

AN ANSWER
TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS IN RELATION
TO THE HISTORY AND DOCTRINE OF
THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS AND THE
SETTLEMENT AND PROGRESS OF UTAH
TERRITORY.

(Continued.)
The required battalion was soon
made up, and on the way, leaving their
families in the Omaha country on the
west side of the Missouri river in
wagons, without protectors or adequate
means of subsistence. Thus was this
body of volunteers enlisted from the
camp of the Latter-day Saints just after
their expulsion from Illinois.

There were about two thousand
wagons encamped in Western Iowa, be-
tween the east fork of Grand river and
the Missouri river, a distance of about
one hundred and thirty miles; but the
main body of the camp was in the Omaha
country, on the west side of the Mis-
souri.

The five companies of volunteers as-
sembled at Council Bluffs and were
mustered into service on the 16th of
July, 1846; they numbered upwards of
five hundred men. They marched to
Fort Leavenworth, where they received
their muskets and other accoutrements
of U. S. Infantry.

On the 13th of August they started for
California, via Santa Fe. A soldier
carrying his blanket, knapsack, knap-
sack, ammunition and canteen.

Lieut. Col. Allen, who remained be-
hind the battalion at Fort Leavenworth
to complete his outfit, died suddenly;
his loss was deeply mourned by the bat-
talion, who were sincerely attached to
him. On their march they suffered
much for want of water and provisions;

in one instance, they traveled sixty
miles without water. They arrived at
Santa Fe Sept. 12th, where Lieut. Col.
P. St. George Cook, who had been ap-
pointed by Gen. Kearney, took com-
mand of the battalion in the place of
Col. Allen, deceased, and who, before
marching for California, selected out all
the laundresses, and those who, on a
rigid examination, were supposed to be
unable to continue the march, and
placed them under the command of
Capt. James Brown, who started on the
18th, with orders to make a post at Pue-
blo on the Arkansas river, which was
accordingly done. Col. Cook, with the
battalion, proceeded to California.

To avoid the snows of the Rocky Moun-
tains, the battalion followed the Rio
Del Norte south for three hundred miles,
then turning west, passed through the
fortified town of Tucson, after which
their guides were unacquainted with the
route, and it had to be sought out like
men traveling in the dark.

On leaving Santa Fe they were placed
on three quarter rations, and were soon
after reduced to one half and subse-
quently to one quarter rations, their
meat was composed of the remains of
such draft animals were unable to pro-
ceed further. On one occasion, how-
ever, they were relieved by a very ro-
mantic and providential encounter with
a herd of wild bulls. They traveled
one hundred miles without water; sank
deep wells in the desert, and arrived on
the Pacific Coast with but little loss.

The Col. issued the following compli-
mentary order on their arrival:
"HEAD QUARTERS, Mission of
San Diego, Jan. 30th 1847.
Order No. 1.—The Lieut. Colonel
commanding, congratulates the Battal-
ion on their safe arrival on the shores
of the Pacific ocean, and the conclusion
of its march of over two thousand miles.
History may be searched in vain for an
equal march of infantry; nine-tenths of
it has been through a wilderness, where
nothing but savages and wild beasts are
found; or deserts, where for want of wa-
ter, there is no living creature. There,
with almost hopeless labor, we have
dug deep wells, which the future trav-
eler will enjoy. Without a guide who
had traversed them, we have ventured
into trackless prairies, where water was
not found for several marches. With
crowbar and pickaxe 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 preserv-
ed the strength of the mules, by herd-
ing them over large tracts, which you
have laboriously guarded without loss.

The garrison of four Presidios of So-
nora, concentrated within the walls of
Tucson, gave us no pause; we drove
them out with their artillery; but our in-
tercourse with the citizens was unmark-
ed by a single act of injustice. Thus
marching, half naked and half clothed,
and living upon wild animals, we have dis-
covered 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 be-
lieved, the approach of the enemy; and
this, too, without even salt to season your
substance of fresh meat.

Lieutenants A. J. Smith and George
Stoneman, of the 1st of 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 strict attention
to the drill, to system and order, to
forms also, which are all necessary to
the soldier.

By order of Lieut. Col. P. St. George
Cook.
[Signed] P. C. MERRILL, Adj't.

The distance from Council Bluffs, the
place of enlistment to Fort Leaven-
worth is about 180 miles; from Fort
Leavenworth, by the Cimarron route,
to Santa Fe 700 miles; from Santa Fe,
by the route traveled to San Diego, 1750
miles, making a total of 2030 miles. Al-
most the entire march being over an un-
inhabited region, and much of the way
a trackless, unexplored and forbidding
desert, affording neither water nor grass
sufficient for animals, and, when the
teams failed, the battalion had to carry
the extra amount of ammunition and
at the same time, push the wagons
through the heavy sand and over the
rugged mountains.

A fruitful source of annoyance to the
battalion was the lack of confidence in
the U. S. Surgeon, Dr. Sanderson, who
was known formerly to have been a bit-
ter persecutor of the Latter-day Saints,
and whose expressions and actions con-
firmed the suspicions that it was his
wish to destroy them; the refusal of
many of them to take his prescription
produced very unpleasant and an-
gry feelings.

[To be continued.]

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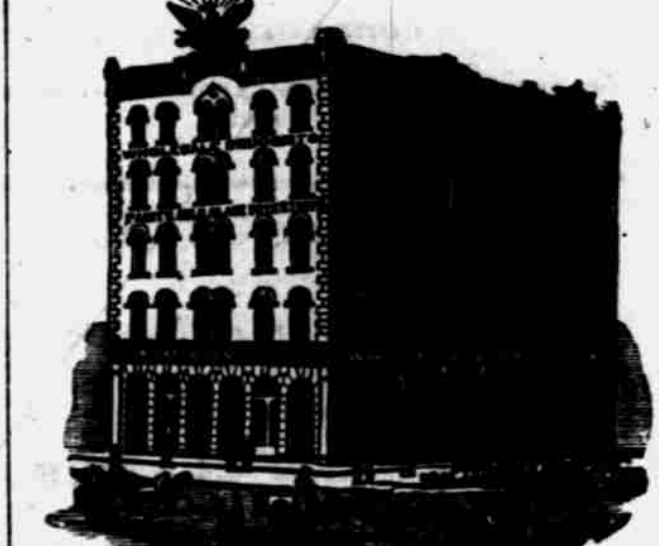
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