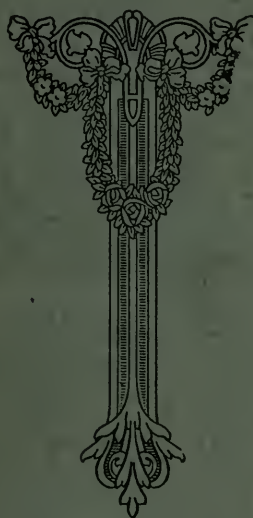


# The Mormon Battalion and Its Monument

*A Compilation of Data for  
Sculptors and Architects*



PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF  
THE STATE OF UTAH MORMON BATTALION COMMITTEE

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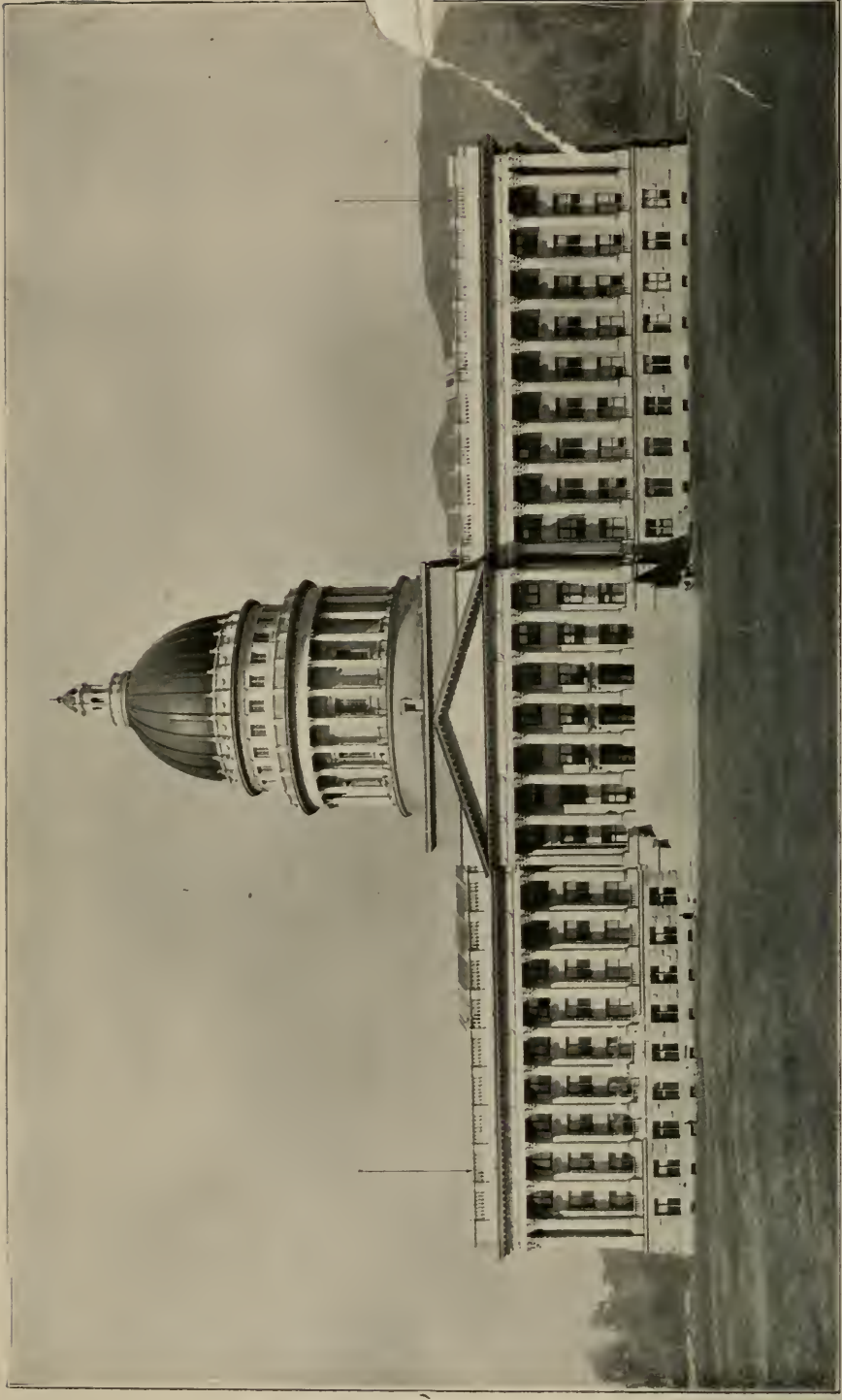
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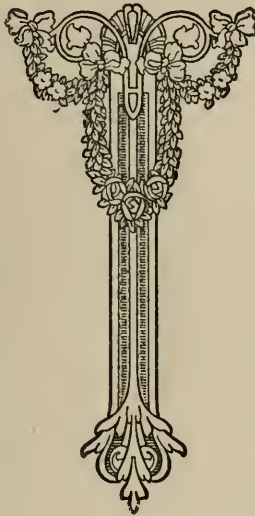


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# THE MORMON BATTALION AND ITS MONUMENT

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THE STATE OF UTAH MORMON BATTALION COMMITTEE





# The Act Creating the State of Utah Mormon Battalion Monument Committee

LAWS OF UTAH, 1915.

CHAPTER 62.—TITLE.

SELECTION OF SITE AND DESIGN FOR A MONUMENT TO THE  
MORMON BATTALION.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Utah:*

Section 1. Appointment of Commission to Select Site and Design. Report. The Governor is hereby authorized to appoint a committee of seven resident citizens of the State, who shall serve without pay, whose duty it shall be to select a proper site upon the Capitol grounds and procure a suitable design for a monument to commemorate the important contribution made to the early settlement and development of the State of Utah, and the western portion of this country by the Mormon Battalion; and to report their acts and recommendations to the twelfth session of the Legislature of the State.

Section 2. Appropriation. How Expended. There is hereby appropriated the sum of One Thousand Dollars out of any moneys not otherwise appropriated, to be expended, or so much thereof as may be necessary, under the direction of said committee, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of Section 1 of this Act. Approved March 16th, 1915.

## Names of the Committee

B. H. ROBERTS, *Chairman,*

MARY JONES CLAWSON,

JOHN S. BRANSFORD,

GEORGE F. GOODWIN,

JOHN K. HARDY,

WM. H. PETTEGREW,

MAY BELLE T. DAVIS, *Secy.*



## Preface

The state of Utah Mormon Battalion Monument Committee authorizes the publication of the following compilation of data respecting the Battalion, its service to the country and its achievements.

Primarily the purpose of this *brochure* is to place in the hands of sculptors and architects such information as will give them, in condensed form, a sketch of the Battalion's story; and what is even of greater importance, give to them the right viewpoint respecting the call and the service of this body of United States volunteers. There is scarcely an incident in the history of the United States concerning which there has been so much misconception as in respect of this Battalion. And now that the time has come for the perpetuation in some permanent form a Memorial of this historical incident, it is important that those who shall participate in designing in bronze or marble what shall symbolize the call, the march, and the achievements of the Battalion, do so from the right point of view. That, it is believed, will be obtained from the perusal of the articles herewith presented.

April, 1916.



# The Mormon Battalion and its Monument

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## Description of Utah State Capitol Grounds

### Where the Battalion Monument will be Located

BY JOHN K. HARDY.

At the base of the historic Ensign Peak, on the brow of the first of a series of benches that step up to the summit of one of the spurs of the Wasatch Mountains, forming a portion of the northern boundary of the Salt Lake valley, is the forty-acre plot comprising the capitol grounds. Twenty-five years ago Salt Lake City Corporation conveyed to the then territory of Utah a plot of approximately twenty acres out of what was then known as Arsenal Hill, as a site for the future capitol building, at the same time auctioning the adjoining land in small parcels as residence lots. The capitol grounds were irregular in shape. In general their boundaries conformed to a triangle. This irregularity of shape was occasioned by the effort to afford the capitol site the best possible advantage under the peculiar topography of the surrounding section. Since the original grant, through purchases from individuals and further grants by the city of Salt Lake, the state has now acquired all the land east of the building to the brow of City Creek canyon, and in carrying out the grading and parking design a mountain of earth has been removed, bringing the forty-acre plot to an even surface. The capitol grounds are now bounded on the south by Second North street, on the east by a boulevard skirt- ing City Creek canyon, on the north by Fourth North street, and on the west by West Capitol avenue. The capitol building is located in the southwest portion of this plot, about four hundred ten feet from the south boundary line and on the axis

of State Street, a thoroughfare running practically due south to the southern extremity of the Salt Lake valley, a distance of about eighteen miles. The center of the east wing is on a direct line with Seventh Avenue, one of the streets of the north-eastern portion of Salt Lake City. From the east exposure of the building to the east lot line is three hundred forty feet. The western entrance to the building is a trifle south of the center of Third North street, which extends west to the limits of the city. From the center of the west end of the building to the west boundary line of the grounds is one hundred ten feet. From the building grade to the east lot boundary is a gradual slope to the brow of City Creek canyon, where the ground breaks in a sharp decline of about three hundred feet to the bed of City Creek canyon, but the plot is sufficiently elevated to command a view of the residence section of the benchlands of the north-eastern portion of the city on the opposite side of the canyon. On the west the grounds are terraced down rather sharply to West Capitol street, and about a thousand feet farther west the land falls off abruptly to the level of the valley below. From the curb-line on the south of the building to the building grade, four hundred ten feet, there is a rise of twenty-seven feet, and in the short distance of three blocks south from the building, the elevation is reduced about three hundred thirty feet to the level of the altitude monument on Temple Square.

The capitol building occupies one of the most commanding sites in the Salt Lake valley, and at the same time is within a fifteen minutes' walk of the very heart of the business section of the city. From the dome of the building an unobstructed view of the entire Salt Lake valley can be had. From every point of entrance into the valley the first structure that attracts the eye is the capitol building and it is generally regarded as occupying the most beautiful location of any public building in the United States.

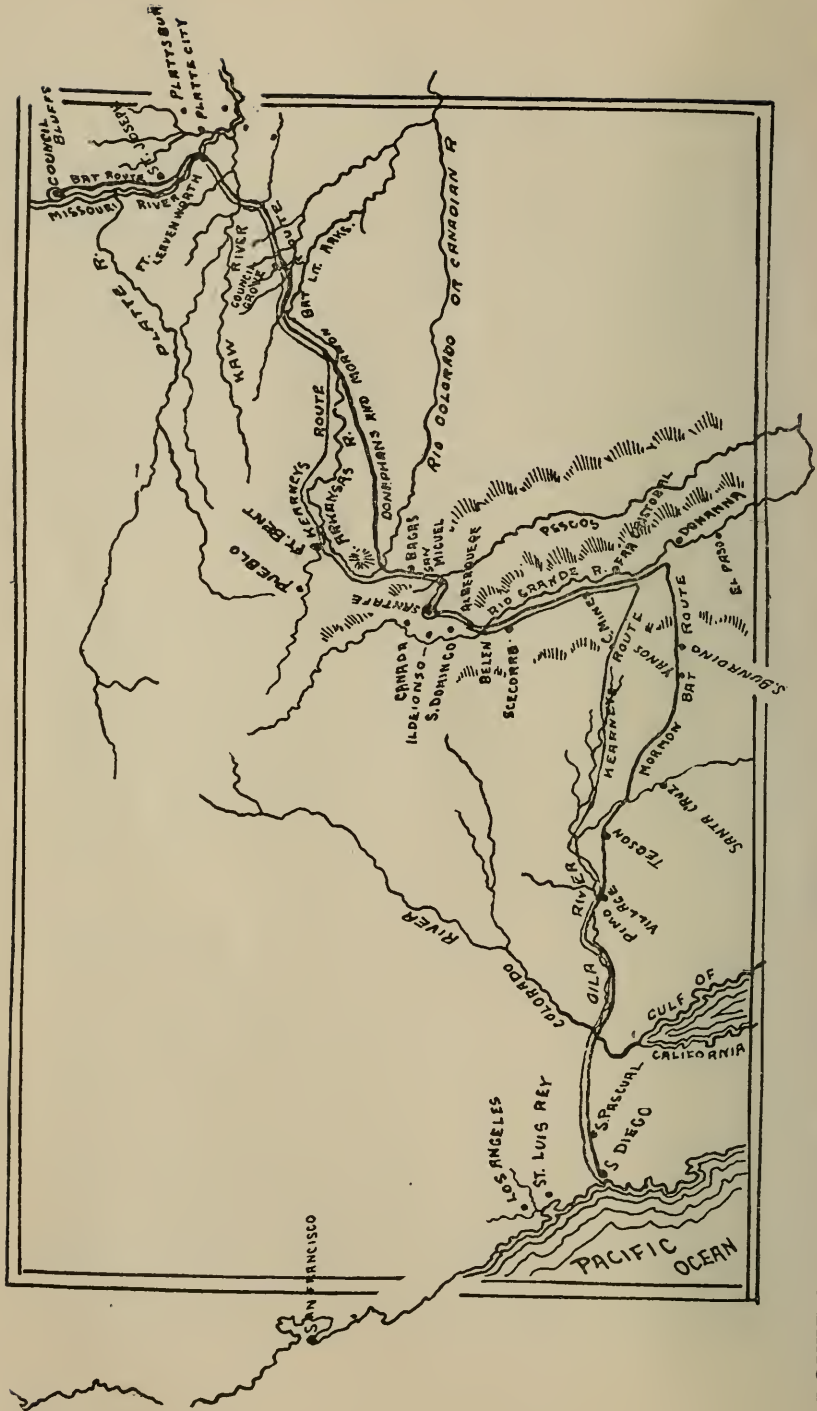
The capitol building is a massive, four-story, granite struc-

ture of classic design, about four hundred feet in length, two hundred feet wide through the dome section and one hundred forty feet in width through the East and West wings. For a distance of fifty feet from the building, conforming to the shape of the structure the grade is carried out on a level terrace. From the grade line to the top of the parapet wall, the building is eighty feet and from grade to the top of the dome two hundred fifty-seven feet. Extending around the south, east and west exposures of the building is a collonade of fifty-two granite columns, forty-one feet in height, this vast pile of granite masonry forming a substantial and imposing background for any monument that may find a place on the Capitol grounds between the building and the city.

From the illustration showing the grounds and building it will be observed that the southwestern portion of the plot is shortened materially by a triangular strip of ground now privately owned. That the State will ultimately acquire this tract seems certain. Should such property be acquired, the opportunity for a choice of sites for the Mormon Battalion Monument will be greatly extended, and enriched, as doubtless the approach to the Capitol Grounds via Main Street and Second North will be the popular route to the building.

Altogether the capitol grounds, upon which it is intended to locate a monument to the Mormon Battalion, offer one of the most imposing and inspiring sites for the expression of genius in a masterpiece of art. Assuredly the changes wrought in the face of landscapes by the growth of the city will never detract from the superb eminence of the magnificent spot. Capitol Hill will always be the objective of the tourist visiting Salt Lake, not alone because of interest in the Utah Capitol building, but because of the magnificent view the elevation commands of the valley, and few people, therefore, will visit Salt Lake without having opportunity to look upon our monument to the members of the Mormon Battalion.





ROUTE OF THE MORMON BATTALION FROM COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, TO SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—1846

Published by permission of the Americana Society, New York; David I. Nelke, President.



# The Famous Two Thousand Mile March of the Mormon Battalion

BY MAY BELLE THURMAN DAVIS.

Secretary of State of Utah Mormon Battalion Monument Committee.

*(From the Salt Lake "Herald-Republican" of Feb. 30th, 1916.)*

TWO SIDES TO SUBJECT. There are two sides from which any historical subject may be viewed: the personal side and the achievement side. At close range the personal side is more poignant. That which has to do with individual sentiments, sufferings and sacrifices is intensely significant in the day thereof, but in the crucible of time it becomes but an insignificant part in the great mass of human experience. The achievement side, however, is quite different. In the perspective of time "the thing accomplished" stands out in bold relief for its full historical value.

The personal phase of the Mormon Battalion was the inspiring motive which prompted a few of the daughters of members of the Battalion to form themselves into a society for the purpose of "keeping green" the memory of their fathers. The achievement phase of the Mormon Battalion as presented by the daughters prompted the governor and legislature of Utah, in 1915, to pass a bill which is the promise of a monument in honor of the Battalion.

A resume of the achievements is set forth in the petition which was presented to the legislature. The petition reads as follows:

*"To the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the State of Utah.—Ladies and Gentlemen:* It has been the custom in all ages and among all people for those who enjoy the advantages of a higher civilization to memorialize the achievements of those who, by heroic sacrifice, blazed the trails and

laid the foundation of that civilization. Utah is unique among her sister states of the west, in that she has numbered among her citizens the members of a battalion that rendered a splendid service in that conflict which raised the standard of the United States over the Rocky mountains, and upon the shores of the Pacific ocean.

“Inasmuch as the state capitol is nearing completion and the surrounding grounds are being planned with a view to their present and future adornment, we feel it to be a fitting time to ask that a site be designated upon the capitol grounds for a memorial commemorating the first military incident of national significance in connection with this state.

“After a lapse of almost seventy years, when the plain facts of history apart from prejudices and personalities depend upon their own merits for their illumination; when the seeds of a great patriotic service have matured to a glorious fruition, we feel that the time is ripe to ask, not only for a site for this monument; but, further, that an appropriation be made for a monument to the Mormon Battalion.

“As a basis for such request we submit the following facts for your consideration:

“The Mormon Battalion was regularly enlisted into the service of the United States July 16, 1846, at Council Bluffs, Ia.

“The call for 500 volunteers came to the pioneers, the founders of this state and the vanguard of western civilization, when they were in the midst of their journey to the Rocky mountains.

“While the enlistment of the Battalion entailed great sacrifice upon those who enlisted, and upon their families who were left behind homeless and unprovisioned, in an open country infested by savages and wild animals, it nevertheless was the means of rendering great assistance to the people as a whole in the preparations for their advent into these valleys.

The fact that these 500 men were in the service of the United States was the plea effectually used by Colonel Kane at Washington in securing the privilege for the Utah pioneers to plant and harvest crops upon the Indian lands along the shores of the Missouri river. The seeds that matured upon these lands were brought here and planted in the virgin soil of Utah.

"The Mormon Battalion rendered financial aid to the pioneers of this state. Upon enlisting each soldier received from the government, besides his accoutrements, which he was to retain after his term of service had expired, forty-two dollars in cash, as clothing money for the year. The clothing was not purchased, as a good portion of the money was sent back to Council Bluffs for the use of the people there; and thus doubtless assisted in completing the equipment of the pioneers who entered Salt Lake valley July 24, 1847.

"Under the command of Col. Philip St. George Cooke the battalion made an infantry march of 2,000 miles from the Missouri river to the Pacific coast. On account of the sacrifice which they had made in not purchasing appropriate clothing and shoes for the long, strenuous march, they endured excruciating hardships. The following is a copy of Colonel Cooke's letter of congratulation to the Mormon Battalion upon their arrival at San Diego:

"*Headquarters Mormon Battalion, Mission of San Diego, January 30, 1847.—(Orders No. 1.)*

"The lieutenant colonel commanding congratulates the Battalion on their safe arrival on the shore of the Pacific ocean, and the conclusion of their march of over 2,000 miles.

"History may be searched in vain for an equal march of infantry. Half of it has been through a wilderness where nothing but savages and wild beasts are found, or deserts where for want of water there is no living creature. There, with almost hopeless labor we have dug deep wells, which the future traveler will enjoy. Without a guide who had traversed

them, we have ventured into trackless table lands where water was not found for several marches. With crowbar and pick and ax in hand, we have worked our way over mountains which seemed to defy aught save the wild goat, and hewed a passage through a chasm of living rock more narrow than our wagons. To bring these first wagons to the Pacific, we have preserved the strength of our mules by herding them over large tracts, which you have guarded without loss. The garrison of four presidios of Sonora concentrated within the walls of Tucson gave us no pause. We drove them out, with their artillery, but our intercourse with the citizens was unmarked by a single act of injustice. Thus marching, half naked and half fed and living upon wild animals, we have discovered and made a road of great value to our country.

“Arrived at the first settlement of California, after a single day’s rest, you cheerfully turned off from the route to this point of promised repose, to enter upon a campaign and meet, as we supposed, the approach of an enemy; and this, too, without even salt to season your subsistence of fresh meat.

“Lieuts. A. J. Smith and George Stoneman of the First Dragoons have shared and given valuable aid in all these labors.

“Thus, volunteers, you have exhibited some high and essential qualities of veterans. But much remains undone. Soon you will turn your attention to the drill, to system and order, to forms also, which are all necessary to the soldier.

“By order

“LIEUT. COL. P. ST. GEORGE COOKE.

“P C. Merrill, *Adjutant.*’

“The chart of this road as made by Colonel Cooke’s engineer was placed upon the files at Washington, D. C., and later formed the basis for the construction of the Southern Pacific railroad.

“Upon their return march the Battalion pioneered a road

from the Cajon Pass northeasterly into Salt Lake valley, a distance of between 500 and 600 miles.

"They participated in that conflict which made California, Utah, Idaho, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona a part of the United States.

"Ten of their number were selected to act as a bodyguard to General Kearney upon his return to the east with Colonel Fremont as his prisoner.

"They took part in the discovery of the first gold in California, which event pacified the Californians; added uncounted millions to the nation's wealth; gave an impetus to emigration from many nations; and marked the beginning of the wonderful development of the west.

"They brought from California to this state seeds of various kinds, which were of inestimable value to the people here in early days.

"The Pueblo detachments of the Mormon Battalion, comprising the sick and disabled who had winter-quartered at Pueblo, consisting of 143 soldiers and a number of families, entered Salt Lake valley July 29, 1847, five days after Brigham Young and his company. They reinforced the supplies of the pioneers with wagons, horses, mules, cattle and guns. They joined the pioneers in their occupation and defense of the land. They were among those who turned the first furrows; planted the first seeds and built the first houses. They built the first public edifice in the Rocky Mountains, the 'Bowery' on the Temple grounds. They built the greater portion of the first 'fort' in Salt Lake City; it occupied what is now Pioneer Park.

"The first white child born in this valley was the daughter of John Campbell Steele, a member of the Mormon Battalion.

"CONNECTION WITH IRRIGATION. While passing through the valley of Santa Fe members of the Battalion had made observations concerning a system of irrigation employed by the



natives of that region. Our modern system of irrigation has doubtless evolved from ideas brought here by the Mormon Battalion.

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 "The Pueblo detachment was discharged after arriving in Salt Lake valley. Capt. James Brown was sent to California with power of attorney to collect their pay. He returned with 10,000 Spanish doubloons, which was the first gold coin circulated in Utah.

"The Pueblo detachment of the Mormon Battalion was the first United States military organization to come here. They entered Salt Lake valley to the strains of martial music, accompanied by Brigham Young and escort. They camped upon City creek, and Brigham Young thanked them in the presence of all assembled for the service which they had rendered to the people and their country.

— "CONCLUSIONS. The Mormon Battalion rendered a service to the nation:—

"In that they performed an important part in opening the highways between the east and the west:

"In that they assisted in establishing the United States government and in introducing American civilization upon the shores of the Pacific ocean;

"The Battalion rendered not only a national service, but a world service,

16  
 "In that they participated in the discovery of the first gold in California.

"The Mormon Battalion rendered a service to the State of Utah,

"In that they aided her pioneers in their preparations for coming to these valleys;

"In that they added splendid reinforcements to the supplies of the pioneers;

"In that they took part in the earliest activities of the state;

“In that much of the seeds sown in the virgin soil of Utah were fruits of their enlistment;

“In that they brought here the first ideas for that wonderful system of irrigation which made possible the fruition of those seeds;

“Further, we desire to express our appreciation that the United States government, through the enlistment of the Mormon battalion rendered important aid to the Utah pioneers in their labor of founding this state. Government money paid to the Battalion assisted in equipping the pioneers of 1847. Government permission, obtained on account of the enlistment of the Mormon Battalion, gave the pioneers permission to pass through and settle temporarily upon Indian lands, and to plant and harvest crops; and

“Further, we feel that Utah’s first memorial should commemorate the first national and patriotic event in her history as a state and a part of the United States.

“For the foregoing reasons we feel that it is right and fitting for the State of Utah to make an appropriation for a monument in honor of the Mormon Battalion; and further that a site upon the capitol grounds be set apart for that monument; and we ask that such be granted.

“DAUGHTERS OF THE MORMON BATTALION.”

The petition is signed by May Belle Thurman Davis, regent; Mary Jones Clawson, Kathleen Ferguson Burton, Hattie Jones Pickett, Laura Coon Cutler, Isabel Karren Thurman, memorial committee.

SOME STILL LIVING. There are still living a few veterans of the battalion, six or seven perhaps, who count as jewels in their crown of experience the miles and trials of that unparalleled march. The personal phase of the battalion is vividly portrayed in the story of the enlistment and the march. When told by them it breathes forth a spirit of heroic sacrifice but feebly imitated when retold by others.

In the latter part of June, 1846, Captain Allen, an officer of the United States army, arrived at Council Bluffs, where the Utah pioneers were then encamped. He had been sent by General Kearney as a bearer of dispatches granting to the Mormon people the privilege of enlisting 500 men in the army of the west to be marched to California. By the leaders of the people this was recognized as an act of kindness on the part of the United States government. They had asked for aid in their journey to the west, and this was the manner in which it was offered. Five hundred of their number, besides receiving regular pay from the government for one year, would be assisted in their journey across the continent, their families and the company as a whole would be benefited by the means thus afforded; they would retain their arms and accoutrements after their term of enlistment had expired. Such benefits were too great to be rejected.

ANSWERS CALL OF DUTY. The man who enlisted, however, did not consider himself the recipient of any special favor or benefit. He went only in answer to the stern call of duty and the sacrifice required of him, the leaving of his family under such conditions was the greatest he could offer. So great and evident was this sacrifice that the Battalion was called "*The ram in the thicket.*"

In the course of three weeks the various companies were made up. Their officers, with exception of the commanding officer and staff, were chosen from their own ranks. The majority of those who enlisted were descendants of revolutionary ancestors. When an appeal to their patriotism was made what was more natural than that they should respond? From a chest of treasures carefully packed away to be unfurled in that new land to which they were going, the Stars and Stripes were brought forth and fastened to a tree in the midst of the camp. Under its floating colors the Mormon Battalion



was mustered into service of the United States on July 16, 1846.

**THE MARCH BEGINS.** There was a grand farewell ball given under the bowery. This was the scene of sad partings between lovers and friends, but sadder than these were the farewell words spoken at the sick bed of a wife or child or aged parent; for there was much sickness in camp, many of the people being ill with malarial fever. The Battalion marched away to the tune of "The Girl I Left Behind Me." Many a wife was left behind in sorrow and tears, wondering how her little ones would fare during the cold winter to come, sheltered by the flimsy cover of her wagon and protected by her puny strength. Many a man marched away realizing fully the dire condition of his loved ones, and sustained only by his deep religious faith and the belief that a call from his country was a call from his God.

The Battalion marched to Fort Leavenworth, where they received their arms and accoutrements and \$42 each in cash, with which to purchase clothing for the year. The clothing was not purchased, however, as a good portion of the money was sent back to Council Bluffs for the use of the people there.

**A REAL COMPLIMENT.** As the Battalion marched up to sign the muster roll Captain Allen turned to his associate officers and said: "That is the only battalion in the United States army in which every man can sign his own name."

At Fort Leavenworth a number of women and children, families of members of the Battalion who had received permission, joined the company and began the march with them.

Col. Allen having fallen seriously ill at Fort Leavenworth the Battalion was ordered to advance under command of the senior captain, Jefferson Hunt. On August 25th news was received of the death of Col. Allen. This was the occasion for much sorrow to members of the Battalion. They felt that

they had lost their best friend, as Col. Allen had known their people and the conditions under which they had enlisted.

This also raised the question of the command. Col. Allen had promised Brigham Young that in case anything might prevent him from continuing in command of the Battalion that the officer next in rank should be his successor. Jefferson Hunt as captain of company A would be entitled to this honor, but in as much as the government property in possession of the Battalion had not been receipted for, it was argued that Lieut. A. J. Smith of the regular army who had been sent from Fort Leavenworth to overtake the Battalion and march with it to Santa Fe, should be elected commander as his receipts as an officer would be acceptable at Washington. He was accordingly elected to the command of the Battalion by vote of the officers of the respective companies.

The march to Santa Fe was a strenuous one.

The Battalion was composed of volunteers, not seasoned soldiers. The long, forced marches, severe military discipline, large doses of medicine of which they did not approve, were trials to body and spirit. The hospital wagons were filled to overflowing. Some of the men, unable to continue farther with their companions, fell to the ground and lay there listening to the beat of the drums as the sound died away in the distance. Had it not been for kindly passing immigrants who picked them up and carried them in their wagons to Santa Fe, these must have perished by the wayside.

It soon became evident to Lieutenant Smith that such a march as was contemplated for the Battalion was not one to be undertaken by women and children. These with an escort under command of Captain Higgins were sent to Pueblo for winter quarters.

Upon their arrival at Santa Fe a detachment of about eighty-eight men who were sick and disabled was also separated from the main body, and under command of Captain James

Brown, was sent to Pueblo. Several weeks later another detachment of invalided under Lieutenant Wallace was sent to Pueblo.

COOKE TAKES COMMAND. At Santa Fe Col. Phillip St. George Cooke assumed command of the battalion. He was a man of excellent qualities, but his severe discipline was not easily appreciated by volunteers. They realized later, however, that stern discipline only could have brought them safely through such a march. The hardships of that march can scarcely be exaggerated.

It was evident from the beginning that their supplies were not adequate to their needs.

The good soldier suits which they had sacrificed would have rendered them excellent service now. In the course of a few months but few had anything on save rags and tatters. Shirts were made from strips torn from their tents and blankets, trousers from the skins of animals. Anything that could serve as covering was made use of.

This being a march of infantry they suffered even more for lack of shoes. When they could be obtained the skins of animals were bound about their feet. These were not always obtainable, and many a mile was marked by stains from their bare and bleeding feet.

They started from Santa Fe, 100 days' march before them, with provisions for but sixty days. Thus from the beginning their rations were reduced to almost half. Later their rations were reduced still more. Finally, when they were yet thirty days from their destination, they found themselves with no supplies save the fresh meat which was obtainable in those regions through which they were passing. This they ate without salt. It is estimated that ten pounds of meat per day constitute full rations for a soldier upon the march where only meat is eaten. These men had three and one-half pounds per

day. Thus rationed, it was nevertheless necessary for them to perform the most arduous labor.

SOME OF THE PERILS. Colonel Cooke had received orders to "build a wagon road to the Pacific coast." It was not possible to do this along the route just previously taken by General Kearney and his escort of picked cavalymen. The colonel chose the lower route, along which the Battalion traveled without chart or guide, and blazed a trail for a distance of 400 miles. While this route avoided both the Rocky mountains and the Sierra Nevada with their snows, and proved the most feasible for the builders of the Southern Pacific railroad, it nevertheless presented tremendous difficulties. It led through burning deserts, over vast stretches of miry clay and through beds of shifting quicksands. With ropes fastened about their shoulders the men drew their wagons up steep mountain sides. With pick and ax and crowbar they widened passages through walls of solid rock. They assisted their emaciated animals over mountain heights while they themselves were half starved. Their keenest suffering was from thirst. Often after a long day's march they would record in their diaries such a story as this: "A little brackish water tonight;" or "We dipped up some water in our teaspoons;" or "Dry camp tonight." They would wrap their blankets about them and lie down to dream of mountain streams and flowing fountains.

AT LAST THE GOAL! For ninety miles they marched through the scorching sands of the American desert without seeing a drop of water save in the deep wells which they themselves dug. These wells were carefully preserved for the benefit of future travelers. Upon one occasion a large number of the men barely escaped perishing from thirst. When the verdant valley burst upon their view they fell to the earth with lips parched and dry and tongues protruding, too far exhausted to obtain for themselves the refreshing drink even when the murmur of the water was singing in their ears. They arrived

at the point from which they could view the Pacific Ocean on January 27, 1847. They had completed a march of 2,000 miles—the longest march of infantry in history. It was for them a moment of supreme joy. The scene of beauty that burst upon their view was one by them never to be forgotten. One man wrote in his diary that before them for one mile stretched a field of crimson morning glories. Beyond that lay the white sands of the beach, and beyond that the deep blue of the Pacific Ocean. The flag which they had followed was sun-faded and weather-beaten. Here the first thing to greet them was nature's welcome in their own colors made bright and beautiful.

On the 29th of January the Battalion arrived at San Diego, the point for which they had set out. In "Orders No. 1," received here, they learned for the first time their commanding officer's real sentiment toward them.

Upon their arrival in California the war was practically over. The Battalion fought no battles save with wild animals. Several times an engagement seemed imminent, but the occasion had passed and none was had. Nevertheless the Battalion performed a worthy part in the conquest of the Californians.

After a course in military tactics, in which they became very proficient, Company B was assigned to San Diego to do garrison work, while Companies A, C, D, and E were sent to Los Angeles. These later were engaged in various expeditions and in erecting a fort.

Company B had time to spare from military duties and were granted permission to apply the various arts and trades for which they were so well equipped. They built a court-house, schoolhouse and bakeshop. They burned the first brick in California. They dug the first sanitary wells and built the first sanitary houses. They laid the first pavement. They found San Diego a dilapidated and filthy Spanish post and left it a thriving and sanitary American town. They were so well



liked and made their presence so desirable that when Company B was ordered to Los Angeles the citizens gave them a royal banquet in their new courthouse and sent a petition to the commander asking that another company of Mormons be sent there.

Many of the Battalion were descendants of sturdy Puritan ancestors. To the licentious, indolent, and intemperate people of this sunny clime they set a worthy example of chastity, industry and temperance, thus demonstrating that American civilization had far more to offer them than that to which they had been accustomed.

ARE MUSTERED OUT. Having enlisted for one year, the battalion was mustered out of service on July 16, 1847. They were urged to re-enlist. Had they done so, Capt. Jefferson Hunt of Company A would have succeeded Colonel Cooke as colonel commanding. This would have made one of their number the third in command in California. One hundred men made up from the five companies re-enlisted for another six months. Capt. Daniel C. Davis of Company E was placed in command of this company.

No better proof of the character and courage of the Battalion has been given than the fact that when General Kearney and Colonel Cooke conveyed General Fremont to Washington to answer a charge of insubordination, they chose twelve of the Battalion to accompany them as a body guard on their journey as far as Fort Leavenworth. They traveled the northern route and on their way discovered the huts of the Donner party, in which that party had perished the previous winter in the Sierra Nevada. They were discharged on arriving at Fort Leavenworth. The following names of this escort party are all that have been preserved:

Sergt. H. Jones, Company D; H. H. Spencer, Company D; Amos Cox, Company D; Mathew Caldwell, Company D;

Charles Webb, Company A; Philader Cotton, Company B; John Bindley, Company B.

Those who had spent the winter at Pueblo under command of Capt. James Brown entered Salt Lake Valley five days after Brigham Young and company. Thirteen of their number had overtaken the pioneers at Green River and entered the valley with them. The suggestion to turn the waters of City Creek upon the hard sun-baked soil in all probability came from some of these Battalion boys who were familiar with the system of irrigation employed by the Spaniards at Santa Fe.

Of those who had been mustered out in California and were now ready to return, some met their families in Salt Lake valley; others continued on to the east where their families were still located, while others concluded to remain in California and obtain work. These latter secured work at Sutter's fort. While engaged in digging a mill race their shovels turned the soil which revealed the first gold discovered in California.

**TAKE BACK SEEDS.** When the wealth of California's tropical beauty was unfolded at the weary feet of the Mormon Battalion it seemed to them that they had entered a veritable paradise. It was the desire of their hearts that their people should come and make their home in this lovely land. When they learned that Brigham Young and the pioneers were settling in the valley of the Great Salt Lake—a vast arid region—they were disappointed, but they determined to take back with them a part of this wealth and beauty. To this end they collected seeds of grains, fruits, vegetables and flowers.

These men were the first upon the spot when the gold was discovered. They were not insensible to the fact that great riches were theirs for the taking, but it presented scarcely a temptation. They were not gold-seekers, they were men of religious fervor drawn from many lands by a common impulse and bound together by the ties of fraternal love. It is told of

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a number of them that they entered Salt Lake valley almost destitute of clothing—an Indian blanket only about them. The gold they had left behind, but upon their backs they bore the sacks of priceless seeds. Dearer to them than great riches were the welfare and happiness of their people and the glory of the hills and valleys of their Zion.

For several reasons the Mormon Battalion incident in history is an unusual one; as to the manner of its enlistment; as to the length and hardships of the march; as to the character and sentiments of the men—but of more importance still—as to the great movements of western and national significance with which it was so closely associated.

X  
Seventy years ago the west was a vast region of unknown but imaginable possibilities. Proper governmental conditions were lacking for the developing of these possibilities. These were supplied by the planting of the Stars and Stripes on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Transportation was beset by difficulties and dangers. These were largely overcome by the missionaries, trappers and soldiers who blazed the trails and pointed the way. With the opening of the highways immigration was made feasible, but there was still lacking the incentive for immigration. In the discovery of the first gold in California this incentive was supplied.

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The unfolding of the wonderful mineral resources of the west was initiated by this gold discovery.

The peculiar agriculture of the west—the cultivation of her arid regions—was inaugurated by the introduction of irrigation to the Anglo-Saxon race.

In all of these movements the Mormon Battalion was an important factor.

The individual members of the Battalion themselves could not appreciate the magnitude of their achievements, however keenly they may have realized their cost. These, assuming



more splendid proportions with advancing years, are the heritage of the present and of the future.

When the promises of the present shall have been fulfilled in a great and glorious West, whose significance shall stand unrivalled as her exhaustless wealth pours forth in streams to enrich the earth; when the West shall have come into her own, robed in garments of beauty, sceptered with a power born of her own mighty spirit, and crowned with the gems that for ages had lain hidden in her bosom; then shall the achievements of those who laid her foundations shine with increasing lustre, memorialized in halls of fame, and upon public highways, in monuments of bronze and upon pillars of granite and marble—but more than these—in the grateful and honored remembrance of passing generations.

## Sketches of General Cooke and Staff

GENERAL PHILIP ST. GEORGE COOKE.

Gen. Philip St. George Cooke was born in London county, Virginia, June 13, 1809. He was graduated from West Point in 1827, being one of the youngest graduates West Point ever turned out. He was assigned to the Fourth, then to the Sixth infantry, and when the regiment of dragoons was raised in 1833 he was transferred to the First Dragoons and promoted to a captaincy in 1835.

He was married in 1832 while at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., and there his son John was born in 1833. In February, 1846, he was given the rank of major (and later the rank of lieutenant-colonel) and was ordered to go to California—this being the occasion of the memorable march of the Mormon Battalion, which he commanded. He went to Mexico during the war and returned an invalid in the fall of 1848. Late that year he was ordered to Philadelphia to take charge of the recruiting service for the cavalry. In the spring of 1849 he went to Carlisle Barracks, Pa., in command of the service and drill of recruits for the cavalry. He remained at Carlisle until 1852, then was ordered to Texas, where he remained less than a year, being transferred to command at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. In 1854 he was on the plains for some months and on his return was ordered to Fort Riley. In 1853 he was made lieutenant colonel and in 1858 colonel.

In 1857 he was sent to Utah and remained here almost continuously until 1861, being here when the Civil War broke out. He gained distinction in four years of hard campaigning in that war, attaining the rank of major general.

Retired in 1873 he lived until March 20, 1898.

At the outbreak of the war his son John offered his services to the South and fought at Seven Pines, Fredericksburg



PHILIP ST. GEORGE COOKE,

Who commanded the Mormon Battalion in its march to the Pacific Coast. Published by permission of the National Americana Society; David I. Nelke, President.



and Sharpsburg, receiving seven wounds. John's sister Flora, in 1855, married Gen. "Jeb" Stuart, and the family was thus doubly divided—the father for the North, the son, daughter and son-in-law for the South.

With peace came reconciliation.—(*From a sketch of the life of Gen. Cooke, written especially for the Mormon Battalion Monument Committee, by his daughter, Mrs. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart.*)

#### LETTER FROM THE DAUGHTER OF GENERAL COOKE.

The following is a letter from Mrs. J. E. B. Stuart, widow of General Stuart, of Confederate fame in the Civil War, to the Mormon Battalion Monument Commission, inclosing a sketch of Colonel Cooke's life. \* \* \* \*

"There was heart sorrow at the division of my father's family by the war, but never any feeling of antagonism. When my husband was wounded, May 11 and died the 12th, my father wrote at once. I had passes sent for me and my two little children—but the wound was too deep for me to think of going where I would be separated from those for whom his life was given.

"I remained in Virginia until 1866, then had a loving welcome from father and mother. My home remained in Virginia and an occasional visit to my parents was made, where I was welcome. When my son and daughter were old enough to go to school I began what became my life's work—teaching—for I was very poor. I was blessed by having a dear brother-in-law, Mr. William Alex. Stuart, who was to me a real brother. My own brother, John R. Cooke, though very poor, was a glorious man and lived in Richmond for years—a hard worker, and there resided and reared a family of eight children, all honored and respected.

"I have written very hastily, which you will excuse and accept this note in the spirit in which it is given.

"Very truly,

"FLORA STUART." (Mrs. J. E. B. Stuart.)

#### GENERAL A. J. SMITH.

General Andrew Jackson Smith was born, April 28, 1815, in Burks county, Pa. He was graduated from West Point in 1838, served in the Mexican war as member of General Cooke's staff of the Mormon Battalion. In 1861 was given command of the Second California cavalry. He became a brigadier general of volunteers in 1864 and took a prominent part in the campaigns of the Mississippi Valley and Vicksburg, and distinguished himself in the disastrous Red River expedition; in the battle of Nashville, December, 1864, he commanded the Sixteenth corps on General Thomas' right and received the brevet of major general, U. S. A., for his services in that battle. In 1866 he was appointed colonel of the Seventh cavalry. He resigned from the army in 1869, and died, January 30, 1897.

#### GENERAL GEORGE STONEMAN.

General George Stoneman (1822-94) was born in Busti, N. Y., and was graduated from West Point in 1846. Accompanied the Mormon Battalion to California as a member of Colonel Cooke's staff. Served in the West from 1846 to 1857. In 1861 was in command of Fort Brown, Texas, with the rank of captain. Ordered by General Twiggs to surrender his post to the Confederates he refused and managed to bring his command in safety to New York. He was in command of the cavalry of Army of the Potomac and led the cavalry in the peninsular campaign. He took command of General Kearney's division after the death of the latter at Chantilly and com-

manded the Third corps at Fredericksburg. At Chancellorsville he commanded the cavalry and conducted raids on General Lee's line of supplies. He was made a prisoner by the Confederates while attempting a raid on Andersonville for the release of federal prisoners held there. He was governor of California from 1883 to 1887.

## The Five Battalion Captains

JEFFERSON HUNT.

*Captain Company A, Mormon Battalion.*

Jefferson Hunt was born in Kentucky, January 4, 1804, the son of Thomas Hunt and Martha Hamilton, his mother being a sister of General Hamilton of Revolutionary fame. He moved with his parents, in early childhood, to Edwards county, Illinois. There he met and married Celia Mounts in 1823. They embraced the Mormon faith in 1834. Later they joined the Mormons at Clay county, Missouri, and were driven from there to Caldwell county and shared in the persecutions of the Mormons at that place. They lived near Nauvoo until the exodus in the spring of 1846. During the Illinois disturbances, Jefferson Hunt was appointed a major in the Nauvoo Legion.

In July, 1846, at Council Bluffs, when the call was made for the Mormons to enlist for service against Mexico, he joined the Mormon Battalion and was chosen captain of the first company, or Company A. His two eldest sons also were members of that company, Marshal being the youngest member of the battalion. He was seventeen. The Hunt family was among those who accompanied the Battalion as far as Santa Fe. Gilbert Hunt was sent with the detachment that conveyed the sick to Pueblo. He there married Lydia A. Gibson and came to Salt Lake Valley in 1847.

Captain Hunt, after making the march to California, with his son Marshal and others came back by way of Sutter's fort and reached Salt Lake Valley in October, 1847. That fall he went to California again with his sons and fifteen others to obtain provisions, cattle, seeds, and grain. They took the southern route, reaching what is now San Bernardino, Christmas day, 1847. With 200 head of cattle they returned



to Salt Lake, reaching here in May, 1848. In the spring of 1849 he left Salt Lake and helped to settle Provo. There Captain Hunt remained until 1851, when he was called to go to California with Elder Amasa M. Lyman and C. C. Rich. He settled at San Bernardino, living there until 1857, when with the coming of Johnston's army he was called back to Utah. Captain Hunt was a member of the first legislature of California and erected the first saw mill in San Bernardino county.

After his return to Utah he lived in Ogden valley, Huntsville being named after him. He also lived at Oxford, Idaho, where he died in 1879. Many of his children are still living.

JESSE D. HUNTER,

*Captain Company B, Mormon Battalion.*

Captain Jesse D. Hunter was a native of Kentucky, born in 1804. Little is known of his life previous to his becoming a member of the Mormon Church. He is mentioned among the prisoners arraigned before Judge Austin A. King at Richmond, Missouri, in connection with Joseph Smith, and was, therefore, active in the stirring mob scenes enacted against the Mormons in that state. He removed to Nauvoo, Illinois, and was a major in the second cohort, fifth regiment, of the Nauvoo Legion. He joined the Mormon exodus from that city to Council Bluffs in 1846, where he accepted service with the Mormon Battalion volunteers, and was made captain of company B. He was accompanied in the march to the coast by his wife, spoken of as a most "estimable lady," and who died at San Diego April 27, 1847, leaving a babe a few weeks old. Captain Hunter never came to Utah, but remained in California and was appointed Indian Agent at San Luis Rey.

During the gold excitement of 1848 he went to the mines but shortly returned to be again appointed Indian Agent in the district where he had previously operated. He died in Los

Angeles, 1877, at the age of seventy-three, leaving seven grown children with families. (See Bancroft's History of California, Vol. 3, p. 791.)

JAMES BROWN,

*Captain of Company C, Mormon Battalion, and Founder of Ogden.*

Capt. James Brown enlisted in the Mormon Battalion when the call was made for volunteers for service against Mexico. He left his family in tents on the Missouri River and was made captain of Company C. Arrived at Santa Fe, when the detachment of ill and disabled was sent back to Pueblo, he was placed in command of them. In the spring of 1847 Captain Brown's company made its way northward toward the Oregon Trail along the Platte River and so nearly overtook the advance guard of Brigham Young's party that they arrived in Salt Lake Valley only five days behind them.

Early in 1848 Captain Brown with \$3,000 in Spanish doubloons, bought the Goodyear fort or old Spanish mission from Miles Goodyear, this tract of land being the site of the city of Ogden. He immediately moved there.

His death occurred in 1863 as the result of an accident that befell him as he was feeding sugar cane into a mill.

NELSON HIGGINS,

*Captain Company D, Mormon Battalion.*

Nelson Higgins was born in Saratoga, New York, September, 1806. When ten years old his father moved to Ohio, leaving the boy with a married sister. In the course of a year the sister died, and the boy started out on foot on a journey of about 400 miles to find his family which he finally did in Huron county, Ohio. At the age of twenty-one he married Sarah

Blackman, by whom he had ten children. He became a member of the Mormon Church in 1834, and rose through the office of Priest, Elder and Seventy. He was a member of Zion's Camp, and accompanied Joseph Smith to Missouri in 1834. In 1837 he moved to Missouri to reside and passed through the mobbings and other persecutions endured by the Mormons in that state. He moved to Nauvoo and left there in the general exodus with the body of his people. In 1846 he enlisted in the Mormon Battalion and was elected captain of company D. He arrived in Salt Lake valley with the Pueblo detachment of the Mormon Battalion, July 29, 1847. In 1849, he was called with others to go to Sanpete valley to assist in establishing settlements there. In 1855 he was called to go to Carson valley, Nevada, to assist in establishing a colony, and there remained until the breaking up of the colony in 1857. In 1864 he was called to go to Richfield, to take charge of the settlements in Sevier valley, and was ordained a Bishop under the hands of Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball, in which capacity he served until 1873, when he was honorably released and moved two miles south of Elsinore, in Sevier county, where he lived through the remaining years of his life.

He was successively captain, major, and colonel in the Nauvoo Legion, and served as general in the absence of Charles C. Rich. He was successively captain, major, and colonel during the Walker War while living in Sanpete; and was a major and commanding officer all through the Indian Blackhawk War. Amid these frontier conditions he reared a large family.

DANIEL C. DAVIS.

*Captain Company E, Mormon Battalion.*

Daniel C. Davis was born in New York, Feb. 23, 1804. He became a member of the Mormon Church and was numbered among that people upon their arrival at Council Bluffs.

He enlisted in the Mormon Battalion in 1846, and was chosen captain of company E. He made the march across the continent and became the commanding officer of the company of about one hundred that re-enlisted for another six months' service in California. Upon being mustered out of service he came to Utah with other members of the Battalion, settling a little south of the town of Farmington, fourteen miles north of Salt Lake City. Davis county was named for him. He remained at his home near Farmington until 1850. That year he started east on personal business, and died *enroute* at Fort Kearney, on the 1st of June.

## The Battalion at San Diego

BY MARY J. CLAWSON.

Visiting San Diego during the Panama Canal Fair-Year, 1915, the events credited to the Mormon Battalion were carefully looked up. It was learned that General Kearney directed that on arriving in San Diego the Battalion take quarters in the Mission of San Diego which at that time was abandoned. The Battalion cleared ground for burning brick; dug the first wells; made wooden pumps which gave splendid service; built blacksmith shops and bakeries. They were house carpenters, finishing their work complete. There were several missions used as barracks and a fine description of the grounds, gardens and architecture was written in their journals, which will be used by historians as the most available and complete descriptions known. It is remarked in San Diego that the service rendered by the Battalion is just beginning to be understood by the people.

Many questions were asked concerning the women of the Battalion. There were 38 women who started. They were allowed to go as laundresses or cooks, but their real object was to accompany their loved ones, though they drew pay for their services. Of these women but five made the entire march; the others being sent in various detachments to Pueblo from which point they were expected to join their westward marching people the following season. The five who were reluctantly allowed to continue the march from Santa Fe were required, to meet their own expenses.

Of these five, one—Mrs. Captain Hunter—died on arriving in San Diego, leaving a new born babe. The other women were Mrs. Ebenezer Brown, wife of Sergt. Brown; Mrs. Davis, wife of Capt. Davis, and Mrs. Milissa Coray, wife of Sgt. Coray.

In Los Angeles interest in the Battalion was very great. I visited the elevation known as Angel Heights, where the Battalion built barracks and placed cannon for defense.

They brought from Cajon Pass a flag pole to Los Angeles which was made ready for the celebration of the 4th of July, 1847. On this the colors were raised at sunrise, Colonel Stephenson of the New York volunteers, commanding. Thirteen guns were fired and the New York Volunteer band played the Star Spangled Banner. The Battalion paraded. The Declaration of Independence was read by Lieut. Stoneman, a patriotic song was sung by Levi Hancock. This was the first celebration of the 4th of July by United States citizens in California.

## The Mormon Battalion in the Perspective of Seventy Years

BY BRIGHAM H. ROBERTS.

(From the Salt Lake "Tribune" of January 2nd, 1916.)

*The Movements with Which the Famous Body of Soldiers was Identified and that made Possible the Development of the Great West, Were: The Conquest of Mexico; the Opening of the Highways; the Introduction of Irrigation Among Anglo-Saxon People, and the Discovery of Gold in California.*

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*Achievements of the Mormon Battalion are Not Local and Sectarian, but Belong to the West and to the Nation; Therefore a Monument Worthy of Its Work Is Now Suggested.*

The Governor and the Eleventh Legislative Assembly of the State of Utah, by enactment, created the "State of Utah Mormon Battalion Monument Committee." The duties of said committee are to select a proper site on the Capitol grounds and procure suitable designs for a monument to commemorate the important contributions made to the early settlement and development of the State of Utah and of the West by the Mormon Battalion, and report their acts and recommendations to the Twelfth Legislative Assembly of the State.

The committee was duly appointed by the Governor, the personnel of which is as follows: B. H. Roberts, Mary Jones Clawson, George F. Goodwin, William H. Pettegrew, John S. Bransford, John K. Hardy, May Belle T. Davis. The committee in organizing selected B. H. Roberts for chairman and May Belle T. Davis as secretary. Several meetings of the committee have already been held. The one on Friday, De-



ember 3, 1915, provided for regular monthly meetings of the committee, to be held on the first Tuesday of each month.

ARTISTS CONSULTED. Consultations have been held by individual members of the committee with Mahonri M. Young and C. E. Dallin, who lately visited Salt Lake City, and reported to the committee the advice and suggestions of these gentlemen. Correspondence has also been authorized with various art agencies in the east looking to the securing of suggestions for the submission of designs for consideration and final recommendations to the State Legislature; also with the descendants and friends of General Philip St. George Cooke, who led the battalion in its march to the coast; in other words, the work of the committee is under way.

It will be seventy years next July since the Mormon Battalion was mustered into the army of the United States as volunteers to serve in the war with Mexico. The administration's design being to connect the Battalion with General Kearney's Army of the West and to march it to California, supposed at the time to be the destination, or near the destination of the main body of the Mormon people, then camped on the Missouri River at Council Bluffs and vicinity.

WAS PLAN TO HELP. The service of the Battalion was to be for one year, the volunteers to receive the same pay, rations and other allowances given to other infantry volunteers, each according to his rank; and upon being discharged in California to be allowed to retain as their private property the guns and accoutrements furnished them by the government.

The seventy years which will have elapsed next July since the Battalions' enlistment is sufficient to give something of perspective to this incident in United States history, and looking at it now from this advantage of perspective, we may judge somewhat better than in the past of the incident's true character, and what has resulted from it. We now know that it was not a villainously designed plot on the part of the admin-

istration of the government at Washington to destroy the exiled Mormon people. Also we know that it was not designed as a test of Mormon loyalty to the government of the United States in which it was anticipated that they would fail, by refusing to raise the battalion, and thus afford an excuse for turning loose upon them militia or mobs from Iowa and Missouri to destroy them.

NOT INHUMAN PLOT. Also we know that it was not a wicked, inhuman plot on the part of the administration to take from the camps of the Mormon people the flower of their manhood—their effective fighting force—and thus leave them a helpless prey to hordes of savage tribes to wipe them out of existence. Unfortunately all these evil surmisings have been indulged against the administration then in power, not discerning between some evilly-disposed and irresponsible individuals at Washington, who may have uttered idle threats and boastings of what they would do to the Mormons in certain eventualities, and the responsible officials of the administration. Contrary to all this we now know that the design on the part of the federal administration was intended to be helpful to the Mormon people, and was helpful in many ways. It is quite evident that the government did not call upon the Mormon camps because it especially needed their help. The act of Congress declaring war with Mexico authorized the President to accept the services of 50,000 men—300,000 men offered their services. President Polk called for four regiments from Illinois, nine answered the call, numbering 8,370. “Only four of the regiments, numbering 3,720, could be taken.” (*Gregg's History of Illinois in History of Hancock County*, page 118.) We also now know that the President's call for the Battalion was the administration's response to the very earnest solicitation of the duly authorized agent of the Church of the Latter-day Saints, who asked for this very service, namely, taking into the service

of the United States a large number of men from the Mormon camps to be marched with the western army to California.

*service requested*

THE SERVICE REQUESTED. This statement is made with specific definiteness because it has been denied that such service was asked for. (See *Tyler's History of the Battalion*, chapter I.) The denial, however, is of no effect in the presence of the well-established fact that Elder Jesse C. Little, appointed president of the Eastern States Mission by the apostles at Nauvoo, was directed by his letter of appointment as follows: "If our government shall offer any facilities for emigrating to the western coast, embrace those facilities if possible. As a wise and faithful man take every honorable advantage of the time you can, be thou a savior and a deliverer of that people"—*i. e.*, the Latter-day Saints.

"In consonance with my instructions," says Elder Little, in his report to President Brigham Young, which is recorded in the latter's manuscript history for the year 1846, "I felt an anxious desire for the deliverance of the Saints, and resolved upon visiting James K. Polk, president of the United States, to lay the situation of my persecuted brethren before him, and ask him as the representative of our country to stretch forth the federal arm in their behalf."

OBTAINS LETTERS. In pursuance of this purpose Mr. Little obtained letters of recommendation from the governor of New Hampshire—in which state Mr. Little was reared—and from other prominent men of that state, to the President of the United States and other high officials in the administration, including a letter from Colonel Thomas L. Kane of Pennsylvania to Vice President George M. Dallas. So equipped with letters of recommendation, Mr. Little appeared in Washington and through Amos Kendall, formerly United States postmaster general, secured several audiences with President Polk and members of his cabinet. Mr. Little arrived in Washington on May 21, 1846, and the same evening, in company with Mr.

Dame of Massachusetts and Mr. King, representative from that state, called upon President Polk and received an introduction. Sam Houston of Texas and other distinguished gentlemen were present. The arrival of Elder Little was most opportune for the business he had in hand. News of the capture of an American reconnoitering troop of dragoons under command of Captain Thornton, on the east side of the Rio Grande, sixteen of whom were killed, had reached Washington early in May, and enabled the President in his message to Congress on the eleventh of that month to say that "Mexico had invaded our territory and shed the blood of our citizens on our own soil." This led Congress two days later to declare war and vote the funds necessary to its vigorous prosecution.

VICTORY OF TAYLOR. By the time Elder Little called upon the President the news had reached Washington of the victory of the American forces under General Taylor at the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, fought on May 8 and 9, respectively. News of these victories aroused the war spirit throughout the land and hastened all the government's schemes for prosecuting the war, including the plan of gathering the "Army of the West" at Fort Leavenworth, under Colonel Stephen W. Kearney, to invade New Mexico, and ultimately to co-operate with the Pacific fleet, which it was designed should sweep round Cape Horn and attack the Pacific coast of Mexico. It was with this "Army of the West" that the Battalion was to be connected.

After this, for some time, Elder Little carried on his negotiations with the President through Amos Kendall, former United States postmaster general. The plan offered to the administration by Mr. Little and those who aided him in securing the interviews was that he should "go directly to the Mormon camps and have 1,000 men fitted out and plunge into California," the force to be officered by men chosen from their own body, "the commanding officer to be appointed by Presi-

dent Polk;" and also to "send 1,000 more by way of Cape Horn, who will take cannon and everything needed in preparing defense." Those going by land were to receive pay from the time Mr. Little should arrive among them at their camps, and those going by water from September 1, 1846.

**APPEAL TO PRESIDENT.** At this point in the development of the proceedings Elder Little took the matter more especially into his own hands and wrote personally to the President, under date of June 1, to which, in his report to President Young, he gives the title an "Appeal to the President." He expresses confidence in the President, else, he explains, he would not have left his home and family "to ask favors of you (the president) for his people," that is, the Latter-day Saints. He recites the repeated acts of injustice the Mormons suffered in their persecutions, and adds: "Under these considerations, directed as if by the finger of God, I come to you fully believing that you will not suffer me to depart without rendering me some pecuniary assistance." In concluding his appeal to the President, Mr. Little pledged himself and his people that if the President would assist them "at this crisis, I hereby pledge," said he, "my honor, my life, my property, and all I possess as the representative of this people, to stand ready at your call, and that the whole body will act as one man—in the land to which we are going (California), and should our territory be invaded we hold ourselves ready to enter the field of battle and then, like our patriot fathers, make the battlefield our grave or gain our liberty."

**PROTECTION GIVEN.** All this, be it remembered, was in relation to taking Mormon men into service of the United States, not to build a line of forts from the Missouri river points to Oregon, but to march with the "Army of the West" to California. As an incident of one of his visits to President Polk—the last—Mr. Little reports: "I visited President Polk. He informed me that we should be protected in California, that



500 or 1,000 of our people should be taken into the service, officered by our own men; said that I should have letters from him and from the secretary of the navy to the squadron. I waived the President's proposal until evening, when I wrote a letter of acceptance."

The result was the calling of the battalion. And the calling of that body of men was at the solicitation of the duly authorized agent of the Church, and his proceedings were heartily approved and the call cheerfully accepted by the Church leaders at the time as a providential event and greatly to their advantage, as witness the following expressions in relation thereto: "The thing is from above," said President Young, "and for our good." "This is the first time the government has stretched forth its arm to our assistance," he said on another occasion, "and we receive their offer with joy and thankfulness."

CHURCHMAN THANKFUL. Again he said: "The President of the United States has now stretched out his hand to help us, and I thank God and him, too." And still again: "*Resolved*, That the thanks of this people be presented to President Polk for his friendly offer transferring 500 of our brethren to California, to the land of their destination, under the command of Captain Allen." (Young's letter to President Polk inclosing resolutions.) All this, and very much more in kind, dissipates all the misconception about the call of the Mormon Battalion being an oppressive measure by the administration of the government leveled at the destruction of the Mormon people. (For full treatment of this subject see the writer's *History of the Mormon Church*, chapters 63 and 64, in *Americana*, N. Y., for March, 1912.)

As this seventy years of perspective corrects the misconceptions of the past with reference to the calling of the Battalion, so also does it enable us to recognize the real importance and value of the incident and the greatness of the achievements of this Battalion of United States troops, for such they

were, and the matter of their coming from the Mormon camps en route to the West should not be allowed to obscure that fact.

★ Four great movements, it has been observed, made possible the development of the West. These were the conquest of northern Mexico; the opening of highways; the introduction and adoption of irrigation by Anglo-Saxon people in the West; the discovery of gold in California. In all of these movements the Battalion was an important factor.

Let us consider the several claims and the evidence of the truth of them.

The conquest of northern Mexico, including, of course, California, Nevada, and Utah, as well as New Mexico and Arizona, was brought about by the "Army of the West," the main divisions of which were under the command of Generals S. W. Kearney and A. W. Doniphan. The Battalion's connection with and participation in the achievements of this "Army of the West" in its conquest of northern Mexico are officially recognized in a military order of the colonel commanding, which is now on file as a government document at Washington. Also their participation in the opening of the highways to the west is acknowledged in the same document. The Order is published *in extenso* in Mrs. Davis' article, this *brochure*.

OFFICIAL RECORD. By this Order No. 1 it is seen that the part of the Battalion in the conquest of northern Mexico and the opening of a wagon road from New Mexico to the Pacific coast is of government record that can neither perish nor be gainsaid.

The wagon road made by the Battalion became afterward the route followed by the Southern Pacific railroad, to secure which route, according to Colonel Cooke, the Gadsden purchase of territory was made from Mexico. He says: "A new administration, in which southern interests prevailed, with the great problem of the practicability and best location of a Pacific railroad under investigation, had the map of this wa-



gon route before them with its continuance to the west, and perceived that it gave exactly the solution of its unknown element, that a southern route would avoid both the Rocky Mountains and Sierra Nevada, with their snows, and would meet no obstacle in this great interval. The new 'Gadsden Treaty' was the result; it was signed December 30, 1853." (Conquest of New Mexico and California, Cooke, page 159.)

In addition to the wagon road opened through southern New Mexico, Arizona and California, it was a detachment of twenty-five discharged members of the Battalion which brought the first wagon through from the coast *via* Cajon Pass to Salt Lake City, following what is now the general course of the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake railroad, and which became known as the southern California route to the coast.

**GOLD DISCOVERY.** It may not be said that members of the Mormon battalion first discovered gold in California. This was the good fortune of James William Marshal, foreman of John Sutter of Sutter's Fort. But while it was Mr. Marshal who discovered the gold in the tail of the mill race being constructed on the American river, in the beautiful Coloma valley, six of the dozen white men in the camp were members of the Battalion. It was their shovels which threw up the soil and gravel which the rains washed and revealed the gold grains to the eyes of Mr. Marshal. It was the members of the Battalion who worked on shares the claims upon the lands of Mr. Sutter and extended the discoveries up and down the American river and made the rich finds on the island afterward known as "Mormon Island," proving by extending the discoveries of Marshal that the gold fields were extensive as well as rich. It was one of the members of the Battalion who made the first written record of this great discovery—Henry Bigler, in his journal entry of the event on the twenty-fourth day of January, 1848, an authority which determines for historians the date of the event.

STARTS EMIGRATION. This was the Battalion's connection with the discovery of gold in California; that event which turned the eyes of the civilized world to California, which within a year started that mighty wave of western emigration from all parts of the United States, from many parts of Europe and even from Asia. It was to be a subject of the president's message to congress before the close of the year; within two years it would make California one of the sovereign states of the American Union, with a population of nearly one hundred thousand; in seven years it would result in adding nearly five hundred million dollars to the world's store of gold; and then as the gold from soil and sand was exhausted and costly operations upon gold-bearing quartz ledges, and delving into the earth were required to secure the precious metal, many men who came to the mines turned their attention to agriculture and to horticulture and found in the grain fields and vineyards and orchards of the Pacific slope even a greater source of wealth than in the gold mines.

DID THEIR DUTY. More important than their connection with the finding of gold, however, was the lesson which the members of the Battalion at the gold fields made of record in devotion to duty. The men whom they accepted as religious guides had given them instruction to make their way to Salt Lake valley by the summer of 1848, and true to their sense of duty they turned away from the rich gold fields and their rich findings in them and started for Salt Lake valley. On the third of July the start was made, and "as the wagons rolled up along the divide between the American river and the Cosummes on the National Fourth," says one historian, "their cannon thundered independence before the high Sierras." "Thus," he continues, "amidst the scenes now every day becoming more and more absorbing, bringing to the front the strongest passions in man's nature \* \* \* at the call of what they deemed duty these devotees of their religion unhesitatingly

laid down their wealth-winning implements, turned their backs on what all the world was just then making ready with hot haste and mustered strength to grasp at and struggle for, and marched through new toils and dangers to meet their exiled brethren in the desert."

The call of Mammon was not so strong as the call of Duty to the men of this battalion.

**IRRIGATION INTRODUCED.** The connection of members of the Battalion with the introduction of irrigation among an Anglo-Saxon people, and most likely coming from their suggestion, is a deduction from circumstances rather than a fact sustained by direct and positive proof, and yet it is a deduction so well grounded that the moral certainty of it as a fact is beyond question.

When Brigham Young's company of pioneers were about to leave Green river on July 4, 1847, they were overtaken by a detachment of thirteen men from the Battalion, who were in pursuit of men who had stolen horses from their camps some seven days' travel eastward. These men had been with the several invalided detachments from the Battalion—about 150 in all—that had wintered at Pueblo, in what is now the state of Colorado. They were incorporated into the pioneer company and came on with it to Salt Lake valley, and undoubtedly members of this group would be upon the ground that 23rd day of July, when ploughing was first attempted on the south fork of City Creek, on the present site of Great Salt Lake City.

**PLOWS BROKEN.** The annals of that day say that the ground was so dry and hard that in the attempt to plow it several plows were broken. Whereupon, at someone's suggestion—who it was that made it the annals do not disclose, and it is not known—a company was set at work to put in a dam in the creek and flood the land in order to plow it. This was the beginning of Anglo-Saxon irrigation, the inauguration of that system which in the United States in 1910, according to

the statement of the United States Bureau of Census, had under irrigated cultivation nearly 14,000,000 acres, and of final acreage included under all the projects then completed and under way, more than 31,000,000 acres, at an expended cost in 1910 of more than \$307,000,000, which cost, when the projects then (1910) under way should be completed, would amount to more than \$424,000,000, in the arid region of the United States. Irrigation farming is, as yet, in its infancy in the United States, that it will be greatly extended in America admits of no doubt, to say nothing of what it is or will be in other arid portions of the globe.

IDENTITY UNKNOWN. As already stated, who it was that made the fortunate suggestion that the water be turned out upon the land in order to make it possible to plow, on July 23, 1847, is not known, but we have seen that thirteen members of the Battalion were among the pioneers, and some of them had seen irrigation in operation among the Mexicans at Santa Fe and further south in the valley of the Rio Grande. What more likely than that some of those men who had seen irrigation in progress should suggest the flooding of the land to prepare it for plowing, as they had seen it conducted over the land to convey moisture to the growing vegetation? As before stated, the probability of it has moral certainty.

(Following is Tyler's description of irrigation in the valley of Rio Grande del Norte, from which the last detachment of the invalided members of the Battalion were sent to Pueblo, and which made it possible for some of them to become members of the detached Pueblo party of the Battalion that overtook the Mormon pioneer camp at Green river, and with them journeyed to Salt Lake valley: "Canals for irrigating purposes were found all along the banks of the river. Some of them several miles in length. They conveyed water to the farms, or, as they were called in that country, *ranchos*. There being little or no rain during the growing season the

water was made to flow over the ground until it was sufficiently saturated, and then shut off until needed again for the same purpose." (*A Concise History of the Mormon Battalion*—Tyler, p. 181.)

It is remarkable that this Battalion as a body and in its detachments should be directly connected with, and effectively influence, so many events of such large importance to the United States, and especially the West, with whose fortunes their lives were more especially identified. Enumerate them again that they may be seen in one view:

*The conquest of northern Mexico; the opening of the highways, which may be said to have become national; the discovery of gold; the adoption of irrigation by an Anglo-Saxon people.*

To this list of distinct achievements must be added their part in the settlement of Utah, for most of the members of the Battalion found their way to the early Mormon colonies in Salt Lake valley, and some of them became leaders in local communities in Utah and Arizona. The detachment that came from Sutter's fort in 1848 brought with them much valuable seed to the new and scantily supplied colonies, also many horses and cattle and two brass cannon for defense against Indian tribes. Also a considerable quantity of gold nuggets and dust, making possible a money-specie for the provisional "State of Deseret"—the civil government in the Great Basin, preceding the territory of Utah. Also it was with Battalion money paid in California to Captain Brown of the Pueblo detachments that the Goodyear claims at the mouth of Weber canyon, including the whole present site of the city of Ogden, were purchased.

**OCCUPY LANDS.** Moreover, the enlistment of this Battalion made it possible for the Mormon people—shortly to become the founders of the territory of Utah, later to be the state of Utah—to occupy Indian lands in the vicinity of Council Bluffs, under the plea that so many of the fathers, husbands



and brothers of the community were enlisted in the army of the United States that their people were entitled to consideration in the occupancy of these lands, pending their emigration to Salt Lake valley. This plea in their behalf was effective with local Indian agents and also with government officials at Washington. It was Captain Allen of the United States army who gave written permission, after the Battalion was mustered into service, for the Mormon people to pass through and temporarily occupy Indian lands, while *enroute* to California, encamping and entrenching themselves upon them. This during the pleasure of the president of the United States. Later the permission was sanctioned by the bureau of Indian affairs at Washington, and many of those who occupied these Indian lands in Iowa, under these sanctions, as the Indian titles expired, acquired valuable pre-emption rights up and down the river from Council Bluffs for a distance between fifty and sixty miles, reaching back on the east side of said river, some thirty or forty miles. (Orson Pratt in *Mill. Star*, Vol. X, pp. 241-7.)

27 REFLECTED CREDIT ON THEIR PEOPLE. In addition to all this, the Battalion reflected great credit upon the community that founded the territory of Utah by reason of the excellence of their conduct not only on the march to the Pacific coast, but also when doing garrison duty in southern California. At the expiration of their enlistment they were most earnestly urged, and very attractive inducements were held out to them, to re-enlist in the service of the United States, both by General Kearney and Governor Mason of California. Of them Governor Mason said in his report to the adjutant general:

“Of the service of this Battalion, of their subordination and general good conduct, you have already heard, and I take great pleasure in adding that as a body of men they have religiously respected the rights and feelings of these conquered people, and not a syllable of complaint has reached my ears of a single

insult offered or outrage done by a Mormon volunteer. So high an opinion did I entertain of the Battalion and of their special fitness for the duties now performed by the garrisons in this country, that I made strenuous efforts to engage their services for another year. One hundred of them did re-enlist for six months.

OFFICERS ADVANCED. While this is the record of the battalion and of its officers chosen from the ranks of it by vote of the men, its commander, Lieutenant Colonel Philip St. George Cooke, and his staff officers, Lieutenants A. J. Smith and George Stoneman of the regular army, became distinguished. During the civil war Cooke rose through the grade of brigadier general (1861) to the rank of brevet major general (1865). Lieutenant Smith in the same war rose from the grade of commander of California volunteers to that of brigadier general of volunteers (1862), and to major general of volunteers (1864). In the battle of Nashville he commanded the Sixteenth Nashville corps on General Thomas's right, and received the brevet of major general in the regular army for his services in that battle, while George Stoneman, after rising through the grades from captain to general during the war, became governor of California.

When a state contemplates commemorating the deeds of a battalion of United States soldiers, taken from the body of the founders of that state, and who have rendered such honorable and distinguished service to the country; whose commanding officers subsequently became such noted characters in the national life; and which battalion and its detachments in so many ways were associated with the events which led to the development of the great West and the permanent prosperity of the whole country, it is important that the people of the state and their servants, the legislators, see to it that they commemorate the deeds of the Battalion worthily. Not in such measure that it will fall below their just fame,



but in such fashion as will mete out to them a just remembrance of their sacrifices, their toil and suffering on the march, their heroism and patriotism, and the largeness of their achievements.

STATES INTERESTED. New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and California should have an immediate and an abiding sympathy with this movement, for they were affected by the achievements of this Battalion as well as Utah. The United States should be interested in commemorating the achievements of this Battalion, for the whole country was surprisingly helped and honored in their service. There is no reason why the congressional delegations from the several states named should not unite in asking the national congress for an appropriation which, added to Utah's contemplated appropriation and such private contributions as may be obtained from generously disposed people of the West, would make up a fund that would worthily celebrate the achievements of this Battalion of United States soldiers. Let the commemoration of that service be as large and generous in spirit as was the service itself.

Shall we, as a suggestion in rough outline, say something like what it might be? Here, then, it is.

On an ample base, perhaps of partly rough-hewn and partly polished native Utah granite, a figure of heroic proportions representing the "Spirit of the West"—a woman, of course. A face noble, animated, brave, strong, a dash of recklessness, an infinite daring, radiant with high hopes and confidence in their fulfillment—all this blended and aglow with the inspiration that reflects all that the "Spirit of the West" has been, is, and shall be. The figure is in intense action, the body eagerly striding forward, (facing westerly—a little southwesterly; in the right hand, held high, the Torch of Progress; the left hand and arm holds back the wind-blown luxuriant hair and flowing robe; the latter might hint, but not completely delineate, the national flag.

By the side of this noble figure, "Spirit of the West," and as if under her protecting aegis, a typical battalion man, less in size than "Spirit of the West," yet larger than life size. Not a trim, uniformed figure, but the battalion man as he made the journey, unkempt and bearded, clothes worn to shreds and coarse boots worn until nearly soleless; with musket in hand, knapsack and blanket and canteen strapped on him; his posture one of struggling weariness, but pressing forward with grim determination, for he was one who could and did force "heart and nerve and sinew to serve his turn long after they were gone"—who held on when there was nothing in him except the will which said "Hold on"—and so he must be molded. A face that shall be typically American, for this Battalion man is an American.

GOOD ANCESTRY. Many of those of whom he is drawn as the type could boast Revolutionary ancestry. He is the American "Minute Man" of Concord, but set now in a western environment. And as that Minute Man of Concord mastered and established for Americans and their free institutions the East, so shall this Battalion man for the same purpose assist to take possession of and establish for Americans the West. Typically American, then, must be his face—a bold brow, straight nose, fearless eyes, strong chin, a mouth expressing at once determination, yet gentleness—for the brave are gentle—every feature and lineament expressing fearless manhood and virile power, bent on high adventure and noble purpose.

On the south side of the base of the monument—its length running east and west—in bronze relief sculpture, the Battalion *en march*, which also represents the opening of the highways. In this scene, represent Colonel Cooke and his aides, Smith and Stoneman, mounted; the wagons, then the Battalion in straggling column, and true to the type above them, marching through a cactus-strewn desert, mountains or *buttes* in the distance as a background.

On the west end of the base, in like bronze relief statuary, the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill on the American river.

On the east end of the base, in bronze relief, the beginning of irrigation in Utah and among Anglo-Saxon peoples.

On the north side, a suitable inscription grouping the Battalion's achievements—their contributions to the settlement of the west.

THEME IS LARGE. This is one form, in the rough, which the monument might take; but whatever form it finally shall take, let the people of Utah hold in consciousness the fact that in this state of Utah Battalion they have a large theme to commemorate, and one that deserves to be commemorated worthily—worthy of the Battalion and its achievements, worthy of the state of Utah, worthy of the great West it helped to win and which is now rapidly coming to its own, worthy of the country—the whole United States, which the Battalion, as United States soldiers, served with distinction and honor.



DATE DUE

	DEC 17 1996
APR 17 1999	DEC 23 2000
JUN 03 1999	DEC 11 2000
JUN 01 1996	DEC 27 2001
JUL 22 1996	DEC 12 2001
APR 15 1997	APR 06 2002
DEC 09 1998	
NOV 24 1999	APR 12 2004
APR 17 1999	APR 23 2004
APR 21 1999	JUN 12 2007
MAY 31 1999	JUL 20 2007
JUL 14 1999	DEC 03 2007
DEC 27 1999	NOV 22 2007
	SEP 26 2008