

Rexburg Temple Dedication service – notes about Hyrum Manwaring and Marie Manwaring Anderson...

President Kinghorn, who is in the Rexburg temple presidency, spoke. He mentioned that last night at the cultural celebration they mentioned that when Hyrum Manwaring came to Rexburg in the early 1900's to teach at the Ricks Academy, he wrote in his memoirs that he walked the hill to the administration building and felt a little depressed and wondered what he was doing in this small, under developed town. He walked further up the hill and looked at the valley and still had feelings of depression. He walked further up the hill so he could overlook the entire valley. He said he felt the Spirit and had a vision opened to his mind that this valley would develop into a modern city and this academy would become a great college. President Kinghorn said he has wondered if President Manwaring was standing on this future temple site when he had this vision. He feels that he was. President Kinghorn's wife also spoke. Another one of the speakers was F. Michael Watson, secretary to the First Presidency. He mentioned that a special song was written for one of our temples, Temple By The River. He said maybe someone will write a song about the temple on the hill in Rexburg. Kim Clark, current president of BYU-Idaho spoke and he too mentioned that he feels President Hyrum Manwaring could have been standing on the future site of the Rexburg temple when he had his vision of the valley. He said this spot is a place of revelation.

“Hyrum Manwaring, the 7th president of Ricks College who offered these observations: “On the evening of July 23rd, I came to Rexburg to deliver the ‘oration’ at the 24th of July celebration...Ricks Academy seemed nothing but a massive stone building standing in the center of a rugged ten acre plot of ground (with) sagebrush and lava rock...I stood lonely and very depressed and silently shed tears to think I was bringing my dear wife and children to this place to try to make a home. I climbed further up the slope and looked farther over the great valley; I suddenly seemed to catch the spirit of the pioneers, and to dream of the great potentials that lay before me. I saw the future of a fine residential city and a great college. Later that morning when I went to the new tabernacle to deliver my speech...I was inspired as I have seldom been and made a speech that was full of hope and enthusiasm. As I gave courage and determination to my eager listeners, I received ten fold of that spirit for myself. I finished that day full of the old pioneer spirit that builds empires. I left Rexburg happy....I felt that I had found a challenge for my young mind, heart, and muscles.” (Val R. Christensen, Brigham Young University-Idaho Devotional, October 7, 2008)