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SYNOPSIS OF THE HISTORY OF HEBER CHASE KIMBALL.

(Continued.)

These things caused such great joy to spring up in our bosoms, that we were hardly able to contain ourselves; and we did shout aloud, Hosannah to God and the Lamb.

These things increasing our desires to hear, I took my horses and sleigh and started for Pennsylvania, Brigham and Phineas Young and their wives went along with me. We stayed with the church there about six days, attended their meetings, heard them speak in tongues, interpret and prophecy, which truly caused us to rejoice and praise the Lord. We returned confirmed in the truth, and bore testimony of that which we had seen and heard, to our friends and neighbors.

April 14, 1832. Brigham Young went forward and was baptized by Eleazer Miller, and the next day, or the day following, Alpheus Gifford came into my shop while I was forming a vessel upon the wheel, and while conversing with me upon the subject of this work, I said, 'bro. Alpheus, I am ready to go forward and be baptized,' I jumped up, pulled off my apron, washed my hands and started with him with my sleeves rolled up to my shoulders, and went the distance of one mile where he baptized me in a small stream in the woods. After I was baptized I knelt down and he laid his hands upon my head and confirmed me a member of the Church of Jesus Christ, and said unto me, in the name of Jesus Christ and by the authority of the holy Priesthood receive ye the Holy Ghost, and before I got up off my knees, he wanted to ordain me an Elder; but I plead with him not to do it, as I felt myself unworthy of such a calling, and such an office.

In about two weeks my wife, Vilate, was baptized by bro. Joseph Young, with several others, in a small stream close to my house, and we numbered about thirty in that branch, viz:—

John Young, sen. and Mary his wife.
Brigham Young and Miriam his wife.
Phineas H. Young and Clarissa his wife.
Joseph Young.
Lorenzo D. Young and Persis his wife.
John P. Greene and Rhoda his wife, and their children.
Joel Sandford and Lou'za his wife.
William Stilson and Susan his wife.
Fanny Young.
Isaac Flummerfelt and his wife, with their children.
Ira Bond and his wife Charlotte.
Heber C. Kimball and Vilate his wife.
Rufus Parks.
John Morton and Betsey his wife.
Nathan Tomlinson and his wife.
Israel Barlow, with his mother, brothers and sisters.

Under the ordinances of baptism and laying on of hands, I received the Holy Ghost, as the disciples did in ancient days, which was like a consuming fire, and I was clothed in my right mind, altho' the people called me crazy. I continued in this way for many months, and it seemed as though my flesh would consume away; at the same time the scriptures were unfolded to my mind in such a wonderful manner that it appeared to me at times as if I had formerly been familiar with them.

This alarmed the professing world around us and raised the devil to a great rage, still our minds were calm and filled with peace, while the wrath of our enemies was raised to such a degree that they persecuted us. During one week some of those who had professed to be my greatest friends in the Baptist church and others, persecuted me to such a degree that five or six executions were taken out against me, and I turned out property to secure the same, but, to their great disappointment, God opened my way so that I obtained money to pay all my debts and liberate myself from them, and none of my property was sold at auction; and in the meantime, during my greatest trouble, not one of them were willing to step forward to assist me, excepting my brethren in the church, and my brother, Solomon.

I was ordained an Elder by Joseph Young, and in company with himself and his brother Brigham I labored in Genesee, Avon and Lyons-town, where we baptized many and built up churches.

Brother Ezra Landon preached in Avon

and Genesee, baptized eighteen or twenty, and being afraid to confirm them and promise the Holy Ghost; he requested me to confirm them, which I did, according to the best of my knowledge, pronouncing but a few words on the head of each one, and invariably saying 'receive ye the Holy Ghost in the name of Jesus Christ.' Immediately the Holy Ghost fell upon them and several commenced speaking in tongues before they arose from their knees, and we had a joyful time; some ten or twelve spake in tongues, neither of whom had ever heard any person speak in tongues, they being the first baptized in that place.

From the time Father Bosley located near Avon he found and ploughed up axes and irons, and had sufficient to make his mill irons, and had always abundance of iron on hand without purchasing.

In the towns of Bloomfield, Victor, Manchester and in the regions round about, there were hills upon the tops of which were entrenchments and fortifications, and in them were human bones, axes, tomahawks, points of arrows, beads and pipes, which were frequently found, and it was a common occurrence in the country to plough up axes, which I have done many times myself.

I have visited the fortifications on the tops of those hills frequently, and the one near Bloomfield I have crossed hundreds of times, which is on the bluff of Honeyoy river, at the outlet of Honeyoy lake.

In that region there are many small deep lakes, in some the bottom has never been found; fish abound in them.

The hill Cumorah is a high hill, for that country, and had the appearance of a fortification or entrenchment around it. In the State of New York, probably, there are hundreds of those fortifications which are now visible and I have seen them in many other parts of the United States.

We received the gift of tongues and interpretation a few days after we were baptized. The brethren who brought the gospel to us belonged to the first branch of the church that received the gift of tongues, and the branch at Mendon was the next. Bros. Brigham and Joseph Young and myself went to Kirtland, with my horse and wagon, to visit the Prophet, a distance of three hundred miles. We saw bro. Joseph Smith and had a glorious time; during which bro. Brigham spoke in tongues before bro. Joseph, it being the first time he had heard any one speak in tongues; he testified that the gift was from God, and spoke in tongues himself. Soon the gift of tongues became general in the church in Kirtland. We had a precious season and returned with a blessing in our souls.

I continued rejoicing in the Lord and bearing testimony that God had spoken from the heavens, and of the things I had received until I sold my possessions and settled up my affairs. In the fall of 1833 I took my horses and wagon and started for Kirtland, Ohio; but, to my great surprise, some of my neighbors issued attachments against my goods, although I was not indebted to any one of them to the value of five cents, for I had been so particular in such matters, that I was well aware I was not indebted in any sam, to any person, unless two cents to one man, in a case where change could not be procured. Although there were some hundred dollars due to me, which I was obliged to leave uncollected; I settled their unjust claims. Elder Brigham Young and his two children went with me; we arrived at Kirtland about the last of October or first of November. I went into a house belonging to Mr. Elijah Smith and resided there until the next April. In the meantime I built myself a small frame house, which was put up by bro. Brigham Young, who was a carpenter and joiner.

Soon after our arrival in Kirtland there was a contrivance called for to finish the school-house and printing office; I contributed the glass for the house, and I gave bro. Hyrum Smith \$200 for the building of the Temple.

The brethren were engaged in building the house of the Lord. The commandment to build the house, and also the pattern of it was given in a revelation to Joseph Smith, jr., Sidney Rigdon, and Frederick G. Williams, and was to be erected by a stated time. The church was in a state of poverty and distress, in consequence of which it appeared almost impossible that the commandment could be fulfilled, at the same time our enemies were raging and threatening destruction up-

on us, and we had to guard night after night, and for weeks were not permitted to take off our clothes, and were obliged to lay with our firelocks in our arms to preserve brother Joseph's life.

Joseph was sued before a Magistrate's court in Painesville on a vexatious suit. I carried him from Kirtland to Painesville, with four or five others, in my wagon every morning for five days, and brought them back in the evening. We were often waylaid, but managed to elude our enemies by rapid driving and taking different roads. Esq. Bissell defended the Prophet.

Mobs were organized around Kirtland who were enraged against us, ready to destroy us.

Bro. Joseph received a revelation concerning the redemption of Zion. He gathered together as many of the brethren as he conveniently could, to go up to Missouri to the assistance of our persecuted brethren, according to the words of the Lord.

May 5th, I left Kirtland in company with bro. Joseph and about a hundred others and arrived in New Portage on the 7th, where Zion's camp was organized. I had a span of good horses and wagon which I took along, and I gave in to the general fund all the money I had. I was appointed Captain of the third company, which numbered thirteen. I drove and took care of my own team, and took charge of my company. I walked the most of the journey, letting the lame and footsore ride in my stead. I frequently invited the Prophet to ride, seeing him lame and footsore, on such occasions he would bless my team and myself with a hearty good will: my team performed the journey very well.

May 21st, We passed through Indianapolis the capital of Indiana.

At the re-organization of the camp at Salt river, Missouri, I was selected as one of Prest. Joseph Smith's life guard.

June 19th, We camped on an elevated piece of land between two branches of Fishing river, where we encountered a severe storm of rain and hail accompanied by thunder and lightning; the hail fell all round the camp, and within a mile many of the trees were stripped of their branches; the streams which were fordable in the evening rose to the depth of thirty feet; and this interposition of divine providence preserved us from fighting our enemies who had gathered on all sides to attack us.

During our journey there was murmuring and complaining, and in some instances there was rebellion in the camp against the counsels of Prest. Smith; who prophesied that the Lord had prepared a scourge for the camp, and that the destroyer should be in our midst, and many should die like sheep with the rot; he further said, 'repentance may modify the calamity, but not altogether avert it; the members of the camp will be scourged for their wickedness.'

While on Fishing river, brothers Joseph Hancock, Ezra Thayer and Thomas Hayes were attacked with cholera.

24th, The camp removed to Rush creek and encamped in bro. Burgett's field some two and a half miles from Liberty.

The destroyer came upon us, as we had been warned by the servant of God. About 12 o'clock at night we began to hear the cries of those who were seized. Those on guard fell with their guns in their hands to the ground, and we had to exert ourselves considerably to attend to the sick; for they were stricken down on every hand. Thus it continued till morning, when the camp was dispersed among the brethren. I was left with Joseph B. Nobles, John D. Parker, Luke Johnson and Warren Ingalls in care of those who were sick. We staid with, and prayed for them, hoping they would recover, but all hope was lost, for about six o'clock, p.m., John S. Carter expired.

When the cholera first broke out he laid his hands on his brethren to rebuke it, but he was violently attacked and was the first who died. In about thirty minutes Seth Hitchcock died, and it appeared as though we must all sink under the power of the destroyer.

We were not able to obtain lumber to make them coffins, but were under the necessity of rolling them up in their blankets and burying them in that manner; we placed them on a sled, which was drawn about half a mile, and buried them by the side of a small branch of Rush creek. This was accomplished by dark.

Our hopes were that no more would die, but

while we were uniting in prayer with uplifted hands to God, our beloved brother Eber Wilcox died. At this scene my feelings were beyond expression. Those only who witnessed it, can realize any thing of the extent of our sufferings, and I felt to weep and pray to the Lord, that he would spare my life that I might behold my dear family again. I felt to covenant with my God and my brethren, never to commit another sin while I lived.

We wept over our brethren, and so great was our sorrow that we could have washed them with our tears. To realize that they had travelled a thousand miles through so much fatigue to lay down their lives for their brethren increased our love to them.

Brothers Brigham and Joseph Young came from Liberty and assisted us to bury brother Wilcox; their presence gave us much consolation.

About 12 o'clock at night we drew bro. Wilcox on a small sled, to the place of interment, with one hand hold of the rope, and in the other we bore our firelocks for our defence. While two were digging the grave, the others stood with their arms to defend them.

While brother Luke Johnson was digging, the cholera attacked him with cramping and blindness, bro. Brigham laid hold of him and pulled him out of the grave, and shook him about, talked to and prayed for him, and exhorted him to jump about and exercise himself, when it would leave him for a few moments, then it would attack him again; and thus we had the greatest difficulty to keep the destroyer from laying us low.

This was our situation, the enemies around us, and the destroyer in our midst. Soon after we returned, another brother was taken away from our little band; thus it continued until five out of ten were taken away.

The fear of the destroyer kept our enemies from us.

As I went into the woods to pray I was taken with cholera. I was instantly struck blind, and saw no way whereby I could free myself from the disease, only to exert myself by jumping and thrashing myself about, until my sight returned to me, and my blood began to circulate in my veins. I started and ran some distance, and by this means, through the help of God, I was enabled to extricate myself from the grasp of death.

On the 26th, Algernon Sidney Gilbert, keeper of the Lord's Store House, signed a letter to the Governor, in connexion with others, which was his last public act; for he had been called to preach, and he said he would rather die than go forth and preach the gospel to the wicked. The Lord took him at his word; he was attacked with the cholera and died about the 29th.

Bros. Erastus Rudd and Jesse Johnson Smith, a cousin of the Prophet, died at bro. Gilbert's about the same time.

I went to Liberty, to the house of bro. Peter Whitmer, which place I reached with difficulty, being much afflicted. I received great kindness from them, and also from Sister Vienna Jacques, who administered to my wants and also to my brethren. May the Lord reward them for their kindness.

The destroyer ceased, having afflicted us about four days. Sixty-eight were taken with the disease, of which number fourteen of the members of Zion's camp died, eighteen died in all. Many of the brethren were cured by immersing them in cold water, or pouring it on them, repeating the application frequently.

On the 22d. Bro. Joseph received a revelation, saying that the Lord had accepted our offering, even as he accepted that of Abraham, therefore he had a great blessing laid up in store for us, and an endowment for all, and those who had families might return home, and those who had no families should tarry until the Lord said they should go.

I received an honorable discharge, in writing from the hand of our General, Lyman Wight. Before we separated, the money which had been put into the hands of our paymaster, and had not been used, was equally divided amongst the company, making one dollar and sixteen cents each.

June 30, 1834. I started for home, in company with Lyman Sherman, Sylvester Smith, Alexander Badlam, Harrison Burgess, Luke Johnson and Zera Cole, with bro. Sylvester Smith's team, as I had disposed of mine to Peter Whitmer.