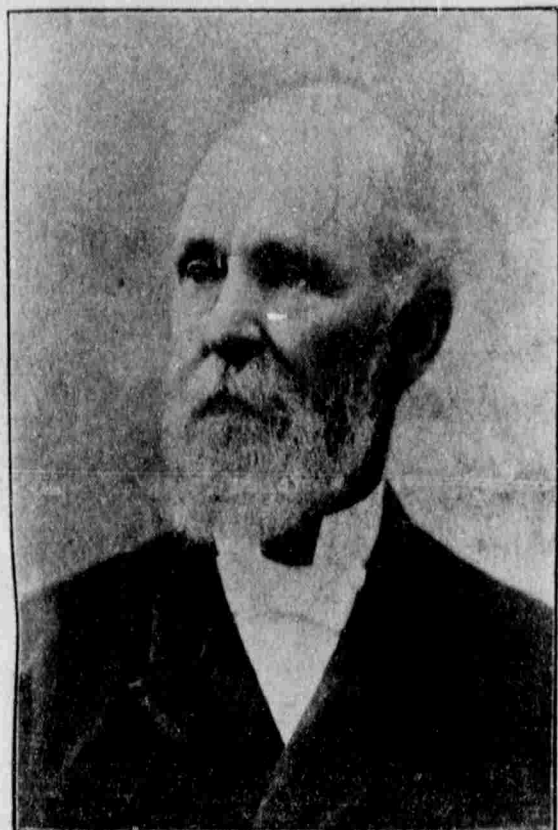


THE HISTORIC NAUVOO LEGION.

Brief Sketch of one of the Most Unique Military Organizations the Country Has Ever Had, With Portraits of Some of the Men Who Were Conspicuous in its Achievements—Its Disarmament at Nauvoo and Reorganization in Utah—The Echo Canyon Episode and Expensive Indian Wars.



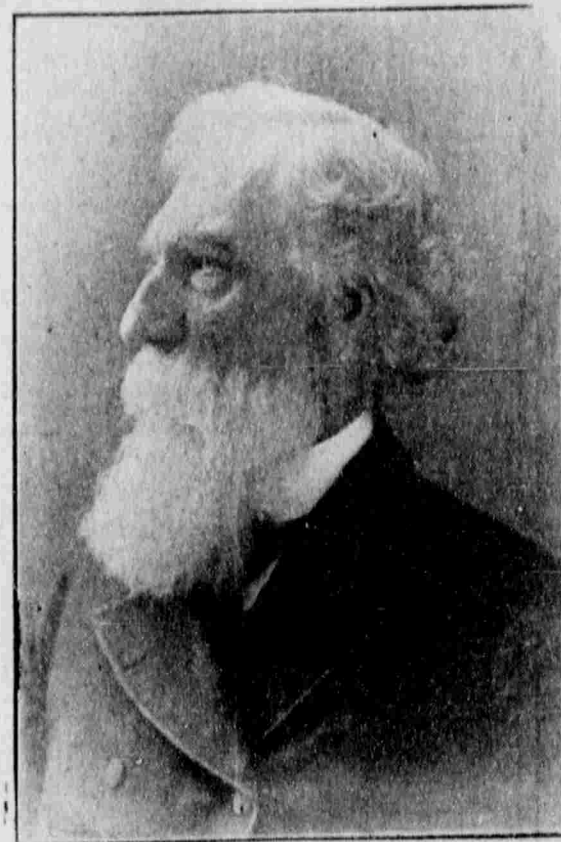
LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRIGHAM YOUNG,
Second Commander of the Nauvoo Legion.



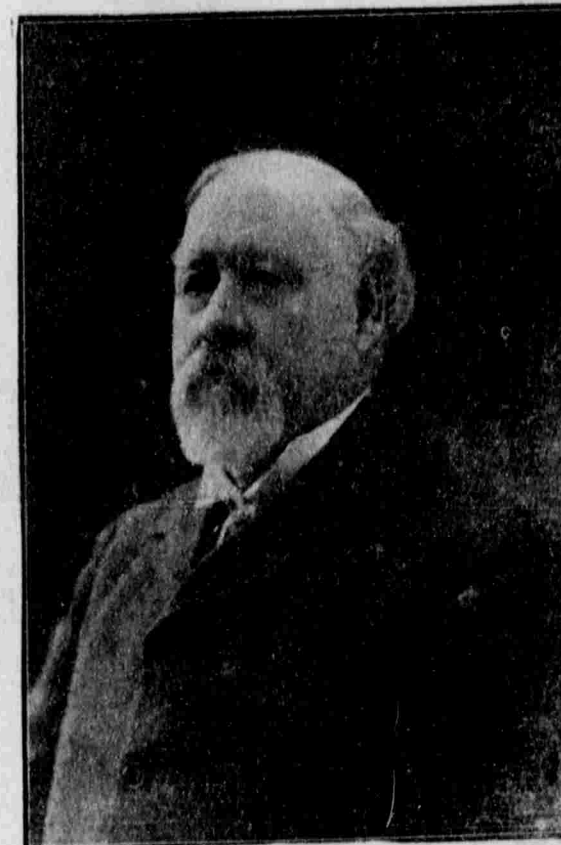
ADJUTANT GENERAL JOHN R. WINDER.



LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOSEPH SMITH,
First Commander of the Nauvoo Legion.



LIEUTENANT GENERAL DANIEL H. WELLS,
Third and Last Commander of the Legion.



BRIGADIER GENERAL BRIGHAM YOUNG, JR.

The firm heart of the sage and the patriot is warned.
By the grand Nauvoo Legion: The Legion is formed.
To oppose vile oppression, and nobly to stand
In defence of the honor and laws of the land.

The origin, purpose and achievements of the Nauvoo Legion were perfectly familiar to the early day Latter-day Saints. Information concerning this historic military organization, however, has become considerably dimmed by the progress of events that have forced themselves to the front in later years. This being true, the proposition to celebrate its memory at Saltair on Monday next, has been taken up with earnestness by the veterans who performed valorous deeds in days of trial and tribulation.

Several weeks ago General Robert T. Burton addressed a letter to a number of men whom he knew to be interested in the Legion, as to the advisability of instituting an annual reunion of the Nauvoo Legion, which was later made to include the members of the "Mormon" Battalion and the Utah Territorial militia, the ranks of all of whom are being rapidly thinned by the hand of time. Accordingly Adjutant D. M. McAllister, secretary of the committee on arrangements, sent out the following official call which states specifically the object of the gathering on Monday:

Survivors of the Nauvoo Legion, Mormon Battalion, and Utah Territorial Militia, including members of the martial and brass bands of the Legion, together with their families, and the families of deceased members of these organizations, are invited to meet at Saltair on Monday, June 24th, 1901. This call is issued for the purpose of renewing acquaintanceship and recounting incidents and experiences of long ago.

The officers and members of the National Guard of Utah, and the general public, in fact all who have a friendly interest in the military veterans who were so prominently associated with the early history of Utah, are also cordially invited to participate in the pleasures of the occasion.

Major-General Robert T. Burton, Adjutant-General John R. Winder, Brigadier-General Hiram B. Clawson, Brigadier-General Brigham Young, Colonel Geo. M. Ottinger, Colonel Thos. G. Weber, Major David McKenzie, Major John Clark, Major George Romney.

The program will not be a protracted one, it being deemed best to observe the day in the exchange of fraternal greetings and reminiscences, and in the renewal of acquaintanceships, which in

many instances have been well nigh forgotten. In addition to the old military organizations named in the official call, all civil and Spanish war veterans, Pioneers and national guardsmen are requested to join in making the day a memorable one.

THE LEGION'S BIRTH.

The Nauvoo Legion came into existence simultaneously with the municipal government of the city from which it derived its name. The Nauvoo charter was devised by Joseph Smith, as he declares "on principles so broad that any honest man might dwell secure under its protecting influence without distinction of sect or party."

Of course the purpose in organizing the Legion was to defend the "Mormons" of that day, against the onslaughts and mobbings of armed and lawless men. While the Legion became a very efficient military body it was never expected by its organizers that it would be necessary to employ it in any particularly aggressive way. It was thought that the simple knowledge of its existence would deter the law-breaking elements who had so frequently and so violently inflicted themselves upon the Latter-day Saints; and so it did in a large measure.

The charter of Nauvoo was an unusual one in many respects and was secured largely through the efforts and influence of Dr. John C. Bennett, who came into prominent association with the Church while acting as quartermaster general of the State of Illinois. The twenty-fifth section of the city charter read as follows:

"The city council may organize the inhabitants of said city, subject to military duty, into a body of independent military men, to be called the Nauvoo Legion, the court martial of which shall be composed of the commissioned officers of said legion, and constitute the law-making department with full powers and authority to make, ordain, establish and execute all such laws and ordinances as may be considered necessary for the benefit, government and regulation of said legion; provided said court martial shall pass no law or act repugnant to, or inconsistent with, the constitution of the United States, or of this state; and provided also that the officers of the legion shall be commissioned by the governor of the state. The said legion shall perform the same amount of mili-

tary duty as is now or may be hereafter required of the regular militia of the state, and shall be at the disposal of the mayor in executing the laws and ordinances of the city corporation, and the laws of the state, and at the disposal of the governor for the public defense, and the execution of the laws of the state or of the United States, and shall be entitled to their proportion of the public arms, and provided also, that such legion shall be exempt from all other military duty."

In pursuance of the provisions of the charter the Nauvoo legion was organized on the 4th day of February, 1841. Subsequently citizens of Hancock county enrolled themselves in the legion at an election of which Joseph Smith was chosen as lieutenant-general, and John C. Bennett major-general, with Wilson Law and Don Carlos Smith as brigadier-generals of the two cohorts of the legion. Speaking of the latter the Prophet said:

"The Nauvoo legion embraces all our military power, and will enable us to perform our military duty by ourselves, and thus afford us the power and privilege of avoiding one of the most fruitful sources of strife, oppression and

collision with the world. It will enable us to show our attachment to the state and nation, as a people, whenever the public service requires our aid, thus proving ourselves obedient to the paramount laws of the land and ready at all times to sustain and execute them."

In the beginning six companies, divided into two cohorts, one of cavalry and another of infantry, with a brigadier-general each, comprised the Legion. The first time it turned out in public was on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the Nauvoo Temple when it marched through the streets and drew up near the site of the proposed sacred structure and remained there during the impressive and imposing ceremonies.

Dr. Bennett was a thorough soldier and succeeded in arousing the military spirit and enthusiasm of the members of the Legion in high degree. Drills, parades and grand reviews became an established feature and numerous persons of note came from remote distances to witness their efficient maneuvering upon special occasions. Once and a while a sham battle would take place. When it did thousands of spec-

tators gathered to witness it.

Only once was the Legion called into actual service. That was at the time Nauvoo was placed under martial law at the command of Lieutenant-General Smith. This command, the firebrands of the day, designated an act of treason notwithstanding the fact that the Prophet's only aim was to protect his people from the murderous assaults of an inflamed and unscrupulous enemy. It is true that squads of the Legion had assisted at various times in the enforcement of the law and on one occasion had prevented the abduction of the Prophet himself, but the instance above referred to is the only time it acted as a whole.

The last official act of the Legion, as such, was when it was called upon to defend the city of Nauvoo. At this time it had a membership of five thousand and troops and had been augmented by two or three companies of artillery. The beginning of the end now came quickly and the original Legion went out of existence, disarming itself on the demand of the governor of Illinois while the Prophet Joseph was in prison at Carthage. In January, 1846, the charter of Nauvoo was repealed, which act completely abolished the Legion although members of the organization were subsequently called upon to defend the homes of their families and friends from the attacks of mobs; and in one instance when Sheriff Backenstos found himself unable to raise a posse from among the non-"Mormons" he organized one from members of the Legion. Such members of the organization as remained in Nauvoo were compelled to defend themselves against Colonel Brockman and his band of regulators who had organized themselves together for the purpose of harassing the "Mormons." On the death of Joseph Smith Brigham Young succeeded him as lieutenant-general.

THE LEGION REVIVED.

The next remembrance to the Nauvoo Legion was formed in Utah in the spring of 1849 when the provisional government of Deseret was organized. Then it was revived and its old name bestowed upon its successor, and Daniel H. Wells became its first and last commander in Utah. At first he was given the rank of major general, but later became lieutenant general. His brigadier generals at the outset were

Horace S. Eldredge and Jedediah M. Grant.

In 1852 General Wells was elected lieutenant general of the Legion or state militia which was then two thousand strong. Military districts in various counties were also established at this time and the legislature provided new laws and regulations for the government of the Legion. In 1857 there was a further perfection of the Legion. General Wells was re-elected to his military position and thirteen military districts were organized, ranging in location from Weber on the north to Washington on the south and extending as far east as Green River.

Then came that incident in history known as the Echo Canyon war, brought about by misrepresentation and misunderstanding, when half of the militia, or three thousand men were continually in the field. Prior to that time various engagements had been fought with the Indians, the most notable of which were the two days' fight at Provo in February, 1859, and the Walker war in 1853.

During the civil war the Legion did splendid service in protecting the United States mail route across the plains and mountains thus effectually negating the charge that Utah was in sympathy with the secession states. Previous to that time President Young had offered the services of the Legion, for that purpose, to President Abraham Lincoln, who gratefully accepted them.

Beginning in 1865 and ending in 1867 occurred the Black Hawk Indian war in Sanpete, Sevier and Plute counties, the damaging influences of which were felt in almost every part of the territory. At the loss of many lives and much treasure the Legion finally succeeded in quelling this insurrection. Notable fights took place at Thistle Valley, Gravelly Ford, and other points. The war cost the then young and struggling territory of Utah \$1,500,000, the entire burden of which was borne by the people themselves without the slightest aid from the government. During that time many settlements were abandoned and live stock stolen and numerous homes made desolate.

The next important episode in the history of the Legion was when Governor Shaffer issued an order forbidding further drills or militia gatherings of any kind from taking place, and

setting aside General Wells and General Clawson and summarily conferring their powers upon General P. E. Conner and Colonel William N. Johns, respectively. Governor Black subsequently acting under the same inclination refused to permit the Legion to indulge in a Fourth of July celebration in commemoration of the nation's birth, and a drill on the Twentieth ward square, participated in by boys with wooden guns, resulted in the arrest of several militia officers and their being borne off to Fort Douglas, where they were discharged, after a brief period of detention.

While these orders of Governor Shaffer and Black were regarded as tyrannical they were nevertheless obeyed to the letter and never again did the militia attempt to get together. The formal and final abolition of the Legion was brought about by the Edmunds-Tucker law in 1887, since which time the patriotic and historic organization has been but a memory.

WALNUT FURNITURE AGAIN.

Resurrect your old walnut furniture, and if you want to be in vogue have it carved where there is a plain surface, and touch it here and there with dull gold, for the furniture that grandmothers used and which was long ago relegated to the attic of the old homestead, is coming in again.

"Yes," said a furniture dealer, when spoken to on the subject, "walnut is coming in and mahogany is going out. We are giving the new walnut a lighter finish than the old had, touching it with gold and hand carving it wherever there is an inch of plain surface. We call this lighter finish wood Chippendale walnut, and I assure you it is quite fascinating, as its popularity shows. Lots of old walnut frames that have been stored for years are being made over, but as a rule the newer and lighter woods make up better for the prevailing taste."

FLATTERY ALL TOO SINCERE.

Addressing his students last week, Dr. Wyllie, the professor of medicine in Edinburgh university, adduced an experience of his that is not without its literary moral. He was called one day to see a young man. As he was entering the house the patient's sister exclaimed: "Oh, it's all that horrid book!" Inquiry elicited the fact that the patient's favorite reading was "Sherlock Holmes." The young man was in a very low state, and his tell-tale arm was dotted with hypodermic punctures. His admiration for the most popular of paper detectives had betrayed him into the cocaine habit.—Academy.



MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT T. BURTON.