those local converts, became the first native Chilean branch president and stake president. On September 15, 1983, the Santiago Chile Temple was dedicated. Eugene F. and Rae Stephens Jones Olsen were the president and matron. On March 31, 1990, Elder Eduardo Ayala, a former mission president in Uruguay, became the first native Chilean called to be a Seventy.

PARAGUAY. Even though in 1939 President Frederick S. Williams of the Argentine Mission traveled to the upper Pilcomayo River and visited Indian tribes there, as well as the people in Asunción, it was not until 1948 that the Church baptized its first Paraguayan convert. The Church was officially established when missionaries were sent to Paraguay from the Uruguay Mission in October 1949. Since the first baptism, Church growth has been steady. The Paraguay Mission was created in 1977, and the first stake was organized in Asunción on February 25, 1979, with Carlos R. Espinola as president. In 1980, the Church established an active branch made up of Indian converts from the Churupi-Nivacle tribe, in Mistolar village, about 800 kilometers northwest of Asunción.

URUGUAY. The first member of the Church to gain attention in Uruguay was Elder Rolf L. Larson, a missionary in the Argentina Mission who was named the most valuable basketball player in South America during the championship games held at Montevideo in January 1940. The first branch in Uruguay was organized with twelve members on June 25, 1944; the mission was organized on August 30, 1947, with the first converts being baptized on November 1, 1948. In the 1960s President and A. Sister Theodore Tuttle moved the headquarters of the South American Mission to Montevideo, which then became the center for the development of the Church throughout South America. The headquarters were later moved to Buenos Aires. The Montevideo Uruguay Stake was organized on November 12, 1967, with Vicente C. Rubio as president. Although the first plans for a temple in South America called for it to be built in Uruguay, it was eventually built in São Paulo, Brazil, in 1978. On January 1991, the Church had one mission, 18 stakes and districts, and 111 wards and branches serving over 50,000 Uruguayan Latter-day Saints.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

TOMÁS F. LINDHEIMER

SOUTH BAINBRIDGE (AFTON), NEW YORK

In October 1825, Josiah Stowell (sometimes spelled Staal) of Bainbridge Township (now Afton), Chenango County, New York, hired Joseph Smith and his father to assist in digging for Spanish treasure near the Susquehanna River in Harmony Township (now Oakland), Pennsylvania. The men lodged with Isaac Hale, where Joseph Smith met his future wife, Emma Hale, and began their courtship. The treasure hunters gave up excavating in mid-November 1825, but Joseph continued his employment at the Stowell farm.

Josiah Stowell’s home was situated on the west side of the Susquehanna River about two miles southwest of the village of South Bainbridge (Afton since 1857), on the road to Nineveh, twenty-six miles northeast of the Hale home in Harmony. Joseph Smith worked as a farmhand, a laborer in the Stowell sawmill, and as a “wool carder.” Josiah Stowell, Jr., remembered that Joseph “went to school with him one winter” and that “he was a fine likely young man” (letter of Josiah Stowell, Jr., to John S. Fullmer, Feb. 17, 1843, HDC).

Joseph Smith encountered difficulty when Peter G. Bridgman (Bridgeman), who was Stowell’s nephew, swore out a complaint against him for being a “disorderly person.” He appeared before Justice of the Peace Albert Necley in South Bainbridge during March 1826 and was acquitted (Madsen, pp. 106–107; see SMITH, JOSEPH: TRIALS OF JOSEPH SMITH). That same year Joseph Smith found employment with Joseph Knight, Sr., in Colesville township, Broome County, a few miles south of the Stewells. He continued to call on Emma Hale in Harmony, and requested her hand.
in marriage. Isaac Hale strenuously objected and Joseph Smith found himself “under the necessity of taking her elsewhere” (HJC 1:17). The couple were married in South Bainbridge on January 18, 1827, by Justice of the Peace Zachariah Tarbell. Joseph Smith was twenty-one and Emma Hale was twenty-two.

On June 28, 1830, while proselytizing at the home of Joseph Knight, Sr., in Colesville, Joseph Smith was arrested on a warrant from Chenango County, taken to South Bainbridge for trial before Justice of the Peace Joseph Chamberlain, and was again acquitted (Firmage, pp. 50–51). Despite strong sectarian opposition, Joseph and other LDS missionaries were successful in converting a number of individuals in the South Bainbridge area, including Josiah Stowell.

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GORDON A. MADSSEN

SPAFFORD, BELLE SMITH

Marion Isabelle (Belle) Sims Smith Spafford (1895–1982) was a gifted administrator and an able assistant and adviser to six Presidents of the Church during her twenty-nine years as General President of the RELIEF SOCIETY (1945–1974).

President Spafford served through the late 1940s, when the Church rallied to rebuild war-weary Saints both physically and emotionally; the 1950s, when the Church endeavored to bridge its tremendous national and international growth; and the 1960s, when the Church correlated its programs and reemphasized the family and selfless service. Commanding in stature, she displayed invaluable energy, stamina, wisdom, and forthrightness during those turbulent decades.

Belle Smith Spafford (1895–1982), ninth general president of the Relief Society, served from 1945 to 1974. She is shown here with her counselors Marianne Clark Sharp (left, daughter of J. Reuben Clark, Jr.) and Louise W. Madsen (right). Courtesy Utah State Historical Society.

Belle Smith was born October 8, 1895, in Salt Lake City, to Hester Sims and John Gibson Smith. Following her graduation from LDS High School, she completed a two-year degree at the University of Utah. After her marriage to widower Earl Spafford on March 23, 1921, she studied at the BYU Training School, and later, while her children, Mary and Earl, were growing up, she took courses at the University of Utah. A lifelong student, she designated daily study hours during which she was not to be called or disturbed; as a grandmother, she established “scholar night” on which she would study with each of her grandchildren, on a one-to-one basis.

Called early to leadership, Belle Spafford served as president of her ward YWMI at age seventeen, and she also taught religion classes. She later served as a counselor in her ward Relief Society presidency and on the Relief Society stake board of Salt Lake Belvedere Stake. In 1935 she was called to the Relief Society General Board, and in 1942 she became a counselor to General Relief Society President Amy Brown Lyman. She edited