

LDS Ecclesiastical History of Southwestern Iowa

Brandon Plewe, Draft 9/3/2008

I'm writing this because much of the confusion we've had in identifying settlements has been due to misunderstandings of how the branches worked. Some of this confusion has been the result of using Ronald Watt's monumental index of members unquestioningly. Watt has done a great service with this index, but he never attempted to explain the complex history of branches, which must be understood to make sense of the list and the underlying geography. As in modern days, divisions, mergers, and name changes were frequent. First, a basic chronology is given, then more details on each branch alphabetically.

A word about branch organization in that era: Each branch was governed by a presidency (president, two counselors, and a clerk), then as now, men who were at least elders (but often high priests), who ran meetings, oversaw the day-to-day operations of the branch, and held disciplinary actions. Presidencies were usually “elected” by the branch (nominate-second-vote), which was almost always a unanimous choice, with a single nominee. Presidency members typically “resigned” when leaving the branch or for other reasons (usually not negative), often nominating a successor. In addition, branches often had a bishop (sometimes, but not always with counselors), who by revelation was a High Priest, and who had the specific tasks of collecting tithes and offerings and watching over the poor. Bishops were usually chosen by the high council, but sometimes were elected (provisionally?) then sent for approval by the high council. The only other branch officers were the Priest and Teacher (more than one each in large branches); unlike today, these were as much callings as priesthood offices, with specific tasks such as visiting branch members. They appear to have operated under the direction of the bishop.

Chronology

1846

July 21: Pottawattamie High Council is created to govern the East side of the Missouri, as most of the Twelve (and likely the majority of members) move to the West side (eventually settling at Winter Quarters).

July 1846-December 1847: Council meetings are held at Council Point, the only sizable town at the time and the *de facto* headquarters for the Church in Iowa.

December 27: **Blockhouse** Branch (Kanesville) is the first officially organized branch.

1847

February-May: Branches organized in other major settlement clusters: **Macedonia Camp**, **Indian Mill**, and **Council Point**.

July 3: First Pottawattamie [stake] Conference held in the Mosquito Valley.

October 2: Second conference held, in “Indian Hollow” (future Kanesville); this begins a regular schedule of April-October conferences in Kanesville.

October 23: First branch-specific bishop called (William Draper, **Council Point**) to care for the poor. Previously, several at-large bishops had been called to watch over the families of Mormon Battalion soldiers.

1848

January 1: Kanesville (not yet named) becomes headquarters for the high council. Meetings are held in the log tabernacle until a Council House is built in August.

January 2: Pottawattamie High Priest Quorum is organized.

Spring-Summer: As saints are forced to abandon Winter Quarters, settlement in Iowa expands quickly; almost 40 branches are created, although many are short-lived, as many saints emigrate to Salt Lake as entire branches.

July 15: High Council calls bishops for 24 branches, instituting branch-specific bishops as a general policy.

December: A disagreement between Elder Hyde and Alpheus Cutler (president of Silver Creek/Big Grove Branch) challenges the authority of the Pottawattamie High Council, and eventually leads to Cutler leaving the Church with his entire branch.

1850

Summer: As large numbers of saints emigrate, many formerly strong branches are disorganized, renamed (e.g. Shirts' Branch > Buoyo), or consolidated into large regional branches (e.g. North Pigeon).

1851

June 21: Orson Hyde refers to himself as “President of the stake and high council,” the only known reference to the area as a stake.

July 5: In a move of consolidation, bishops begin to be assigned to groups of branches.

1852

Spring-Summer: As most (but not all) of the members still loyal to Brigham prepare to heed the call to emigrate immediately, the High Council is quietly disbanded and branches are converted into emigration companies (usually with the same leadership).

1853

May: **Plum Hollow** and **North Pigeon** are the last known outlying branches to disband and emigrate. **Kanesville Branch** may have held on for a while longer. Other branches may have quietly lingered independently when a core group of members chose not to follow Brigham (e.g., Galland's Grove)

1859

While **Bethlehem** is being used as an outfitting station for emigration companies (mostly from Europe), a branch is organized there.

1860

Southwestern Iowa is the first major destination of missionaries from the Reorganization; here they are successful in reconverting most of the stragglers and dissidents, and set up several long-lived branches.

Branch Histories

Gray Background: Sufficient knowledge to be certain of the Branch's status.

FG=Frontier Guardian

JHC=Journal History of the Church

PHC=Pottawattamie High Council Minutes

HPM=Pottawattamie High Priest Quorum Minutes

Allred's Branch

- certain existence (by 7/15/1848 - after 4/12/1851)
- Called "Allred's Branch"
- bishop: William Faucett
- Location: Allred's Camp
- Sources:
 - HPM 4,6,41
 - **JHC 10/10/1848**
 - PHC 105, v.2 (no page numbers)
 - FG 7/11/1849

Bethlehem Branch

- certain existence (by 5/1/1850 - after 1/3/1852)
- Called "Bethlehem Branch"
- bishop: Abraham Hendricks (by 5/4/1851 -)
- Location: Bethlehem
- Sources:
 - HPM 38,43
 - Coonville Branch records
 - PHC v.2 (no page numbers)

Big Bend Branch

- certain existence (by 8/6/1848 - after 3/21/1851)
- Called "Big Bend Branch"
- Called "Big Bend on Mosquito Branch"
- bishop: James Lang (9/16/1848 -)
- **president: Jonathan Browning (by 10/10/1848 -)**
- Location: Browning's Settlement
- Sources:
 - PHC 112
 - HPM 5
 - **JHC 10/10/1848**
 - FG 3/21/1851 pg 2 col 6

Big Pigeon Branch

- certain existence (by 7/2/1848 - after 7/1/1852)
- Called "Big Pigeon Branch"
- Called "Pigeon Branch"
- bishop: Levi Bracken (by 7/11/1848 -)
- **president: Uriah Curtis (by 10/10/1848 -)**
- Location: Big Pigeon
- Location: Benson Settlement

Had a tabernacle

- Sources:
 - Tithing Records (LR 4538 21)
 - PHC105,227
 - HPM 5,6,34
 - **JHC 10/10/1848**
 - FG 6/27/1849 pg 5, 6/30/1852 pg 3 col 6

Big Spring Branch on Mosquito

- certain existence (by 7/2/1848 - after 9/3/1848)
- Called "Big Spring Branch on Mosquito"
- bishop: Gardner Snow
- Location: on Mosquito Creek; exact location or included settlements unknown

There appears to be enough circumstantial evidence that this branch was distinct from the other one; members can be cleanly divided between the two by source (High Priest Quorum records refer to this one)

- Sources:
 - PHC 105
 - HPM 5,6

Big Spring Branch

- certain existence (7/30/1848 - 1850)
- Called "Big Spring Branch"
 - *named after a large spring later known as Mynster's Spring*
- president: Samuel Brown
- bishop: Chauncey W Porter
- Location: scattered farms 2 mi NW of Kaneshville

In 1850, many members sold out to Christopher Mynster, after whom the "Big Spring" would be named. There is some question about whether the two Big Spring Branches were distinct, but

membership lists and locational references can be cleanly separated.

- Sources:
 - Tithing Records (LR 4553 21)
 - JHC 10/10/1848
 - in county deeds

Bishop's Grove Branch

- probable existence (by 8/16/1851 -)
- Called "Bishop's Grove Branch"
- Location: unknown

Only mentioned once in passing, but clearly mentioned as a branch.

- Sources:
 - PHC vol 2 (no page numbers)

Blockhouse Branch

- certain existence (12/27/1846 -)
- Called "Blockhouse Branch" (12/27/1846 - after 8/30/1851)
 - *The Blockhouse predated Mormon settlement; it would become the center of Kanessville*
- Called "Kanessville Branch" (by 3/16/1851 -)
- president: Moses Clauson (12/27/1846 -)
- bishop: Daniel A Miller (12/30/1847 -)
- bishop: Joseph Knight (7/15/1848 -)
- president: C C Pendleton (by 8/26/1849 -)
- president: Levi Powell (by 3/16/1851 -)
- president: E M Greene (4/3/1851 -)
- Location: Kanessville, and about a mile surrounding it

By far, the largest branch in the area, with several hundred members. The names Blockhouse and Kanessville overlap, with no direct documentation of a name change; could they have been separate branches?

- Sources:
 - Branch minutes (LR 4825 21)
 - Lesser Priesthood Record (LR 5081 21)
 - Branch Records (LR 5081 22)
 - Tithing Records (LR 5081 23)
 - HPM 3,4,5,14,18,24,35,38
 - JHC 10/10/1848
 - PHC 80,105,2:13

Bluff Branch

- probable existence (by 2/15/1851 -)
- Called "Bluff Branch"
- Location: near Lake Branch?

only a single mention, names also associated with Lake Branch

- Sources:
 - FG 2/21/1851 pg 6

Brownell's Grove Branch

- probable existence (by 10/13/1851 -)
- Called "Brownell's Grove Branch"
 - *Possibly Gideon Brownell (only Brownell found, but no certain connection found to this branch)*
- bishop: Edward R Walker (10/13/1851 -)
 - *shared from Pleasant Valley Branch*
- Location: uncertain; near Pleasant Valley Branch

This branch may have been related to Burtrand, if named after Gideon Brownell. Only mentioned once.

- Sources:
 - in Pleasant Valley tithing records

Bullock's Grove

- certain existence (by 10/2/1850 - after 1/5/1851)
- Called "Bullock's Grove"
 - *named after settler Benjamin Bullock*
- Location: Bullock's Grove

May have been the same branch as the neighboring settlement of Hyde Park (Benjamin Bullock was the first bishop of that branch), but no certain connection found yet.

- Sources:
 - in HPM 38

Burtrand Branch

- probable existence (by 7/15/1848 -)
- Called "Burtrand Branch"
- bishop: Gideon Brownell
- Location: unknown

only mentioned once. Brownell's name may hint at

a connection to Brownell's Grove

- Sources:
 - PHC 105

Carterville Branch

- certain existence (by 6/1/1848 - after 4/4/1851)
- Called "Carterville Branch"
- president: E M Greene (by 6/1/1848 -)
- president: James Snow (by 11/19/1849 -)
- bishop: Jacob Baum (by 3/29/1851 -)
- Location: Carterville
- Sources:
 - PHC 183,184,194,2:5
 - HPM 5,34,35,38
 - FG 4/4/1851 pg 2 col 6

Centerville Branch

- **certain existence (by 10/10/1848 - after 10/27/1849)**
- Called "Centerville Branch"
- **president: Ezekiel Lee (by 10/10/1848 -)**
- **bishop: Gardner Snow (by 10/10/1848 -)**
- president: James Snow (by 10/27/1849 -)
- Location: Centerville

Was this distinct, or just a misspelling of Carterville? They are in the same vicinity, many people are listed in both places, there are a few clear transcription errors (ar->en is an easy mistake in script), and at least one obvious instance of Carterville being called Centerville. A couple references to Centerville, however, are very distinct. **The JHC reference gives two leaders that are listed in Big Spring on Mosquito in High Priest records; could these be the same settlement/branch?**

- Sources:
 - HPM 24
 - **JHC 10/10/1848**
 - PHC 180

Cheney's Branch on Keg Creek

- probable existence (by 9/3/1848 -)
- Called "Cheney's Branch on Keg Creek"
 - *no known person named Cheney*
- Location: uncertain; on Keg Creek

Only mentioned once. Likely the same as a better-known branch on Keg Creek (Coonville, Upper Keg Creek Crossing), but no evidence to support this.

- Sources:
 - HPM 6

Cooley's Branch

- probable existence (by 9/16/1848 -)
- Called "Cooley's Branch"
- bishop: William Aldrich
- Location: Cooley's Mill

Only one mention; appears to have been short-lived. Most of the time, Cooley's Mill was part of North Pigeon (and/or Big Pigeon) Branch.

- Sources:
 - PHC 112

Coonville Branch

- certain existence (4/16/1848 - after 9/30/1851)
- Called "Coonville Branch" (by 5/1/1850 - after 9/30/1851)
 - *Named after Lebbeus T Coon*
- Called "Union Branch" (4/16/1848 - before 5/1/1850)
 - *Union of what besides Coonville: Coolidge Mill? Kidd's Grove?*
- bishop: Lebbeus T Coon (1848 -)
- president: Lebbeus T Coon (**4/16/1848 -)**
- bishop: Peter Ranck? (by 9/30/1851 -)
- president: J G Lane (by 9/30/1851 -)
- Location: Coonville, Coolidge Mill. Also may have included Kidd's Grove for a while.

Primary branch south of Kanessville. In 1850, Bishop Coon is given authority over a number of southern branches.

- Sources:
 - Branch Records (**LR 4867 21**, FHL 26399 pt 1)
 - PHC 260, vol 2 (no page numbers)
 - FG 8/8/1849 pg 2 col 6

Council Point Branch

- certain existence (5/23/1847 - 7/11/1852)

- Called "Council Point Branch"
- president: George Coulson (5/23/1847 -)
- bishop: William Draper (10/23/1847 -)
- bishop: James Adams (6/1/1849 -)
- Location: Council Point

original headquarters of Pottawattamie High Council

- Sources:
 - Branch Records (LR 4876 21, LR 4876 22*/FHL 1922#6)
 - Tithing Records (LR 4876 23)
 - HPM 5,18,22,34,35
 - JHC 10/10/1848
 - PHC 67,80,105,166,206,270,vol 2 (no page numbers)
 - FG 6/27/1849 pg 2 col 2, 7/7/1849 pg 2 col 6, 7/10/1850 pg 6S

Davis Camp Branch

- uncertain existence (-)
- Called "Davis Camp Branch"
- Location: Davis Camp

The settlement is well-established, but it is not certain whether there was a branch. More likely, it was part of the Indian Creek Branch.

- Sources:
 - in McOlney's Branch records

Ferry/River Branch

- certain existence (by 7/15/1848 - after 7/11/1851)
- Called "River Branch" (by 7/15/1848 -)
- Called "Ferry Branch" (by 7/11/1851 -)
- bishop: William W Player (7/15/1848 -)
- president: David Williams (by 10/10/1848 -)
- Location: Ferryville

Ferryville lasted until 1852, not sure if branch lasted that long.

- Sources:
 - HPM 5,6
 - JHC 10/10/1848
 - PHC 105

Galland's Grove Branch

- certain existence (by 10/10/1848 – after 8/16/1851)
- Called "Galland's Grove Branch"
- Location: Galland's Grove

Many members did not emigrate, and became an early core of the RLDS Church in the area.

- Sources:
 - PHC vol 2 (no page number)
 - JHC 10/10/1848

Gardner's Branch

- probable existence (by 5/1/1850 -)
- Called "Gardner's Branch"
 - *named after Moses Gardner (Pony Creek)?*
- Location: unknown; somewhere in Mills or Fremont Counties

Only one mention (in L T Coon's regional jurisdiction). The only Gardners in the area were Moses Gardner in Pony Creek and Loring Gardner in Kidd's Grove, but these are listed as separate branches in the same list.

- Sources:
 - in Coonville/Union Branch records

Harris Grove Branch

- certain existence (7/15/1848 - 1852)
- Called "Harris Grove Branch"
- Location: Harris Grove, Elk Grove
- Sources:
 - Branch Records (LR 11332 21/FHL 1923#2)
 - PHC vol 2 (no page numbers)
 - JHC 10/10/1848
 - FG 5/16/1849 pg 1

High Prairie Branch

- certain existence (by 10/10/1848 – after 8/5/1849)
- Called "High Prairie Branch"
- president: Ezra Bickford (by 10/10/1848 -)
- Location: unknown. May be somewhere near Pleasant Grove (circumstantial evidence in 1852 Census)

- Sources:
 - HPM 24

• JHC 10/10/1848

Highland Grove Branch

- certain existence (by 8/6/1848 - after 8/30/1851)
- Called "Highland Grove Branch"
- bishop: Breed Sarls (9/16/1848 -)
- **president: Martin Bushman (by 10/10/1848 -)**
- Location: Highland Grove
- Sources:
 - PHC 112, vol 2 (no pg #'s)
 - JHC 10/10/1848
 - HPM 5,8,24

Honey Creek Branch

- certain existence (by 7/15/1848 - 7/1/1852)
 - *merged into North Pigeon in 1852*
- Called "Honey Creek Branch"
- bishop: Charles Patten (7/15/1848 -)
- bishop: Jeremiah Robey (by 6/7/1850 -)
- Location: Honey Creek

Indirect evidence suggests a possible connection to Shirts' Branch, but this appears to be unlikely.

- Sources:
 - Tithing Records (LR 4733 21)
 - PHC 105, vol 2 (no page numbers)
 - JHC 10/10/1848
 - HPM 5

Huntsville Branch

- **certain existence (by 10/10/1848 – after 8/30/1851)**
- **Called “D.D. Hunt's Branch” (1848)**
- Called "Huntsville Branch" (1851)
- Location: unknown

Only mentioned twice, but clearly as a branch. **D.D. Is presumably Daniel Durham, who was at Garden Grove in 1847.**

- Sources:
 - PHC vol 2 (no page #'s)
 - **Hunt Papers (MS 17372)**

• JHC 10/10/1848

Hyde Park Branch

- certain existence (by 9/16/1848 -)
- Called "Hyde Park Branch"
- bishop: Benjamin K Bullock (9/16/1848 -)
- Location: Hyde Park; Bullock's Grove?

May be same branch as neighboring Bullock's Grove, because Bullock was bishop.

- Sources:
 - PHC 112

Indian Creek Branch

- certain existence (by 7/15/1848 - after 9/29/1850)
- Called "Indian Creek Branch"
- bishop: Ezekiel Hopkins (7/15/1850 -)
- **President: Lewis Zabriskie (by 10/10/1848 -)**
- Location: Davis Camp?

Same as Davis Camp Branch? **Zabriskie also associated with nearby Plum Hollow.**

- Sources:
 - PHC 105,204
 - JHC 10/10/1848
 - HPM 15,35

Indian Town Branch

- certain existence (by 11/18/1848 - after 4/10/1852)
- Called "Indian Town Branch"
- bishop: David C Burnet (11/18/1848 -)
- Location: Indian Town
- Sources:
 - PHC 120
 - HPM 24,35

Kane's Grove Branch

- probable existence (by 7/15/1848 -)
- Called "Kane's Grove Branch"
- bishop: J C Wright (7/15/1848 -)
- Location: unknown
- only mentioned once

- Sources:
 - PHC 105

Kidd's Grove Branch

- probable existence (by 5/1/1850 -)
- Called "Kidd's Grove Branch"
 - *after settler Alexander Kidd*
- Location: Kidd's Grove

only mentioned once, on Libbeus Coon's regional circuit in 1850

- Sources:
 - in Coonville Branch records

Lake Branch

- certain existence (by 7/17/1848 - 1/1/1852)
- Called "Lake Branch"
- president: Benjamin F Burr (7/17/1848 -)
- bishop: Benjamin F Burr (7/17/1848 -)
- president: Joseph H Tippetts (7/5/1850 -)
- Location: unnamed settlement (scattered?) near Iowa Lake--always just called "Lake Branch"
- Sources:
 - Branch Records (LR 11673 21, [FHL 1923#4](#))
 - HPM 5
 - [JHC 10/10/1848](#)
 - FG 9/19/1849 pg 2 col 6, 1/22/1851 p2c6, 2/7/1851 p4c5, 7/11/1851 p2c6, 4/8/1852 p2c6

Lanesborough Branch

- probable existence (by 10/11/1851 -)
- Called "Lanesborough Branch"
- Location: unknown

only one mention

- Sources:
 - PHC vol 2, 10/11/1851

Little Mosquito Branch

- uncertain existence (1/5/1851 -)
- Called "Little Mosquito Branch"
- Location: Uncertain; somewhere along Little Mosquito Creek (NE of Carterville)

Only one church-related mention, and even then it is not clearly called a branch.

- Sources:
 - HPM 38

Little Pigeon Branch

- certain existence (by 7/15/1848 - 5/1/1852)
- Called "Little Pigeon Branch" (6/1/1850 - 5/1/1852)
- Called "Farmersville Branch" (7/15/1848 - after 8/5/1849)
- bishop: Horace Burgess (7/15/1848 -)
- bishop: Stephen Wight (6/1/1850 -)
- president: Thomas C D Howell (6/1/1851 -)
- Location: Little Pigeon, and probably valleys to East and Southeast

Farmersville and Little Pigeon may have been separate (but very near one another), but there are a few common residents that suggest they were the same.

- Sources:
 - Branch Records ([LR 5125 21*](#) [same film as council pt, big spring, and honey creek](#))
 - PHC 105,166,v.2 (no page numbers)
 - HPM 24

Macedonia Branch

- certain existence (2/14/1847 - 5/1/1852)
- Called "Macedonia Branch" (5/11/1847 - 5/1/1852)
- Called "Living Spring Branch" (2/14/1847 - 5/11/1847)
- president: Amos W Condit (2/14/1847 -)
- president: Andrew H Perkins (5/11/1847 -)
- bishop: U Harding Yager (7/9/1848 -)
- president: William R Terry (by 4/22/1849 -)
- bishop: John Crosby (by 6/10/1849 -)
- bishop: Ute Perkins (by 8/25/1849 -)
- Location: Macedonia Camp (which has an unknown location)

See Macedonia Camp in the settlements document for a description of the location mystery.

- Sources:
 - Branch Records ([LR 11808 21*/FHL 1917#6, LR 11808 22*](#))

- HPM 5
- JHC 10/10/1848
- PHC 105,163,227

Martindale's Branch

- certain existence (by 11/18/1848 - after 12/21/1850)
- Called "Martindale's Branch" (by 5/1/1850 -)
 - *after settler William Martindale*
- Called "Pony Creek Branch" (by 11/18/1848 - after 12/21/1850)
- bishop: Samuel Gates (11/18/1848 -)
- bishop: ?? Lane (11/9/1850 -)
- Location: Pony Creek

Names may have been used interchangeably. Part of Lebbeus T Coon's circuit in 1850.

- Sources:
 - Coonville Branch records
 - PHC 120, 260
 - FG 8/8/1849 pg 2 col 6, 5/1/1850 pg 6

McOlney's Branch

- certain existence (6/28/48 - 12/4/1851)
- Called "McOlney's Branch"
 - *after settler Davis McOlney*
- president: Davis McOlney (6/28/1848 -)
- bishop: Matthew Caldwell/Colwell (7/16/1848 -)
- president: Stephen Blackman (4/29/1849 -)
- bishop: Stephen Blackman (4/29/1849 -)
- president: Chester Southworth (3/30/1851 -)
- bishop: Alvin Nichols (3/30/1851 -)
- Location: McOlney's Camp
- Sources:
 - Branch Records (LR 5141 21*)
 - Tithing Record (LR 5141 22)
 - PHC 112
 - HPM 24,34,37,38
 - JHC 10/10/1848
 - FG 9/18/1850

Mill Branch

- certain existence (4/18/1847 - after 3/30/1852)
- Called "Mill Branch"
- president: Emer Harris (4/18/1847 -)

- president: Samuel G Clark (6/10/1848 -)
- bishop: Abraham Coons (7/15/1848 -)
- president: George Garner (by 6/10/1849 -)
- president: William Garner (5/1/1850 -)
- bishop: Edward R Walker (10/13/1851 -)
 - *shared from Pleasant Valley Branch*
- Location: Indian (Wick's) Mill
- Sources:
 - Branch Records (LR 5162 21)
 - PHC 89,105,204
 - HPM 5,6,24
 - JHC 10/10/1848
 - FG 3/6/1850, 8/7/1850

Mount Pisgah Branch

- certain existence (1846 - after 8/2/1851)
- Called "Mount Pisgah Branch"
- Location: Mt. Pisgah
- Sources:
 - Branch Records (LR 11973 21)
 - PHC 173

Nishnabotna Branch

- probable existence (by 7/15/1848 - after 8/17/1850)
- Called "Nishnabotna Branch" (by 8/17/1850 -)
- Called "West Fork Nishnabotna Branch" (by 7/15/1848 -)
- Called "Myers Mill (Branch?)" (by 12/2/1849 -)
- bishop: Ezra Vincent (7/15/1848 -)
- Location: Farm Creek, Myers-Hawes Mill (Old Macedonia)

Not sure whether there was a single sustained branch, or several attempts to start a branch in the area.

- Sources:
 - PHC 250
 - HPM 27

North Pigeon Branch

- certain existence (by 4/2/1848 - 5/1/1853)
- Called "North Pigeon Branch"
- Called "North Branch of Pigeon"
- bishop: Aaron Cheney (7/15/1848 -)

- president: James Kilfoyle (7/11/1852 -)
- Location: centered on Bybee's Camp
- Location: all area between Boyer River and Pigeon Creek south of Harris Grove (7/11/1852 -)

on 7/11/1852, it absorbed remnants of Honey Creek and Union-Buoyo Branches.

- Sources:
 - Branch Records (LR 5172 21* same film as many others, LR 5172 22)
 - HPM 3
 - PHC 105 vol 2 8/16/1851, 8/30/1851
 - FG 8/21/1850 pg 2 col 6

Old Agency Branch

- certain existence (by 9/3/1848 - after 12/21/1850)
- Called "Old Agency Branch"
- bishop: Horace/Harrison Olive/Oliver (9/16/1848 -)
- president: William B. Simmons (by 10/10/1848 -)
- Location: Old Agency
- Sources:
 - HPM 6
 - JHC 10/10/1848
 - PHC 112,260
 - FG 8/8/1849 pg 2 col 6

Pigeon Grove Branch

- probable existence (by 7/15/1848 - after 5/13/1852)
- Called "Pigeon Grove Branch"
- bishop: Moses Saunders
- Location: Pigeon Grove (location unknown)

only a couple references, and those are not clearly a branch

- Sources:
 - PHC 105
 - FG 5/13/1852 pg2, col6

Pleasant Grove Branch

- certain existence (by 7/15/1848 - after 10/13/1851)

- Called "Pleasant Grove Branch"
- bishop: James Downs (7/15/1848 -)
- president: James D. Allen (by 10/10/1848 -)
- bishop: Edward R Walker (10/13/1851 -)
 - shared from Pleasant Valley Branch
- Location: Pleasant Grove, Downs' Mill
- Sources:
 - PHC 105, 227
 - JHC 10/10/1848
 - Pleasant Valley Tithing Records (LR 5174 21)
 - FG 7/11/1851, pg 2 col 6

Pleasant Valley Branch

- certain existence (by 7/15/1848 - after 3/21/1852)
- Called "Pleasant Valley Branch"
- bishop: James Dunn (7/15/1848 -)
- president: James Dunn (by 10/10/1848 -)
- bishop: John Horn (by 8/30/1851 -)
- bishop: Edward R Walker (by 10/13/1851 -)
 - also Pleasant Grove, Brownell's Grove, and Mill Branches
- Location: Pleasant Valley

Many members came from Ramus/Macedonia, Illinois

- Sources:
 - Branch Tithing Records (LR 5174 21)
 - HPM 3,14, 42a
 - JHC 10/10/1848
 - PHC 105, V.2

Plum Hollow Branch (Pottawattamie)

- certain existence (by 7/15/1848 - 5/16/1853)
- Called "Plum Hollow Branch"
- bishop: Andrew B Williams (7/15/1848 -)
- bishop: William A Beebe (6/9/1850 -)
- president: Lewis Zabriskie (6/9/1850 -)
- bishop: Lewis C Zabriskie (10/15/1850 -)
- bishop: Andrew B Williams (6/8/1851 -)
- Location: Plum Hollow, Pottawattamie County

This is the major branch discussed in the records; separate from the one in Fremont County. In 1848, Zabriskie is Branch President of Indian Creek Branch; these two branches may be identical or one split or merged into the other.

- Sources:
 - Branch records (LR 2115 21, FHL 1923#5)
 - PHC105
 - JHC 10/10/1848
 - FG 11/14/1851 pg2 col 6; 11/28/1851

Plum Hollow Branch (Fremont)

- probable existence (by 5/1/1850 - after 3/11/1852)
- Called "Plum/Plumb Hollow Branch"
- Location: Plum Hollow/Studyville, Fremont County

seldom mentioned, only once clearly as a branch, but at least a couple references are clearly not the Plum Hollow in Pottawattamie County. In 1850, it was on Libbeus Coon's regional circuit. Almost always associated with David C Study.

- Sources:
 - Coonville Branch records
 - FG 12/25/1850 pg 1 col 1; 3/11/1852 pg 2 col 3

Pottawattamie High Council

- certain existence (7/21/1846 - after 4/10/1852)
 - 4/10/1852 is last entry in records
- Called "Pottawattamie High Council"
- president: Orson Hyde (apostle)
- Location: All of Southwestern Iowa. Limited jurisdiction may have included all of Eastern US?

Incorrectly listed in Watt's list as a branch. Pottawattamie was essentially a stake, with a presidency and high council governing several branches (and a single high priest quorum), but it is only called a stake once (and that fleetingly) in the records. High Councillors frequently served simultaneously in presidencies and bishoprics of central branches (esp. Blockhouse and Council Point). Although its direct control is generally southwestern Iowa, at times it appears to have some jurisdiction over distant branches in St. Louis and even the East Coast; this may only be a direct jurisdiction of Elder Hyde as one of the Twelve. Until a county government was created (and large numbers of non-mormons began to move in), they also appear to have governance over civic affairs,

including things like roads, liquor licenses, and ferry rights.

- Sources:
 - High Council minutes (LR 1764 21), elsewhere PHC
 - Tithing Record (LR 1764 23)
 - High Priest Quorum minutes (LR 1764 22), elsewhere HPM
 - High Priest List (FHL 7794#2)
 - Clerk's Files (LR 1764 25*)
 - FG 5/2/1849 pg 2 col 1, "38 branches" (not listed)

Rocky Ford Branch

- certain existence (5/20/1848 - 7/9/1851)
- Called "Rocky Ford Branch"
- president: David D Yearsley (5/20/1848 -)
- bishop: George G Redding (7/15/1848 -)
- president: Elias Harmer (7/28/1850 -)
- Location: Rocky Ford of Buoyo

in 1851, absorbed by Buoyo (Shirts') Branch

- Sources:
 - Branch records (LR 9517 21)
 - Union Branch on Buoyo records (LR 5201 21), p.1
 - PHC 105, 241, v2:5
 - FG 6/27/1849 pg 2 col 2; 8/8/1849 pg 2 col 6

Rushville Branch

- probable existence (by 1/22/1848 - before 4/16/1848)
- Called "Rushville Branch"
- bishop: Libbeus T Coon
- Location: Rushville

moved to Coonville/Union

- Sources:
 - PHC 78

Shirts' Buoyo Branch

- certain existence (6/4/1848 - 7/1/1852)
 - merged into North Pigeon in 1852
- Called "Shirts' Branch" (6/4/1848 - 6/1/1850)
 - named after settler Peter Shirts
- Called "Buoyo Branch" (6/2/1850 - 8/16/1851)

- *renamed after Shirts and others emigrated and replaced by new members*
- Called "Union Branch on Buoyo" (8/17/1851 - after 5/2/1852)
 - *renamed after absorbing Rocky Ford Branch*
- president: Thomas W Smith (6/4/1848 -)
- bishop: Willis Boren (7/12/1848 -)
- president: William Meeks (9/21/1851 -)
- Location: Shirts' Camp
 - *same as Tennessee Hollow?*
- Location: Tennessee Hollow
- Location: Rocky Ford (7/9/1851 -)
- Location: Honey Creek?
 - *need to verify*
- Sources:
 - Branch Records (LR 12606 21*/FHL 1923#6, LR 5201 21/FHL 1923#7)
 - PHC 105
 - HPM 24

Silver Creek/Big Grove Branch

- certain existence (by 7/15/1848 - after 8/17/1850)
- Called "Silver Creek Branch" (by 9/15/1848 - after 2/6/1852)
- Called "Big Grove Branch" (by 7/15/1848 - after 10/10/1848)
 - *commonly believed to be another site, but records clearly use this name for Cutler's followers, and their grove was the largest inland grove in the area. JHC reference clearly connects Big Grove to Father Cutler.*
- bishop: Luman Calkins (7/15/1848 - 4/8/1849)
- president: Alpheus Cutler
- Location: Cutler's Camp, Potter's Camp? Farm Creek?

Most of branch eventually left the Church and formed a new church under Cutler.

- Sources:
 - HPM 28
 - JHC 10/10/1848
 - PHC 105,112,118,122,251
 - FG 5/2/1849 pg 4, 8/8/1849 pg 3

Springville Branch

- certain existence (by 7/2/1848 - after 1/17/1852)

- Called "Springville Branch"
- bishop: Benjamin Ellsworth (7/15/1848 -)
- **president: Henry Williams (by 10/10/1848 -)**
- Location: Springville

exact location uncertain, likely somewhere along Little Mosquito Creek

- Sources:
 - HPM 5, 14, 34
 - JHC 10/10/1848
 - PHC 105, 227, 271, v.2 (no pg numbers)
 - FG 3/6/1849 pg 1, 6/13/1849 pg 2 col 5, 6/27/1849 pg 2 col 2, 8/8/1849 pg 2 col 6

Unionville Branch

- uncertain existence (by 6/27/1849 - after 12/2/1849)
- Called "Unionville Branch"
- Location: Unionville? on Keg Creek

Location unknown. Could be the same as Union Branch (Coonville)

- Sources:
 - HPM 27
 - FG 6/27/1849 pg 2 col 2

Upper Keg Creek Branch

- probable existence (by 7/15/1848 -)
- Called "Upper Keg Creek Branch"
- bishop: William McGuire
- Location: Upper Keg Creek Crossing
- Sources:
 - PHC 105

Welsh Branch

- certain existence (by 10/27/1849 - after 2/14/1852)
- Called "Welsh Branch"
- president: William Morgan
- Location: near Council Point?

secondary sources place it near Council Point

- Sources:
 - PHC 180, 183, 238, v.2 (no page numbers)