

## Conditions in Grantsville, 1853

Seth M. Blair, letter to the editor of the Deseret News, April 30, 1853

Editor News:

Dear sir.— Permit me to give you a few items from Tooele (Grantville), observations taken while on a visit there.

The branch at Grantville is presided over by Bro. Thomas Clark, who seems to be a good and faithful man of God, with his councilors Bros. Walker and Martindale, through whose influence the branch seems to be in a healthy condition and to enjoy the blessings of the Spirit with its attendant blessings of gifts of Tongues, etc., as promised by the Savior.

President Clark has recently organized the young men of said branch into the Teacher's Quorum, in which place they seem to magnify their calling; and the general spiritual health as well as temporal is good.

There are some 25 or 30 families in Grantville, mostly of last fall's emigration, who will be enabled we believe of enclosing this season 2500 acres of land; their soil, timber, grass, and other conveniences is not excelled in the mountains, with the exception of their exposed situation to the various tribes of Indians on the western range of the Wasatch mountains, which Indians we believe should be guarded against very prudently indeed, and to which we would call your attention.

The prophecy of the Presidency in the ninth general Epistle in regard to the gift of Tongues has been fulfilled in said branch, for Bro. Walker and Lee has the gift of the Utah tongue, and has preached (and did while I was there) to the Indians in their own tongue, and to the conviction of all present of their knowledge of what was said to them.

But the good influence that is created from time to time amongst the Indians who reside in Grantville is destroyed more or less by the visit from the Utahs from Weber waters and other places, as well as from the Desert on Mary's River, and the most annoying thing to the brethren at Grantville is the fact of the ability of the Indians to obtain such a vast amount of lead, powder, shot, caps, and guns as they do, which is a source of great annoyance and inconvenience to the settlement, and which no doubt would be stopped if the Superintendent of Indian Affairs knew of this fact.

Of the Ancient Ruins on the town site of Grantville, I will write when I have more leisure, and especially of the route to California through Tooele, and the fine Valleys that lay directly west of Grantville and near by.

Your friend and brother in the New Covenant,

S. M. Blair