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Quarterly Magazine,

OF

UTAH, HER FOUNDERS, HER ENTERPRIZES,
AND HER CIVILIZATION.

VOLUME TWO.

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COLONEL THOMAS E. RICKS.

A biographical sketch of Colonel Ricks may very properly accompany Adjutant Martineau's military history of Cache County; and as one of the objects of this Magazine is to preserve for posterity the family records of the first settlers of this Territory, we give the following:—

"The progenitor of the family in this country was William, and his wife was Esther. Esther's maiden name we never learned, nor the precise date of their landing, or whether they had any children prior to their coming.

They emigrated from England and settled in the colony of Virginia, Isle of Wight County.

Tradition says it was before the use of side-saddles by the English, as the old lady rode the same as her husband.

There is a tradition that our people originally emigrated to England from Germany and that the names Rax, Rix, and Ricks are the same.

We think there is no doubt that they were originally of the old Puritan families, for they still retain the family names common among that people; as for example the names Temperance, Patience, Faithy, Hopey, Mourning, Charity, Martha, Mary and Elizabeth. These names we think are unmistakable evidences of their being descendants from that stock.

We have never had any account of the number of children that William and Esther had. Isaac was the name of the son from whom our family have descended. His wife was named Sarah; and we think her maiden name was Burk, but are not certain. They settled in the colony of North Carolina, Nosh County, or where that county now is. We are not able to say whether any of their children were born in Virginia or not. They had ten sons and three daughters. Their names were as follows—Louis, Jacob, Joel, Benjamin, Josiah, William, Thomas, Meradith, Aquilla, and Abram. The daughters were—Molly, Sarah, and Patience, Louis was born the 2d day of May, 1742. We have seen the record of his age. He was the grandfather of the writer of this sketch. We will now take these separately and trace their families down to the present time, so far as our knowledge extends. Louis being the eldest son, inherited the homestead under the English laws of premogeniture. He married Nancy Joiner. The date we have not learned; but suppose it was about 1768 or 9, as my father was the second child and he was born February 18th, 1772. They had four children—one son and three daughters. Their names were Charity, Jonathan, Michil and Mourning. Louis, my grandfather, was drafted, I think, in the spring of 1781 into the American army, and in March of that year, was in the battle of Guilford's Court House, and was never heard of any more. It was supposed that he was killed in that action. Jonathan (my father) at that time was nine years of age. He remained with his widowed mother until she married again to a man named Thomas Ridley, which proved to be one of the unfortunate marriages and resulted in a separation. My father bought his mother's dower in the homestead, and became sole proprietor of the old property, he having been owner of the other two-thirds by the law of descent. In 1796 (I think) he was married to my mother Temperance

Edwards, she being about twenty-two years old. She was daughter of Solomon and Martha Edwards, born October 23d, 1797; their first child, Elizabeth, now the wife of Able Olive. Louis was born on the 10th of October, 1800, (who is the writer of this sketch.) Martha was born on the 20th of November, 1801. On the 18th of February, 1801, Joel was born. Charity was born on the 1st of December 1806. My father left his old home in North Carolina, in September, 1802, and in two months, reached his new home in Christian County, Kentucky, then a new county. Since it is called Trig County. In those days Indians were plenty where we lived.

We may now leave the family record and come directly to the Ricks, who were among the first settlers of Logan, and whose enterprises have tendered so much to the growth and development of Cache County.

Father Joel Ricks, who was one of the first on the Logan site with his sons, was born in Trig County, February 18th, 1804. His son, Colonel Thomas E. Ricks, the principal subject of this sketch, was also born in Trig County, Kentucky, July 21st, 1828. He was the eldest son. His brothers were Lewis, William, Jonathan, Josiah, Nathan, Ezra, and Joel. These were all pioneers of Logan.

Father Joel Ricks was a farmer in his native place and a well-to-do man when he joined the Mormon Church. He moved from Trig County in the fall of 1820, and settled in Madison County. Here, in Illinois, in due time, he became acquainted with the Mormon people and joined the Church in 1843. In 1845, the family moved to Nauvoo and in the month of February of this year, Colonel Thomas E. Ricks came into the Church. They left Nauvoo with the pioneers. Thomas was with General Charles C. Rich. He crossed the Mississippi on the 8th of February, 1846, which date shows that he was one of the first to start for the Rocky Mountains, in the great Mormon exodus. He remained at Winter Quarters, Council Bluffs, till 1848, when he came to the Valley in Heber C. Kimball's company on the return journey of the pioneers. On the Elk Horn River, he was shot by Indians through his body with three balls, which are in his body to-day. This caused great suffering and rendered his journey to the mountains uncommonly trying and painful. The first time he was out of his wagon was at Fort Laramie on the 24th of July. He arrived in the Valley on the 27th of September and located in North Mill Creek, where his father built the second saw-mill in the Territory, which he after-

wards sold to Heber C. Kimball, and moved to Davis County, and built the first adobe house in that County, which still stands and is occupied by John Ford.

In 1849 soon after his own arrival in the Territory, Colonel Ricks with others went back to meet and help in the companies of Apostles George A. Smith and Ezra T. Benson. They met them at Independence Rock, and reached the Valley about the middle of October. About a month later (November 24th, 1849) he went south on the exploring expedition with Parley P. Pratt. They went as far as the Santa Clara River in Southern Utah and returned March 27th, 1850.

The military career of Colonel Ricks commenced with the beginning of the Utah militia. In May 1850 the famous company of minute men was organized under the command of George D. Grant. Thomas E. Ricks was one of that company, James Ferguson, who had served the United States in the Mormon Battalion, was Grant's adjutant, and Hosea Stout and William Kimball were his lieutenants. In the spring and summer of 1851, Thomas Ricks was out with this picked company of minute men protecting the western frontiers against the Indians. He received a land warrant from government for this service. In 1852, when the militia of Davis County was organized, Ricks was enrolled under the command of John W. Hess. This was a cavalry company. It was afterwards divided into two companies, one under the command of Horton Haight, in which Ricks held the rank of lieutenant. In this position he served during the time of the Utah war against the Johnson expedition. In the Salmon River expedition he went out under Captain Haight and served as a lieutenant.

In 1852, on the 27th of August Colonel Ricks married Tabitha Hendricks; and in May, 1854, he went south with William Bringham and made a settlement at Los Vagas, but returned in September of 1855. The following year occurred the terrible disaster of the handcart emigration. Ricks went out with William Kimball, George D. Grant, Joseph A. Young, Cyrus H. Wheelock, and other daring men to meet Marti's handcart company.

The following spring he went out in service of the Y. X. Company. Then came the Utah war, and Thomas E. Ricks was called into the field as one of the most reliable military men in the Territory. In September, 1857, he went out with Lieutenant-General D. H. Wells to meet Johnson's army, and stayed with the reserve till the 20th of December. About that period, the Indians made a raid on the brethren at Salmon River, and Ricks was sent out with a company of relief, under the command of Captain Horton Haight. They started on the 10th of March, 1858, relieved the brethren at Salmon River, and brought them into Salt Lake City, arriving home on the 10th of April. This Salmon River expedition is of itself proof that the Mormons, during that hostile period, occasioned by the sending of United States troops to Utah, suffered from Indian attacks as well as the Arkansas emigrants. It has too generally been thought in the States that, at that period Brigham Young and Lieutenant-General Daniel H. Wells had all the Indians in the West arrayed under their control ready for the work of desolation and vengeance upon Gentile emigrant companies, whereas the facts of the history of those times show that the Indians by that very war movement upon the Mormons by the Government, was placed beyond the control of Brigham Young and General Wells. It was not many days prior to the Mountain Meadow Massacre, that in a conference with Captain Van Vleit, President Young used these remarkable words: "Captain Van Vleit, tell the United States Government that if it is resolved to prosecute this unrighteous war against the Mormons, they must stop all emigration across the Plains. I have *held the wrist* of the Indians as long as I can. Unless this war is stopped, I can hold their wrist no longer. The Indians will desolate everywhere, and we shall not be able to prevent them." Brigham Young thus foresaw and warned the Government, not only what would befall the Gentile emigration, but he foresaw that the Mormon settlements would suffer equally as much from those Indian depredations. Soon afterwards came the Mountain Meadow Massacre which, say what the Gentiles may to the contrary, was an Indian massacre, and

not one prompted by Brigham Young, George A. Smith, or Lieutenant-General Wells; and almost immediately afterwards came the Indian attack upon the Mormons at Salmon River, which called out the expedition of relief in which Thomas E. Ricks went out in the company of minute men and rescued the surviving brethren, for some had been killed.

The day after the return of the Salmon River expedition, Ricks went out with a company under Colonel Merrill to meet and escort Governor Cummings and Colonel Thomas L. Kane, whom they met at the mouth of Weber Canyon.

The next business was to move his family south, in the Utah exodus of that year, and when peace was proclaimed, he returned to his home in Farmington.

Next year, in July of 1859, Ricks with his father and C. W. Card and James Quayle, left Farmington together, and took a trip into Cache Valley to look at the country, with the intention to settle in Cache. They decided on the Logan location and located themselves, and then returned to Farmington for their families. In October, Thomas E. Ricks was again in Cache Valley, arriving on the 3d of that month with a threshing machine. He threshed the first wheat raised on the east side of Cache Valley.

On the 14th day of November, 1859, Logan Ward was organized by Apostles Orson Hyde, Ezra T. Benson, and Bishop Peter Maughan, with William B. Preston as bishop. Thomas E. Ricks, Ebenezer Landars, John E. Jones, and John Nelson were then nominated and elected members of the High Council, and the first three named of this council were ordained and set apart by the brethren of the Twelve.

On the 29th of April, 1860, the first company of minute men of Cache County was organized, with Thomas E. Ricks as captain and George L. Farrell as adjutant; and on the 14th of June, Ezra T. Benson was elected colonel of the Cache County militia. Ricks was soon raised to the rank of major of the first battalion, and subsequently to that, of colonel of the first regiment. The cavalry under his command was one of the finest cavalry regiments of the West. The following is his commission:

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
 TERRITORY OF UTAH.

TO ALL WHOM SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS GREETING:

Know ye, That whereas, Thomas E. Ricks was, on the 5th day of August, A. D. 1855, elected Colonel, First Regiment Cavalry, First Brigade, Nauvoo Legion—the militia of said Territory, in Cache Military District, U. T.

Therefore, I, Charles Durkee, Governor of said Territory, do hereby commission him a Colonel of said regiment, and authorize and empower him to discharge the duties of said office according to law, and to enjoy the rights and emoluments thereunto legally appertaining, for the term prescribed by law, and until his successor shall be elected and qualified to office.

I testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of said Territory to be affixed.

Done at Great Salt Lake City this 5th day of February, A. D. 1868, and of the independence of the United States the ninety-second.

CHARLES DURKEE,
 Governor.

[SEAL]

By the Governor.

EDWARD HIGGINS,
 Secretary of Utah Territory.

We give the above to show that Colonel Ricks has duly held a commission from the United States authority, and that former Governors of Utah have recognized the service and need of the Utah Militia for the protection of this country against the Indians, a need abundantly proved in the preceding military history of Cache Valley, by Colonel Martineau.

Returning to 1860, to review other appointments and historical affairs, we find Colonel Ricks appointed assessor and collector of Cache County, in the March term of the county court, in 1860, which position he held for four years. In August of 1860, he was elected sheriff of the County, and he was afterwards re-elected and served a second term. In 1862 he went to Florence to fetch emigrants, as Captain of Box Elder, Weber and Davis County teams. He made an extraordinary quick trip from Omaha, in seventy-two days, having seventy-five wagons and 500 English and Welsh Saints. In 1866, he made a trip with a mule train for Saints, and machinery for his mill.

In April of 1866, the company of Hyde, Ricks & Hendricks, commenced to build the "Deseret Mills" of Logan, at a cost of \$27,000. The old machinery has since been replaced with the latest improved machinery. In 1881, their exports were 2,000,000 pounds of flour. They ship principally to Montana and Idaho. The firm name is now "Hendricks & Ricks."

These partners are also great railroad contractors. In 1868-9, Ricks was a contractor on the Union Pacific, under

President Young, doing about \$100,000 of work. He afterward worked on the construction of the Utah Northern, from Ogden to Logan. In 1876, Hendricks and Ricks were the contractors in laying the track from Franklin to Blackfoot, Idaho Territory; continuing the next season from thence to Beaver Canyon, Idaho; thence the following season to Dillon, Montana; and next from Dillon to Butte. He is now also on a separate contract working on a branch line from Dillon to Helena.

From the time Colonel Thomas E. Ricks came to Utah, he has been in the public service, and he is known as one of the most enterprising and representative men of Cache County.