

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

CHARLES COULSON RICH  
August 9, 1809-November 17, 1883

Number 549

1971

C. C. Rich served as a prominent Mormon leader almost from the time he joined Joseph Smith's new church in 1832. He traveled a lot: from his native Kentucky, he had moved to Indiana in 1811; to Illinois in 1829. Then he followed the Mormon migration from Ohio to Missouri and back to Illinois, where he served on the Nauvoo city council and helped to organize the Nauvoo Legion. After reaching Salt Lake, he became an apostle in 1849 and founded San Bernardino, California, in 1851.

After going on an European mission in 1860, he established Idaho's Bear Lake settlements in the fall of 1863, under the supposition he was still in Utah. He represented Rich County in the Utah legislature, although after finding that most of the population of his county turned out to be in Idaho, he began to send his son, Joseph C. Rich, to the Idaho legislature in Boise.

Meanwhile he continued to serve as a Utah lawmaker, unembarrassed by his Idaho residency. Most prominent of Idaho's early Mormons, he symbolized the close connection that grew up between southeastern Idaho and Salt Lake as the Saints radiated northward in colonizing the upper Snake River valley.

*Publications--450 N. 4th Street, Boise, ID 83702--208-334-3428*