League fell through, the good sisters turned their efforts to assisting the people of war torn Europe. Clothing was mainly
sent abroad; in 1923 the Newton sisters sent over 300 pounds of clothing to Germany alone.

In the spring of 1923 the Newton Relief Society donated $204 towards building a seminary adjacent to the new North Cache High School at Richmond. In regard to the Newton School, the sisters became dissatisfied with "sanitation in and around the schoolhouse and thought the people of Newton had put up with these horrible conditions long enough." When the school district failed to act, the sisters went to the town's board of health, and a joint committee from the town organization put enough pressure on the county school board to get action. A drain was installed almost immediately and within two or three years new lavatories were installed in the school.

The sisters had to meet in the schoolhouse or a home from 1871 to 1891, then they met in the Meeting House until their own Relief Society House was built sometime in the 1890's. This building was rented to the Newton School District in 1904, one class met in it due to overcrowding in the regular schoolhouse.

When the society was first organized, it was called the Newton Female Relief Society. The first president Isadore Beck was also the first president of the Clarkston Relief Society as was Mary Rigby the original first counselor in both wards.

Following is a list of ladies who have served as leaders in the Newton Relief Society.

Newton Relief Society Presidencies

Organized May 21, 1871:
Isadora Brown Beck, President
Mary Clark Rigby, Counselor
Martha Gasberg, Counselor
Maria Young, Secretary
Elizabeth Trehera Griffin, Treasurer

Organized May 3, 1873:
Ann Botting Atkinson, President
Sarah H. Rigby, Counselor
Maria Gasberg, Counselor
Susan Barker, Secretary
Elizabeth Trehera Griffin, Treasurer
Organized February 3, 1877
Mattie Christina Benson, President
Martha Bell, Counselor
Ellen Marie Anderson, Counselor
Elizabeth Clarke, Secretary
Elizabeth Trehere Griffin, Treasurer

Organized June 7, 1877
Sophia Rigby, President
Susan Barker, Counselor
Hannah Anderson, Counselor
Christine Barker, Secretary
Elizabeth Trehere Griffin, Treasurer

Organized 1886 (no date)
Susan Barker, President
Emelia Jenson, Counselor
Martha Jenkins, Counselor
Elizabeth Trehere Griffin, Secretary
Mary Jenkins, Treasurer

Organized July 14, 1888
Martha Beck, President
Emelia Jenson, Counselor
Christine Christensen, Counselor
Sarah Rigby, Counselor
Elizabeth Trehere Griffin, Secretary (1888-90)
Elizabeth Funk, Secretary (1890-1900)
Mary Jenkins, Treasurer

Organized December 3, 1900
Martha Beck, President
Emelia Jenson, Counselor
Sarah Rigby, Counselor
Hannah Hansen, Counselor (1905-09)
Elizabeth Funk, Secretary
Mary Jenkins, Treasurer

Organized 1909
Bessie Griffin Ballard, President
Mary Dowdle, Counselor
Hannah Hansen, Counselor
Elizabeth Funk, Secretary
Organized February 6, 1915
Mary Tempest Benson, President
Christina Nelson, Counselor
Mina Funk Griffin, Counselor (1915-16)
Zina Peterson, Counselor (1916-20)
Elizabeth Funk, Secretary
Ada Larsen, Treasurer (1915-18)
Ruth Griffin Rolph, Treasurer (1918-20)

Organized June 6, 1920
Ruth Griffin Rolph, President
Mary C. Rigby, Counselor (1920-23)
Annie P. Larsen, Counselor (1920-23)
Fanny Barker, Counselor (1923-33)
Edith Rigby Cooley, Counselor (1923-33)
Marinda B. Hansen, Secretary (1920-21)
Hazel Rigby, Secretary (1921-33)
Erma Christiansen, Ass't. Secretary (1922-33)

Organized August 20, 1933
Ada Larsen, President
Ida Crookston, Counselor
Amanda Hansen, Counselor
Hazel Rigby, Secretary
Archa Barker, Ass't. Secretary

Organized June 14, 1936
Lettie R. Jenkins, President
Stella Jorgensen, Counselor
Christina Nelson, Counselor
Ida Hurtig, Counselor
Hazel Rigby, Secretary
Archa Barker, Ass't. Secretary

Organized 1944
Jennie Larsen, President
Ann L. Bartlett, Counselor
Viola Jones, Counselor
Edna Hansen Counselor
Frances Rigby, Ass't. Secretary
Meda Parker, Secretary
Organized August 14, 1949
Florence Rigby, President
Edna Hansen, Counselor (1949-50)
Mary J. Rigby, Counselor (1949-52)
Edris N. Hansen, Counselor (1950-52)
Hazel Rigby, Counselor (1952-53)
Ella Peterson, Counselor (1952-53)
Meda Parker, Secretary (1949-50)
Maud Goodsell, Secretary (1950-53)

Organized August 1953
Hazel Rigby, President
Edith Rigby Cooley, Counselor
Ella Peterson, Counselor
Ella Benson, Secretary

Organized October 4, 1959
Mary B. Jenkins, President
Eunice Cooley, Counselor (1959-60)
Yuvone Sparks, Counselor
Betty R. Goodsell, Counselor
Ruth W. Griffin, Secretary (1959-63)
Edna F. Hansen, Secretary

Organized April 18, 1965
Katheryn Rasmussen, President
Edris Hansen, Counselor
Donna Christiansen, Counselor
Edna Hansen, Secretary (1965-66)
Ileen Christiansen, Secretary

Newspaper Correspondents

In the early years usually Franklin W. Young or Jonas N. Beck wrote articles about Newton and sent them first to The Deseret News, then to the Logan Leader and later to The Utah Journal. Later correspondents sent their articles to The Journal. All of the correspondents were proud of their home town and were constantly putting plugs in for it. There were also several occasions when no news from Newton came for months at a time, and when news began to flow again it came after a reporter or editor of the Logan newspaper visited Newton and either assigned a new correspondent or stirred up the old one. After the drought, the next article would have a statement similar to the one in the February 1, 1908, issue when it stated, "We don't want people
to think there is nothing going on here in Newton."

The height of all Newton's journalistic efforts were reached by the correspondent who wrote the following article that came out on February 12, 1910.

The matrimonial fever is still raging in Newton. Recently it attacked Miss Nettie Griffin, the popular clerk of our Co-op store and Mr. Pearl Jenkins. The next victim was Miss Annie Christensen, one of our school teachers who was suddenly seized by the malady in the schoolroom, and off she went to Salt Lake in company with Mr. Amos Rigby, oldest son of George Rigby; and now the twain are one. The next to succumb was Mr. William Christensen.

The style was and is unapproachable and the news of Newton was available to the rest of Cache Valley. The last victim of "matrimonial fever" is not the same person now living in Newton, William Christiansen, who was a little too young in 1910 to be getting married.

**Lives in Newton but goes to Clarkston Ward**

In December of 1909 a man who lived on the extreme northern edge of the Newton Precinct--westward extension of the Creamery Road--was caught stealing coal at Cache Junction. He actually lived in Newton but was closer to Clarkston in geography and relations. A little rivalry developed over the matter in *The Journal*, the Logan newspaper.

**Initial report of the incident--Dec. 7, 1909:**

"Short Line Detective W. T. Knowles brought a resident of Clarkston to this city yesterday on a charge of stealing coal at the Junction. He caught him with a wagon load, and the culprit begged so hard and told such a tale of poverty that Mr. Knowles decided to investigate. The man said he had no fuel and could obtain no money to buy any but when the detective went to Clarkston he found that he was fairly well off and what was more had four or five tons of coal piled up near his house. Judge Brangham fined him $25. His son is wanted for a similar offense and he will come in perhaps today."

**Clarkston's denial and counter-charge--Dec. 11, 1909:**

"Mr. J. H. Jardine one of Clarkston's well known citizens was in town Thursday and he called to say that the man arrested and fined by Judge Brangham for stealing coal is
not a resident of Clarkston Precinct as stated in the papers but resides in Newton. Of course we knew nothing about the man's residence except what he said in court himself and he claimed Clarkston as the place, but was mistaken it seems."

Newton's answer--Dec. 16, 1909:

"We claim the privilege of refuting an erroneous announce­ment. It was published in The Journal that the man that stole the coal at Cache Junction was not a resident of Clarkston Precinct, but lives in Newton. He may live in Newton Precinct, but we know that the man does not belong to the Newton Ward, but we understand that he is attached to the Clarkston Ward."

**Agriculture**

It is of interest that Newton created a Department of Agriculture and Horticulture Association in 1873 and 1874. The statistical report of this department for the year 1874 and 1875 have been preserved. They are as follows:

**Statistical Report of Newton Ward for 1874 as rendered to the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture Association.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kinds</th>
<th>No. of Acres</th>
<th>Avr. Yield bu. per acre</th>
<th>Per Cent greater than 1873</th>
<th>Per Cent loss by drought</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>22 1/2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rye</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peas</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadow</td>
<td>120</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucerne</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit Trees</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>foreign current</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>peach</td>
<td></td>
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### Statistical Report of Newton Ward for 1875

#### as rendered to the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture Association

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kinds</th>
<th>No. of Acres</th>
<th>Ave. Yield Bu. per acre</th>
<th>Per cent greater than 1874</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>20</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>60</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadow</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucerne</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fruit Trees</td>
<td>14</td>
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#### Animals

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<th>Kind</th>
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<td>Mules</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Horned stock</td>
<td>350</td>
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<td>Sheep</td>
<td>1100</td>
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<td>Cotswould (?)</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
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<td>Swine</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>Chester</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Butter</td>
<td>7200 lbs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>5000 doz.</td>
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#### Mechanical

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<td>Mowers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reapers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvester</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thresher</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Mechanical, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kind</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural machines</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wagons</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacksmith</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plasters &amp; masons</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenters</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoemakers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabinet makers</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaver</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailors</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dress makers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A look at the 1880 Agricultural Census for Newton shows the growth of agriculture between 1875 and 1880.
1880 Agricultural Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tilled land</td>
<td>1136 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadow</td>
<td>1180 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mown grass</td>
<td>97 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not mown grass</td>
<td>46 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay</td>
<td>82 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter made on farm</td>
<td>3650 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese</td>
<td>100 lbs. (one family)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>3633 doz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hops</td>
<td>2 lbs. (one family)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchard</td>
<td>3 1/2 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>2 acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Animals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animals</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Crops</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Bushels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>4 1/2</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mules &amp; Asses</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxen</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Rye</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milch Cows</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Cattle</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>4455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>2788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swine</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>1708</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resume of Newton Agriculture

1869-1871--Crop failures due to lack of water

1872-- Men's wages doing harvest "2 bushels of wheat or 80 lbs. of flour a day."

1875-- "We all work like slaves at harvest for our grain ripens all at once in a dry time. About 30 men here and harvested about 9000 bushels inside of 3 weeks. We had 2 machines."

1877-- Poor crops due to lack of water to irrigate and grasshoppers.

1878-- "We have raised in this town 10,000 bushels of grain (45 families) we had a very favorable spring but a dry summer. Wages here to harvest hands were 2 bushels of wheat per day."
"Utah has never had a better harvest and wheat is only 50¢ per bushel." Flour--2 cents lb.--beef--5 cents lb.

1882-- Two "self twine binder reapers have been purchased by two companies."

1884-- Threshing with two machines.

1893-- Market for agricultural products in Logan. Wheat--50¢ bu.--Oats--90¢ cwt.--Potatoes--30¢ bu.--Butter 12 1/2 to 20¢ lb.--Eggs--25¢ doz.--Timothy delivered $6.00 ton--Lucerne
delivered $4.00 ton.

1900-- First steam powered thresher in Newton.

1908-- Thirty headers and six steam threshing machines in Newton alone will be clearing up from four to six thousands bushels a day."

1916-- "Fred Fredricksen has purchased a new engine with which he expects to do his plowing." Fred had a difficult time plowing with his steam engine. The "steel mule" as it was called could not turn short enough. Fred even tipped the "steel mule" over in the slough.

1920-- "There are two harvesters in our town and they are both doing good work."

1921-- Another "new combine harvester" is in town.

1929-- Bishop Ralph C. Jones purchased a new Case tractor and J. J. Larsen a new Caterpillar tractor in April of 1929. In May, LeRoy Sparks also purchased a new tractor.

"Tractors are fast taking the place of the horses on the farm."

1930-- Wheat crop was not put on the market "as the prices are extremely low just now." "The Henry Jenkins' thresher has pulled out and will soon complete the small jobs left by the combine. Newton once supported four large steam threshers that would run from July until October. Now the harvesting is mostly done in two or three weeks with combines."

1931-- "Wheat touches new bottom" when it dropped to $.25 per bushel, "the lowest price in the history of this town."

1934-- "Some wheat was cut with the combine harvester on July 2nd the earliest for many years."

The 1930's were depression years and many of the newly purchased tractors set idle while horses did much of the farm work. Since it took cash to purchase gasoline to operate the tractors, it did not replace the horses for a few years.

**Final Note**

When President Brigham Young was in Clarkston in 1870, he was reported to have said, "You harvest with the scythe and the sickle, but the time will come when you will raise big crops of grain, even to the tops of these mountains and you will sit under a parasol to harvest it." (Recorded by Alfred
Henry Atkinson) For the past few years a few of Newton's farmers have felt that the "parasol" was insufficient and have harvesters with air conditioned cabs.

**Grasshoppers**

For the first two decades of Newton's existence, grasshoppers were responsible for heavy damage to the crops. During ten of those years the pests were numerous enough to be mentioned in records that have survived. Excerpts from these records show the years the grasshoppers were bad.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Excerpt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 16, 1872</td>
<td>&quot;For the last few years (5) the grasshoppers (locusts) have eat up part of our crop, but we hope they are gone.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 20, 1876</td>
<td>&quot;Grasshoppers very numerous.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 25, 1877</td>
<td>&quot;Grasshoppers have taken most of the crops in this valley but elsewhere in Utah the crops are splendid.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 30, 1878</td>
<td>&quot;The grasshoppers are here again.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 20, 1879</td>
<td>&quot;I have not put in all my land this year and but little in the garden because the grasshoppers (locusts) are here.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 18, 1885</td>
<td>&quot;This has been a very prosperous season for crops, farmers have to sell last year's grain or build new granaries before they can thresh, but the grasshoppers have come this fall and they may eat up our grain next year.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5, 1888</td>
<td>&quot;Grasshoppers have been bad for last 3 years.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If we take only the years mentioned between 1869 and 1889 and the arrival of the grasshoppers in time to damage crops, we find that the grasshoppers were a problem in 1869, 1870, 1871, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1886, 1887 and 1888. The pest came often enough and were a serious enough threat that the school children were dismissed from school so they could help kill them. For a short period this almost became an annual grasshopper vacation.

The following account is from the life sketch of Martin C. Rigby as he described how the people tried to get rid of the grasshoppers and the assistance of the seagulls.

During my early boyhood days there was a season when the grasshoppers were very bad, and we had but small acreage of grain. Father had quite a large family so he decided to
try to keep the grasshoppers from eating the grain. He called all of his family up on the ranch. We dug holes, long holes, about three feet deep, two feet wide, and probably twenty feet long. Then we had the children and all the family get out some distance from those holes with little flags on a stick. We came waving those flags driving the grasshoppers before us in a circle, similar to an African hunt. The grasshoppers would fall into the holes and then they were covered over with dirt. In some instances we scattered straw out on the ground and set fire to the straw to burn the grasshoppers. That way we protected our crops. I remember the day when those grasshoppers were leaving. They raised in the air and it fairly darkened the sun there were so many of them when they flew away. It was at that time the seagulls showed their value by coming and eating the grasshoppers by the hundreds. When they got full they'd go down to the river and swim, disgorging the grasshoppers and then come back for more. We were taught to respect the seagulls. A law was passed forbidding the killing of these birds because of their value. A fine of five dollars was imposed upon anyone who killed a seagull.

Newton's Flour Mill

Approximately five blocks north of Newton and over against the creek there is a piece of property owned by Eva P. Benson that is known as the "Mill Land." The land is appropriately named for on it was located the only grist or flour mill in Newton. The mill was located on the edge of a hill directly west of the creek. The mill was removed many years ago, but today one can still see evidence of where the mill was located.

Mr. N. Eingal Peterson, the former owner of the Central Mill in Logan, borrowed some money to try and establish another mill to serve the west side of Cache Valley. In the spring of 1888 construction began on the mill and it was completed by fall. The mill was housed in a wooden frame building that was 20 by 30 feet and stood 32 feet high. Water to operate the mill was taken out of the creek using the "big ditch," and then the water was conveyed through another irrigation ditch close to the mill where a short mill race was dug to allow the water to drop onto the mill's water wheel which was small. The mill itself was a burr mill and not a roller mill and contained only one old style mill stone.

The mill could only operate after the irrigating was completed and when enough water was allowed to come down the creek to operate the mill. This caused operations of the mill to be brief and inconsistent. The mill began
operation in the fall of 1888 and continued for only a couple of years. Hyrum Larsen helped Mr. Peterson operate the mill. The first year's operation was not very profitable and the owner expected the next season to be better as people began to learn of the mill. But the fall of 1889 was poor for operating the mill as the Newton Dam, which had broken the year before but was repaired sufficiently and very little water was allowed to run down the creek. When the excess water did come in the late winter of 1890, the big ditch was blown full of snow and the water would freeze. Great effort was expended in breaking the ice and keeping it chopped up so the mill could be operated. After the second unprofitable year, the creditors closed down the mill.

A short time later Isaac Benson purchased the cleaning machine and George Parsons bought the building which he moved away for use as a barn.

Newton's Creamery

Besides the early creamery that existed in Cache Junction there is another one that concerned Newton. The story about it began on January 18, 1896, when Apostle J. W. Taylor visited Newton and spoke at a special meeting. He urged the saints at Newton to build and sustain home industries. Coupled with this suggestion he commented on the slow times and said, "we are all out of employment and should use the opportunity when we have it to build a dairy." Here was a program outlined for Newton that would give some employment, create a home industry and help the people be more self-sufficient. Apostle Taylor at the conclusion of his remarks took a vote by the show of hands of all who would sustain his remarks in regard to bringing about employment and building a dairy. The record states that "not many understood so the vote was small." Another vote was then called after an explanation cleared up the misunderstanding and this vote was carried unanimously.

The following day which was Sunday Bishop W. H. Griffin, speaking possibly to inform any who were not at the special meeting, told the congregation that Apostle Taylor commended them to build a dairy. He concluded his remarks by saying, "we promise to do so by vote and it was the word of the Lord unto us."
That summer saw no attempt to provide additional employment or the erection of a dairy. When fall came the Newton brethren discussed their promise. George Rigby wanted to call a special meeting devoted solely to discuss the "building of a creamery." He also stated that he believed in it now as much as he ever did. William F. Rigby, Jr. stated that the Newton people were under the same obligation as they were when they promised Apostle Taylor to build the dairy and that he did not "feel satisfied except it was built."

Again in June of 1897 the Newton saints were reminded of their promise by Stake President Isaac Smith who said if Newton does not build it, they will lose the benefit thereof and others would "reap the blessings" from it. In spite of these reminders which amounted to a thorn in Newton's side, the promise was never fulfilled.

The Faust Creamery and Supply Company of Salt Lake City built a creamery north of town in 1904. Newton then had one of the twelve creameries that existed in Cache County in 1905. Although the Newtonites had not kept their promise and others were allowed to reap the blessing, they did not appear too sad if the following newspaper article written by a Newton man is any indication.

A great blessing to the farmers of Newton was the establishment of a skimming station between this town and Clarkston. Formerly the milk or cream, as the case might be, went from the station to the Smithfield dairy; but, of late, since the purchase of the station by the Faust Creamery, in Salt Lake, the cream is sent to that city every day. There is a vast difference between selling milk or cream at a good figure C. O. D. and begging merchants to accept butter at a low, or any odd figure payable in merchandise as we did twenty-five years ago.

When it was in operation Ole Petersen from Clarkston would collect the cream in Clarkston and bring it to the creamery and leave it there. Then he would proceed to Newton and collect the cream in town. People would bring their cream in their containers and Ole would weigh it, note the weight in his book, and pour the cream into his containers. Since milk was not taken, he was able to transport the cream in his white top buggy or a light wagon.

The creamery existed for approximately a decade then it went out of business. The second decade of the twentieth century saw the creamery
give way to genuine dairies. Newton's creamery did leave the legacy of giving a country road a name--The Creamery Road.

Public Cow Herd

Rules agreed upon for the Public Cow Herd at a meeting held May 5, 1874.

That James Christensen be captain.
That the herding shall commence from the southeast corner of town.
That each man shall herd one day the first time round and the next time around owners of 3 or more cows--2 days straight.
After the second round as the cap may direct.
The cap to give 3 days notice to each man and no excuse or failure allowed.
No boys under 16 shall herd.
The cap shall direct where the cows shall be herded and if he is convinced that they have not been properly taken care of, he shall give the man another day to do better and if he refuse, the cap shall hire a man and charge it to the one refusing.
Any harder leaving cows out shall go the next morning at the request of the owner and bring them and take them back to the herd again or pay the owner to do it.

The Honest Man From Newton

One man from Newton was herding the cows above town when he decided to take a nap. Things were quiet and his restful sleep continued for some time. When he awoke the cows were gone. His search of the immediate area showed tracks in the direction of Clarkston. As he followed the tracks he was eventually lead to the Clarkston estray pen. During his slumber the cows had wandered toward Clarkston and entered a wheat field and caused considerable damage. The Clarkston people had taken the cows to the estray pen.

Now there was a bill due for the damage done and the herder was fully responsible for the herd since it was his day of duty. Moreover, the cows were soon due home so their owners could pick them up. The cow herder temporarily resolved his problem by telling the Clarkston citizens that he did not have the means with him to pay for the damage, but if they would trust him and release the cows, he would return the next day and pay them. He convinced them by telling them that he was "the honest man from Newton."
The trip to pay the bill did not materialize the next day or the next, in fact, "the honest man from Newton" gave wide berth to Clarkston. He owned a farm north of Clarkston and was afraid to go through Clarkston for fear someone would recognize him. As a result, he traveled passed the reservoir, down toward Trenton and up to Weston, then south to get to his farm. He made this detour for one whole summer.

Remembrances of J. J. Larsen

This story was told the author by Mr. Larsen who had a large part in assisting Newton get a public water system.

When Newton was putting in its culinary water system in 1911, the town purchased right-of-way from the farmers over whose land the water pipes would have to be laid. Most of the farmers wanted to give this right-of-way to the town inasmuch as there was no permanent damage to their fields by digging a trench, laying pipe, and then filling in the trenches again. But the town insisted on purchasing this right-of-way and paid twenty cents a rod for it. There was one individual who refused to sell a right-of-way and insisted that the pipe go around his field. As his field was in a direct line with the surveyed line, the town was hesitant to detour around his property as it would increase the expense of the system and require another survey. When the man would not give in after repeated pleadings, the town went ahead and put the system over his land anyway. Then for some time afterward Newton's citizens hear a mad Englishman going around town repeating over and over, "I shan't give them a right-of-way, they stole it. I shan't give it to them, but they stole it."

The following account was told to J. J. Larsen by Henry Rigby and J. J. Larsen's daughter Ann recorded the incident as follows.

Custer's Army came from Corinne by horse cavalry to Tuddenham's ranch—-at that time it was the Rigby ranch. It was two weeks before Custer's battle. Men from Clarkston met them at Corinne to haul provisions for them. There were 14 or 15 large wagons and the soldiers. They stopped for a drink at Rigby's ranch (Tuddenham's) and inquired for milk or water. Rigbys had gathered the water in jugs before the cattle got in to the spring to drink. They sold milk first at 10 cents a glass but ran out and then sold water at 10 cents a glass. Henry Rigby carried it up to the men in a pitcher and gave it
to the men in a glass. Several days later a deserter came back and stayed over night. He was very nervous.

This incident had to occur in early June of 1876. This would have made Henry Rigby a boy of 6 going on 7 when he carried the milk and water to the soldiers. A few further comments can be noted about the incident. First, the soldiers were not accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer who was second in command to General Terry. The soldiers that came to the Rigby ranch were not the Seventh U. S. Cavalry nor a large part of them, for they were ranging between Fort Abraham Lincoln and Yellowstone at the time. It is also difficult to account for the troops in Northern Utah two weeks before Custer's Last Stand. If the heavy wagons were the army's, they might be after supplies although most of this Army's supplies came by railroad and river transportation from the east. If the troops were a genuine horse cavalry, they might have been on a reconnaissance mission, but this seems unlikely inasmuch as Corinne and Newton are hundreds of miles south of the territory normally covered by the Plains Indians. The government had General Terry's regiment in the Dakotas and Montana attempting to control these Indians.

The troops could have been a small detachment from General Terry's command or another group on an assignment in no way connected with the Northern Plains Indians. This troop may have been sent to Montana and the Dakotas after the central unit of the Seventh U. S. Cavalry was slaughtered by the Sioux on June 25, 1876, at the Battle of the Little Big Horn River. In either case the notoriety of Custer overshadowed his commanding officer General Terry or another assignment. And all connections made or recalled about the troops that came to the area west of Newton were made with the man who was made famous by his death. And this would be a small error or miscalculation made around this man in comparison to the vast complexities of stories that shrouded Custer after June 25, 1876.

Making One's Own Entertainment

The mind is faster than the horse

The story is told about Alma Benson betting another fellow in town
that although the fellow's horse was extremely fast he (Alma) could hold onto the horse's tail while it galloped a block. The man jumped at the bet and scoffed at Alma's poor judgment. After the man had his say, Alma asked him to get off his horse and the man willingly obliged. Then Alma jumped on, grabbed the horse's tail and pulled it up to his shoulder and away he rode holding the horse's tail. When Alma returned to the group who had witnessed the bet, there was so much razzing of the horse owner that only a feeble protest was made against the results.

**Stick Horse Race**

The following is a story told about two of Newton's most interesting early residents--John Jenkins and Alfred Goodsell. Any distortion to this account can be blamed on the numerous times it was retold. It also shows how an incident provided excitement and amusement to those who saw it, but it also gave much amusement to people who were not there even a generation not born at the time. For in the years before TV and automobiles changed the entertainment pattern of Newtonites, this story about the stick horse race was retold many times and lived over and over again in memory, always with a smile and good humor.

The incident occurred either on the 4th or 24th of July and it involved a bet--a bet on a horse race. Alf bet John that he could ride a stick horse around the public square faster than John could on his pony. Now John had one of the finest horses in the area and he was well acquainted as to his speed so John had no inhibition about the race if it was on the level. As the proposed race was being discussed, more men and boys thronged about the two future contestants. The bystanders were insisting that the race be held. Now the race was inevitable. The race had one ground rule--John had to do everything that Alf did.

Alf cut himself a stick and tied a string to the top of it while John readied his prized pony. Both riders mounted their horses and a signal started the merry race. A detailed account of the race cannot be given but in essence here is what happened. Alf would ride his stick a short distance, then jump off and tie the stick horse to the picket fence that bordered
the square, then crawl under the stick horse and then get back on and go again. Alf repeated this several times as he circled the block. One who is even unfamiliar with horses should not have to use his imagination very much to see the plight of John trying to do everything that Alf did. Needless to say John finished a poor second.

John protested that the contest was unfair whereupon the bystanders held a kangaroo court and declared that the race was fair and square.

You Don't Crank This One

In 1916 three young men from Newton hired Pearl Jenkins to take them to Clarkston to pick up their dates for a dance at Newton. Pearl had just acquired a new Jeffries automobile. The four men went to Clarkston and two of the men picked up their dates. Then they went to get the last girl. When she was safe in the automobile, Pearl asked the last young man if he would go and crank the motor for it had died. The young man willingly consented and went around to the front of the car and bent over and began to search for the crank when all of a sudden there was a buzzing noise and the motor was running. Pearl called to the startled individual, "You don't crank this one." Everyone had a good laugh at the joke played on one of their party. He had been surprised because this was the first automobile in Newton that was not hand cranked.

Newton's Oldest Tree

In 1964 the oldest living tree in Newton was cut down and hauled away. The Newton Cleanup Committee, in their untiring efforts to give Newton a facelifting, decided the tree had to go; and the town board agreed and provided the money for its removal. Before cutting the tree down, a check was made with the bishopric to see if they objected. When no objection was offered, down came the tree. Then an element of protest and disapproval appeared as a few thought it was a mistake to remove this monument of the past.

The tree, a short leaf Cottonwood, was planted by Franklin W. Young, nephew of President Brigham Young in 1870 or 1871. Franklin Young built a log cabin, which also served as a schoolhouse, on the corner diagonally across the road from the northwest corner of the public square. He brought a
Cottonwood seedling from the banks of the Ogden River. In 1935 the tree measured 13 feet 10 inches in circumference at a point four feet from its base and stood "approximately 70 feet high."

In 1964 the tree was still alive but a large part of its upper limbs were dead and a close examination of its base showed sizeable decay. Another reason for its removal was the fact that it blocked the view of motorists stopped for the stop sign adjacent to the tree. Most of the people plagued by its cotton were happy to see it go.

Newton Cemetery

The tract of land now occupied by the cemetery was given to the Ward by John H. Barker—the Barker family receiving a choice of several lots for their contribution. The cemetery, called strictly a graveyard at the time, was a resting spot for mortal remains but it was not a place of beauty in the first three-quarters of its history. Nevertheless, when the Federal Government threatened confiscation of Church property under the anti-polygamy drive, the Ward deeded the graveyard to the Newton Ecclesiastical Ward Corporation to prevent the government from taking it. Of all the property owned by the Newton Ward in the 1880's and 1890's, this was the least tempting and least likely to be confiscated, but the people of Newton were taking no chances.

Any maintenance of the cemetery in the years before 1928 came at the hands of individuals caring for a grave of a loved one or at the annual cleanup in preparation for Memorial Day. Bishop Ralph C. Jones recalls the following about the 1928 cleanup and the change resulting from it:

One of the first jobs we did, and in 1928 it was the Bishopric's responsibility, was to clean the cemetery in readiness for Memorial Day. A clean-up day was set. Boys and men took shovels, rakes, forks, teams and wagons, and in 1928 a few trucks. Weeds were cut and all waste material hauled away. Grave mounds were cleaned and shaped, tombstones righted when needed. When the day's work was done the cemetery was clean.

There was no water, very little grass, a few shrubs, no trees. The area between the west fence and the west driveway, as also the area east of the east driveway, were in 1928 in wild flowers and grasses. The fence was in need of repair so a group worked on that.
How could water be obtained was an annual topic of discussion on clean-up day. Could something be done during the year to keep the cemetery more beautiful and reduce the amount of work in May. The bishopric discussed the problems and finally Brother George Stone was asked and consented to work in the cemetery during the summer. He walked to and from his work and did a commendable job in pioneering the beautification of the cemetery.

The next breakthrough came in 1945 when on July 25 the Newton Cemetery District was established by Governor Hubert B. Maw. Upon the town board's recommendation, D. R. Clarke, Roland A. Griffin and Royden Benson were appointed by the governor as commissioners of the new district. Using its power to raise funds and with the special responsibility to maintain the cemetery, the Newton Cemetery District hastened the beautification of the cemetery. Water was obtained first by pumping it out of the canal and finally by connection with the Newton culinary water system. The grave mounds were leveled and lawn and trees have replaced the weeds and native grasses. Beautiful entrances have been built with cattle guards, and a new fence to keep the cemetery free from intrusion by stock, and roadways oiled inside the cemetery. Even more important is the fact that someone is appointed to care for the cemetery. In 1948 the county oiled the road to the cemetery.

The early residents of Newton probably never thought that one day their remains would be covered with a carpet of green grass with beautiful shrubs and trees to grace their resting place. Today Newton can boast at having one of the best kept cemeteries in Utah.

The Second Coming?

On a cold winter night of 1947-48 the midnight silence was broken by the ringing of a bell. The location of the ringing could not be pinpointed but it was frightening. On that first night one individual who lived near the actual location of the bell, ran outside his dwelling without clothing himself against the cold winter air. In this man's own words he was terrified and thought the sound was in his attic. Another gentleman about two blocks from the bell asked his neighbor the next morning "Wh-what in th-th-the h--- were you doing last night." The neighbor who lived between the first man and where the bell
was stationed was not at all sure that the bell ringing came from his direction. The next day people meeting at the post office and the store were quizzing each other about just what happened during the night. There was no concensus of opinion and there were even some who had not heard the bell. If any had second thoughts about having really heard a bell that night, they were easily dismissed that night and the next for the bell rang on each of those nights at midnight or shortly thereafter.

For over a month the periodic ringing of the bell—described by one person as loud enough to roll you out of bed—kept the town in a semi-state of tension. Some half jokingly, but only half—wondered out loud if the Second Coming was at hand. Each day after the bell rang the adults and children discussed their various theories about the origin of the ringing. The students at the grade school could speak of little other than the "loud ringing last night."

The bell was moved from its first location—in Alice Christensen's vacant barn—to a vacant shed in the southeastern part of town. The location of the bell still was not determined from its noise. Finally tracks in the snow leading to the old shed lead a man to investigate, and his suspicions revealed the mighty bell. That day probably half of the town made the pilgrimage to the shed to see the cause of their anxious moments. The bell was taken from its hideout and stored in Henry Sutherland's garage for safekeeping until it was claimed. The owners and ringers of the bell found themselves in a tickly situation; if they went to claim the property rightfully theirs, they would be admitting their connection with disturbing the peace. So they chose a second way to try and retrieve their bell. They backed their car up to the garage one Tuesday night. Since MIA was in session there would be no suspicion from the car so parked. Bolt cutters were then employed on a padlock. When the lock was cut it made a loud snap that sounded like a pistol shot. This caused those hoping to retrieve their bell to flee.

What happened to the bell? Well, an individual from Benson Ward claimed it and it was given to him. Thus, Newton's thundering bell was silenced and the town returned to peace and quiet, none the worse for wear.
Newton Plat Map made by the county surveyor April 1869

**Newton**

Scale 100.

Plot A = Lots 20 x 40 ft. 5th. 4 x 2 rods
Plot B = 40 x 20 x 4 rods
Plot C = Hay Lots 20 x 40

Newton City, Plot A.
Lots 10 x 30 rods, 5th. 6 x 3 rods.

J.H. Martin, C. S. A.
April 1869.
View of Newton from east bench looking westward. About 1886.
Bishop Martin C. Rigby 1903-1928

Bishop Ralph C. Jones 1928-1935

Bishop Stanley Griffin 1935-1940
Bishop LeRoy G. Salisbury 1940-1948

Bishop Lyle R. Cooley 1948-1955

Bishop J. Murray Rigby 1955-1960
Bishop D. Brooks Roundy 1964-

Newton Ward Bishops--June 1968

Front Row--Bishop LeRoy G. Salisbury,
Bishop Ralph C. Jones,
Bishop Lyle R. Cooley

Back Row--Bishop J. Murray Rigby,
Bishop George O. Ballard,
Bishop D. Brooks Roundy
Rock school after 1892 addition was made to original 1873 building.

Newton's last schoolhouse--built in 1923 and used from 1924 to 1968.
Front and side view of 1907 brick schoolhouse which burned down in 1923.
Class Picture of 4th and 5th Grades
1913-14

First Row L to R:
Carr Jones
Bertrum Benson
Lenard Bjorkman
Fred Hansen
Virian Hansen
Amos Rigby
Reslin Larsen
Arbon Christensen
Marcellus Hansen

Second Row L to R:
Lorena Bjorkman
Iris Hansen
Roseabella Larsen
Villa Clarke
Ralph Jones
Everand Jacobsen
Hazen Benson
Waldo Barker
Oscar Amon
Vernon J. Larsen

Third Row L to R:
Lydia Hendrickson
Alice Anderson
Leona Wennegren
Eva Petersen
Phyllis Larsen
Nancy Christiansen
Hazel Larsen
Lula Rigby
Emily Griffin
Ruth Benson
Afton Ballard

Fourth Row L to R:
Elizabeth Shipley--Teacher
Merlin Nelson
Murland Anderson
Llewlyn Petersen
First Row L to R:
Junius Rigby  
--  
Golda Parsons  
Ella Jensen  
Elva Nelson  
Lizzie Anderson  
Agnes Benson  
May Jensen  
Annie Sorenson  
Lucy Griffin  
Hyrum Jensen  
Alphonso Christensen

Second Row L to R:
Patrayia Sorenson  
Mary Hansen  
Fairly Jenkins  
Olga Jensen  
Josephine Petersen  
Eugenia Christensen  
Loretta Larsen  
Henry Parsons  
Birdie Barker  
Charles Christensen  
Florence Christensen  
Kate Peterson  
Bertha Jensen  
Ann Christensen  
Sarah Jensen

Third Row L to R:
David Haskell  
Ora Rigby  
Dan Benson  
Luella Jenkins  
Maryan or Mebby Rigby  
Bell Jenkins  
Amanda Miller  
Agnes Hansen  
Mattie Jenkins  
Jessie Rigby  
Maud Rigby  
Jane Benson  
Esther Christensen  
Frank Ecklund

Fourth Row L to R:
Wilford Jenkins  
Jack Benson  
George Barker  
David Simonsen  
Laurence Christensen  
Will Larsen  

George Christensen  
Pearl Jenkins  
Henry Haskell  
Mose Hansen  
Horace Jenkins  
Chester Christensen

George Sorenson  
Marinus Petersen  
George Miller  
Lizzie Ecklund  
Maria Stevens  
Mary L. Hansen

Charles England's School Class About 1885

Front Row L to R:
Alice Jenkins  
Lucy Barker  
Emma Rigby  

William H. Griffin  
Zina Hansen  
Lavina Rigby  
Charles England--Teacher  
Annie Funk  
Sarah England  
Henry Rigby

Third Row:
Nephi Larsen  
Lewis Hardy  
Lorenzo Larsen  
Charles Christensen  
Johnny Jenkins  
James A. Hansen  
Martin C. Rigby  
Samuel Benson  
Parley Christensen  
William Jenkins
1921-22 School Teachers

L to R: Lula Griffin, Margaret Woodsides, Archie Jenkins, Orpah Rigby and Amos Griffin.

School Class Picture 1888

Left to right:

Front Row: Bessie Griffin, Mamie Nelson, Lucy Barker, May Griffin, Elnora Christensen

Second Row: Loretta Larsen, Luella Parkinson--Teacher, Olive Beck, Alice Jenkins

Third Row: Minnie Funk, Mina Funk, Hattie Griffin, Peter Jensen, David R. Clarke, William Nelson, Fidelia Haskell, Fannie Parsons, Moroni Beck

Fourth Row: Samuel Clarke, Joseph J. Larsen, John E. Griffin, Walter Griffin, Nephi Larsen, Joe M. Larsen
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Row L to R</th>
<th>Second Row</th>
<th>Third Row</th>
<th>Fourth Row</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steven Griffin</td>
<td>Kacy Barker</td>
<td>Mrs. Eunice Jones</td>
<td>Lomnie Maughan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Jorgenson</td>
<td>Anita Salisbury</td>
<td>Teresa Anderson</td>
<td>Diana Halloway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurt Benson</td>
<td>Karen Kister</td>
<td>Janet Benson</td>
<td>Debra Fabricius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd Benson</td>
<td>Christie Benson</td>
<td>Joyce Salisbury</td>
<td>Ann Sutherland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd Maughan</td>
<td>Andrea Benson</td>
<td>Doug Larsen</td>
<td>Cheryl Christiansen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blake Benson</td>
<td>Jane Ann Griffin</td>
<td>Angela Griffin</td>
<td>Paul Barker</td>
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<td>Joel Anderson</td>
<td>Francine Benson</td>
<td>Margo Larsen</td>
<td>Cindy Christiansen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reese Peterson</td>
<td>Heidi Maughan</td>
<td>Diana Clements</td>
<td>Lanette Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Jones</td>
<td>Janice Goodsell</td>
<td>Matt Peterson</td>
<td>Suzy Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Griffin</td>
<td>Debbie Lish</td>
<td>Tammy Levitt</td>
<td>Mrs. Hardman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<th>Fifth Row</th>
<th>Sixth Row</th>
<th>Seventh Row</th>
<th>Eighth Row</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kent Fabricius</td>
<td>Nila Larson</td>
<td>LuAnn Lish</td>
<td>Lisa Richardson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Todd Lish</td>
<td>Lynn Goodsell</td>
<td>David Cooley</td>
<td>Sue Kruas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Larsen</td>
<td>Randy Rigby</td>
<td>Alan Lish</td>
<td>Doug Barker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Halloway</td>
<td>Bobby Kister</td>
<td>Scott Benson</td>
<td>J. R. Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett Griffin</td>
<td>Gary Sorenson</td>
<td>Terri Benson</td>
<td>Kim Sorenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Peterson</td>
<td>Doug Kraus</td>
<td>Margaret Kister</td>
<td>Julie Benson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurie Griffin</td>
<td>Brad Benson</td>
<td>Lori Goodsell</td>
<td>Lana Richardson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ann Christiansen</td>
<td>Vonda Sparks</td>
<td>Kelly Richardson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kent Larsen</td>
<td>Clair Rasmussen</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brenda Jones</td>
<td></td>
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<th>Ninth Row</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Barzee</td>
<td>Joyce Goodsell</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Terry Lee Goodsell</td>
<td>Lynette Griffin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Griffin</td>
<td>Debra Halloway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Jorgenson</td>
<td>Stephanie Maughan</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Amos E. Clarke and his Blacksmith Shop

Achton Jensen's Blacksmith Shop
Old Reservoir viewed from West Dam

Natural knoll between West and East Dams
West Dam

East Dam
Reservoir viewed from the dam

Newton Reservoir looking at boat landing

Newton Dam and Reservoir
First dam in Bear River Canyon

Larsen Brothers' first threshing machine
Jenkins Brothers' threshing machine and crew

Steam engine given to Utah State University by the Larsen Brothers.

J. J. Larsen standing on engine.
Header and header box. Back horses are pushing header, front horses pulling header box.

Steam Engine with Coal Cart

Threshing grain--note water and coal wagons near steam engine
Delivery Wagon from Bell Bros. Market after 1916
Post Office—built by J. N. Hansen. Used from 1900 to 1913

Post Office—built 1965
Cache Junction Depot and Lunch Room

Scout hike to Logan Canyon

Right to Left:
Marcus Griffin, Trevor Clarke, Oswall Clarke, Tom Griffin (background), John Rolph, LaVoir Dowdle, Marvin Benson, J. J. Larsen, David Stone, LaVell Parsons, Ed Larsen, Earl Jorgensen, Francis Petersen
Newton Co-operative Store (Side and front views).
First rock home in Newton--built by Bishop Wm. F. Rigby in 1870. Picture shows home in 1918 being remodeled by Junius Rigby.

Second rock home of Bishop Wm. F. Rigby--picture taken about 1906 or 1907. Hyrum Larsen's family in front were owners of this home. Hyrum remodeled the house.
John H. Barker home on homestead north of town in 1878. Logs were taken from the Franklin Young home which was the first schoolhouse. The Barker home was last occupied in 1944.

People's Mercantile Company Neils Christiansen's home and family--1908
Christian Larsen's first home in Newton--built in 1873. A son Joseph J. was born in the home on September 27, 1873.

L. George Clarke home--1914--extreme right corner Amos Clarke's home--left corner David Clarke's home.
Church House

Ward breakfast--July 4, 1968

Newton "Meeting House" with Vestry on left post--1898 picture.
Newton's Last Pioneer--John Jenkins in about 1929 getting ready for a parade.

Newton Brass Band

Front Row L to R:
   Edwin Fish, Ezra Cooley, J. J. Larsen, George Ecklund.

Second Row L to R:
   James Johnson, Wilford Jenkins, Alphonso Christensen, Horace Jenkins,
   Parley Rigby, Eli Hansen

Third Row L to R:
   James Nielsen, Emil Wennergren, Elmer Hansen, Parley Peterson,
   Raymond Jenkins

Utah State Penitentiary--1888 polygamists--including George Q. Cannon
sitting in center on step. Two Newton men on the far left.
Newton Athletic Club after 45 years

Sitting--Amos Griffin, Howard Griffin
Standing--Perry Nebeker, Roland Griffin, Archie Jenkins, Royal Griffin

Newton Baseball Team

Left to Right:
First Row--Wilford Jenkins, Heber Beck, Emil Ecklund
Second Row--Ezra Cooley, David Clarke
Standing--Ed Haskell, Frank Griffin, Henry Jenkins, Henry Parsons
Early parties under boweries.
Sunday School picture taken at east end of "Meeting House."
Town Banquet 1899

Left to right:

Mrs. J. F. Hansen  Emma Hansen
Mrs. Chris Larsen  Lettie Hansen
Dora Christensen  John Larsen
Annie Sorensen  Jessie Rigby
Mary Sorensen  Mattie Jenkins
Inez Parsens  Mary L. Hansen
Annie Hansen  Annie Benson
Elvena Hansen  Maud Rigby
Mary O. Jenkins  Lucy Griffin
Bell Jenkins  H. C. Hansen (by the door)
Wm. F. Jensen  May Jensen
Louisa Hansen  Annie Snider
Mrs. Annie Hansen  Ella Jensen
Karen M. Hansen  Stella Jenkins
J. C. Petersen  Amanda Miller (blurred)
Liz Ecklund
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Top Row</th>
<th>Names of Persons in Sunday School Picture 1898</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ephrium Schnider</td>
<td>Sarah Stevens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alma Benson</td>
<td>Nora Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nephi Benson</td>
<td>Elizabeth Funk</td>
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<td>A. M. Ledingham</td>
<td>Marinda Barker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moroni B. Jenkins</td>
<td>Jennie Barker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ezra Christensen</td>
<td>Liz Christensen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wm. F. Jensen, Jr.</td>
<td>Jos. W. Jensen</td>
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<tr>
<td>John E. Griffin</td>
<td>Sarah Jensen</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Larsen</td>
<td>Fritz Ecklund</td>
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<tr>
<td>George C. Rigby</td>
<td>L. George Clarke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wm. E. Jenkins</td>
<td>Jas. A. Hansen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lewis Jenkins</td>
<td>Irvin Barker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin C. Rigby</td>
<td>J. F. Hansen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. M. Christensen</td>
<td>Orson Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gladys Christensen</td>
<td>W. R. Ballard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Jenkins</td>
<td>Ezra Cooley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annie Jensen</td>
<td>Wilford Beck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albert Ledingham</td>
<td>Wm. H. Griffin, Sr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alma Beck</td>
<td>Swen Larsen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eugene Nelson</td>
<td>Chris Larsen</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Nielsen</td>
<td>Theodore May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm. Larsen</td>
<td>Amos Rigby</td>
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<tr>
<td>George May</td>
<td>John T. Benson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jurius Hansen</td>
<td>Third Row</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hyrum Schneider</td>
<td>John Hansen (face)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horace Jenkins</td>
<td>Ethel Parsons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Miller</td>
<td>Wilf Hansen</td>
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<td>Second Row</td>
<td>Hazel Benson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eugenia Christensen</td>
<td>Irving Haskell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annie Petersen</td>
<td>Raymond Haskell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth Jenkins</td>
<td>Thomas Ballard, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessie Rigby</td>
<td>Edith Rigby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary H. Hansen</td>
<td>Jos. F. Petersen</td>
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<tr>
<th>Bottom Row</th>
<th>Names of Persons in Sunday School Picture 1898</th>
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<tr>
<td>Amos Griffin</td>
<td>Mary Sorensen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loren Jenkins</td>
<td>Caroline Larsen</td>
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<td>Eliz. M. Christensen</td>
<td>Dave Simonsen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Esther Benson</td>
<td>Mary L. Hansen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leo Anderson</td>
<td>Chris Petersen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maggie Hansen</td>
<td>Ella Jensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fields Parsons</td>
<td>Fon Christensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jos. Christensen</td>
<td>Maria Stevens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leon Clarke</td>
<td>Hyrum Jensen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stena Hogensen</td>
<td>Bell Jenkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Jenkins</td>
<td>Ida Jenkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rella Rigby</td>
<td>Maud Rigby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jess Barker</td>
<td>Jane Benson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parley Rigby</td>
<td>Amanda Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annie Benson</td>
<td>Lettie Rigby</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. H. Hansen</td>
<td>Agnis Hansen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nettie Andersen</td>
<td>Annie Hansen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lizzie Andersen</td>
<td>Mebb Rigby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lizzie Ecklund</td>
<td>Fourth Row</td>
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<td>Golden Parsons</td>
<td>A. L. Jenkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruby Parsons</td>
<td>Violet Simonson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucy Griffin</td>
<td>Joseph Hansen</td>
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<td>May Jensen</td>
<td>Mary A. Larsen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Esther Christensen</td>
<td>Guy Ballard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Ann Petersen</td>
<td>Ivy Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hattie Griffin</td>
<td>Loren Larsen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hansen</td>
<td>Ethel Parsons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lettie Hansen</td>
<td>Wilf Hansen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carrie Griffin</td>
<td>Hazel Benson</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. M. Petersen</td>
<td>Irving Haskell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mattie Rigby</td>
<td>A. M. Petersen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elva Nelson</td>
<td>Rosa Hansen</td>
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<td>J. J. Hansen</td>
<td>Maggie Hansen</td>
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<td>Stella Hansen</td>
<td>May Petersen</td>
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<td>Willis Benson</td>
<td>George Ecklund</td>
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<td>Dan Sanders</td>
<td>Henry Miller</td>
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<td>Merry Hansen</td>
<td>Elmer Hansen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phenius Benson</td>
<td>Florence Benson</td>
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Diary of Christina Barker.
"History of Newton Ward (Cache County, Utah)." Author unknown.
Johnson, Senus. "History of Newton."
"Life Sketch of Alma Peter Benson." Author unknown.
"Life Sketch of Anna Marie Jensen Jenkins." Author unknown.

"Newton Dam and Reservoir." Author unknown.

Ricks, Joel E. "History of Newton." Dr. Ricks had this four page history in his files, it was either given to him or he edited it from another article.

Tuddenham, Joseph R. "Newton."
APPENDIXES
Appendix A

First settlers of Newton—1869 (head of families)

Amos Clarke
Oscar Myler
Joseph Myler
James Myler
William Bell
Swen Jacobs
Hyrum Curtis
Hans Sorensen
John Jenkins
Paul Larsen
Jonas Beck

1870 Census lists the following heads of families in Newton

George Godfrey
William F. Littlewood (Rigby)
Thomas Beck
Jonas Beck
Cyrus Clark
Hans Sorensen
John Griffin
James Keep
Joseph Wilson
Richard Godfrey
Sam Worthington
Hyrum Curtis
Arthur Goody
Botlib Schear
John Swivel
James Myler
Joseph Myler
Stephen Catt
John Jenkins
James Johnson
Peter Anderson
Fred Buzler
Jens Jensen
Michael Poulsen
John Seiter
Amos Clark
John H. Barker
Leander Whitaker
Alfred Atkinson
Ole Anderson
William Sharp
Swen Jacobs
Peter Benson
James Nelson
William Bell
Alva Cumming
William Ricks
Paul Larsen
Franklin Young
Appendix B  
Bishoprics of Newton Ward

William Rigby - Bishop  
John H. Barker - 1st. C.  
William H. Griffin 2nd. C.  
Jonas N. Beck - Recorder  
1870 - Feb. 1884
1877 - Feb. 1884
1877 - Feb. 1884
1870 - Feb. 1884
Feb. 1884 - Oct. 1892
June 1884 - Feb. 1893
June 1884 - Feb. 1893
Feb. 1884 - Feb. 1893
Feb. 1893 - May 1903
Feb. 1893 - 1900
1898 - May 1903
Feb. 1893 - June 1897
June 1897 - May 1903
Feb. 1893 - Jan. 1900
May 1903 - Mar. 1928
May 1903 - Feb. 1924
May 1903 - Jan. 1914
Jan. 1914 - Feb. 1918
1900 - Feb. 1918
Feb. 1918 - Feb. 1924
Feb. 1924 - Feb. 1928
May 1924 - Mar. 1928
Feb. 1918 - Mar. 1928
Mar. 1928 - Mar. 1935
Mar. 1928 - Mar. 1935
Mar. 1928 - Mar. 1935
Mar. 1928 - Mar. 1935
Mar. 1935 - Feb. 1940
Mar. 1935 - Feb. 1940
Mar. 1935 - Feb. 1940
Mar. 1935 - Feb. 1940
Feb. 1940 - Sept. 1948
Feb. 1940 - Mar. 1946
Feb. 1940 - Mar. 1946
Mar. 1946 - Sept. 1948
Mar. 1946 - Sept. 1948
Feb. 1940 - Sept. 1948
Sept. 1948 - March 20, 1955
Sept. 1948 - March 20, 1955
Sept. 1948 - March 20, 1955
Sept. 1948 - March 20, 1955

Hans Funk - Bishop  
William H. Griffin 1st. C.  
Peter Benson 2nd. C.  
Jonas N. Beck Recorder  
Feb. 1884 - Oct. 1892
June 1884 - Feb. 1893
June 1884 - Feb. 1893
Feb. 1884 - Feb. 1893
Feb. 1893 - May 1903
Feb. 1893 - 1903
1898 - May 1903
Feb. 1893 - June 1897
June 1897 - May 1903
Feb. 1893 - Jan. 1900
May 1903 - Mar. 1928
May 1903 - Feb. 1924
May 1903 - Jan. 1914
Jan. 1914 - Feb. 1918
1900 - Feb. 1918
Feb. 1918 - Feb. 1924
Feb. 1924 - Feb. 1928
May 1924 - Mar. 1928
Feb. 1918 - Mar. 1928
Mar. 1928 - Mar. 1935
Mar. 1928 - Mar. 1935
Mar. 1928 - Mar. 1935
Mar. 1928 - Mar. 1935
Mar. 1935 - Feb. 1940
Mar. 1935 - Feb. 1940
Mar. 1935 - Feb. 1940
Mar. 1935 - Feb. 1940
Feb. 1940 - Sept. 1948
Feb. 1940 - Mar. 1946
Feb. 1940 - Mar. 1946
Mar. 1946 - Sept. 1948
Mar. 1946 - Sept. 1948
Feb. 1940 - Sept. 1948
Sept. 1948 - March 20, 1955
Sept. 1948 - March 20, 1955
Sept. 1948 - March 20, 1955
Sept. 1948 - March 20, 1955

William H. Griffin - Bishop  
Peter Benson - 1st. C.  
John Jenkins - 1st. C.  
William F. Rigby, Jr. 2nd. C.  
Christian Larsen 2nd C.  
Niels Jacobsen - Clerk

Martin C. Rigby - Bishop  
Christian Christensen - 1st C.  
William H. Griffin Jr. - 2nd C.  
Willard R. Ballard - 2nd C.  
Willard R. Ballard - Clerk  
Lorenzo Larsen - 2nd C.  
Lorenzo Larsen - 1st C.  
Walter A. Cooley - 2nd C.  
L. George Clarke - Clerk

Ralph C. Jones - Bishop  
Joseph R. Tuddenham - 1st C.  
Stanley F. Griffin - 2nd C.  
L. George Clarke - Clerk

Stanley F. Griffin - Bishop  
Amos LaVoir Dowdle - 1st C.  
Roland R. Griffin - 2nd C.  
George O. Ballard - Clerk

LeRoy G. Salisbury - Bishop  
Amos R. Griffin - 1st C.  
Royden Benson - 2nd C.  
Royden Benson - 1st C.  
David R. Clarke - 2nd C.  
George O. Ballard - Clerk

Lyle R. Cooley - Bishop  
David R. Clarke - 1st C.  
Claude B. Petersen - 2nd C.  
E. Neal Benson - Clerk
J. Murray Rigby - Bishop
D. Brooks Roundy - 1st C.
Howard F. Hansen - 2nd C.
Robert Hansen - Clerk

George O. Ballard - Bishop
Glen Benson - 1st C.
Rodney Fabricius - 2nd C.
Robert Hansen - Clerk

D. Brooks Roundy - Bishop
Grant Salisbury - 1st C.
Lewis Smith - 2nd C.
Robert Hansen - Clerk


Feb. 14, 1960 - July 12, 1964
Feb. 14, 1960 - July 12, 1964
Feb. 14, 1960 - July 12, 1964

July 12, 1964
July 12, 1964
July 12, 1964
Appendix C
Presidents of Newton Town Board

Charles M. Christensen
William J. Barker
John E. Griffin
Moroni T. Beck
John E. Griffin
John H. Barker
Willard R. Ballard
George L. Jones
Willard R. Ballard
Lorenzo C. Larsen
Joseph J. Larsen
Alphonso Christensen
Joseph J. Larsen
David R. Clarke
Ralph C. Jones
Royden Benson
Walter A. Cooley
Marcus R. Cooley
J. Murray Rigby

March 12, 1900 to October 3, 1900
October 12, 1900 to December 31, 1901
January 1, 1902 to December 31, 1903
January 1, 1904 to January 11, 1906
February 12, 1906 to December 31, 1907
January 1, 1908 to April 1, 1909
May 5, 1909 to December 31, 1913
January 1, 1914 to December 31, 1915
January 1, 1916 to December 31, 1917
January 1, 1918 to December 31, 1921
January 1, 1922 to December 31, 1923
January 1, 1924 to December 31, 1925
January 1, 1926 to December 31, 1927
January 1, 1928 to December 31, 1939
January 1, 1940 to December 31, 1943
January 1, 1944 to December 31, 1947
January 1, 1948 to November 9, 1957
November 9, 1957 to December 31, 1965
January 1, 1966 to the present
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<th>Clarkston</th>
<th>Cache County</th>
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<td>153</td>
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<td>219</td>
<td>241</td>
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<td>300</td>
<td>350</td>
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<td>304</td>
<td>474</td>
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<td>1890</td>
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<td>18,139</td>
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<td>1910</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>23,060</td>
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<td>1920</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>26,992</td>
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<td>1930</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>27,424</td>
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<td>1940</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>29,797</td>
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<td>1950</td>
<td>497</td>
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<td>33,536</td>
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<td>1960</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>35,788</td>
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Appendix E
Newton’s Servicemen

Spanish-American War - 1898-1899

Peter Jensen
Oscar Jones

World War I - 1917-1918

Joseph Hansen volunteer - May 1917
James Southerland volunteer - May 1917
Archie Jenkins
Lynwood Fish
Harold Rigby
Parley Rigby
Rulon R. Rigby
David Griffin
Alvin Christiansen
Herman Lyttge
Arlington Haws
Joseph Jones
Elmer Hansen
Jesse Malmberg
Lon Malmberg
Wilford Baugh
Lawrence Baugh
LeRoy Salisbury

World War II - 1941-1945

Names taken from a plaque on Newton Church house which reads:
"In Grateful Remembrance Newton, Utah
Servicemen World War II"

Alvis, Lowell
Anderson, Lynn
Anderson, Norris
Baldwin, Norman
Barker, Keith
Barker, Ray
Barker, Russell
Barker, Theron
Barker, Quentin
Benson, Ariel
Benson, Arthur
Benson, Dale
Benson, Kay
Benson, Marvin
Benson, Ralph
Benson, Ross
Bunn, Stanley
Christensen, Cyril
Christiansen, Harold
Christiansen, Horace
Clarke, Floyd
Cluff, Don
Condie, George
Cooley, John
Cooley, Lyle
Cooley, Ralph
Dowdle, Ruel
Goodsell, Jay
Goodsell, Mervin
Goodsell, Reid
Goodsell, Roger
Goodsell, Vernal
Goodsell, Wesley
Gough, Calvin
Griffin, Clark
Griffin, Harlow
Griffin, Michael
Griffin, Morris
Griffin, Richard
Hancey, Dennis
Hancey, Orlo
Hansen, Cecil
Hansen, Robert
Hardy, Jack
Jenkins, Blaine
Jenkins, Claud
Jenkins, Dean
Jenkins, Mark
Jenkins, Pearl
Jensen, George
Johnson, Clayton
Johnson, Douglas
Johnson, Gerold
Johnson, Howard
Johnson, Wayne
Jones, Lloyd
Jorgensen, Lear
Kidman, Lloyd
Larsen, Clyde
Larsen, Cyril
Larsen, Harvey
Larsen, Linden
Larsen, Marion
Larsen, Russell
Nebeker, LaMar
Nelson, Blaine
Parker, Alfred
Parker, Duane
Pedersen, Lester
Pedersen, Paul
Pedersen, Victor
Peterson, Claude
Peterson, Dennis
Peterson, Edward
Peterson, Elwin
Peterson, Farrell
Peterson, Ray
Peterson, Verlo
Peterson, Vernon
Porter, Otto
Rasmussen, Reuben
Rigby, Dale
Rigby, Milton
Rigby, Murray
Rigby, William
Rigby, Woodrow
Salisbury, Darwin
Salisbury, Lyman
Sanders, Junior
Sanders, Marlin
Sanders, Dean
Smith, Lewis
Sparks, Lewis
Stone, Ray
Stone, Virginia
Sutherland, Gordon
Tubbs, Grant

To the World War II list can be added the names of:

Nathan Crookston and Russell Petersen

Three Newton men lost their lives during World War II. They were Marvin Benson, Lloyd Jones and Dennis Petersen.
After World War II

Glen Benson
Malcolm Benson
George Salisbury
Donald Petersen
Dorral Goodsell
Harlow Larsen
Marriner Rigby
Hatch Griffin
Norval Jones
Halvey Griffin
Boyd Parker
Rodney Fabricius
Jay Golden Rigby
John Edward Griffin
Darrell Goodsell
Milo Benson
Vaughan Rigby
Leon Petersen
Arlington Haws, Jr.
Douglas Griffin
Max Cooley
Norris Cooley
Wilford Jones
Boyd Jones
Clyde Benson
Lynn Benson
Burke Benson
Dennis Petersen

This list does not include those who entered the National Guard or Reserves to fulfil their obligation.