

ing of seven in all, and came as far as Garden Grove, where we stopped a while. Then we came on to Council Bluffs, getting there July 20, where my two older brothers enlisted in the Battalion and went into the Mexican war, viz., Orrice C. and John R., so this left my father and stepmother and three children in the wilderness. I being the eldest and not quite six years old, left father with but little help, he being well along in years. We then moved with others down on the edge of the Missouri river bottom between two and three miles west of a village called Potawatamie, where the Indians lived, and there built a log house, put up hay and wintered. There my youngest brother died and was buried at a place about five miles down the river, at an Indian trading post that I believe was called Saray's Point. The same winter there were two persons died not far from there, namely George Cooper and his wife Alice. They left an only child called Mary, which father took into his family to raise.

In April, 1847, father started to make an outfit to come to the valley—with three yoke of oxen and two wagons. I went with him and drove one of the teams. I was at that time six and a half years old. We made two trips into Missouri and back and then drove the same three yoke of oxen that same season into the Salt Lake Valley.

We left Winter Quarters on the Missouri river (the place now called Florence) on the 7th of June, and united with a company that we came across the Plains with, at the Elk Horn, twenty miles west of the Missouri river. We left there about the 10th of June and arrived in Salt Lake valley on the 24th of September, 1847, with five of us in family and an orphan girl who came across with us, by the name of Martha Henderson. There are but three of us alive now that I know of. George Murdock and Mary O. Goodwin, both living in Lehi, and myself.

John R. returned from California and met us in Salt Lake in the fall of 1847, but my brother Orrice did not return until the next season.

G. A. MURDOCK.

William Moreley Black, one of the early settlers here and a pioneer in southern Utah, has been in town during the Jubilee from Colonia Dublan, Mexico. He says that the railroad that has been under construction for some time past from El Paso, Texas, into Mexico, is now completed as far as Dublan. The road is 150 miles in length and is considered to have one of the finest roadbeds of any line in America. Work began on the construction in October of last year.

The service is sadly from both ends of the line and proves very satisfactory. J. Fawcett Smith, formerly of Salt Lake, is chief engineer, and David Harmoo, another Salt Lake, was foreman of the grading division of the work. Mr. Harmoo returned to this city recently but will return when work begins.

Colonia Dublan is only a temporary terminus. The objective point is down in the southwestern part of Mexico, the richest part of the country. It is thought that work will be commenced again soon.



B. F. CUMMINGS, SR.

Benjamin Franklin Cummings Sr., whose portrait is here given, is a descendant in the seventh generation, of Isaac Cummings, an early settler of Topsfield, Mass., the village in which resided the ancestors of the Prophet Joseph Smith. He is the son of James and Susanna (Willard) Cummings, and was born in Farmington, Franklin county, Maine, March 3, 1821. His father was a musician in the war of 1812, and his grandfather and great-grandfather were commissioned officers in the Revolution.

In the spring of 1837 Mormonism was introduced into Farmington and James Cummings and his wife Susanna embraced it. Franklin, as the family called him, had never been much interested in religion, and his parents' conversion did not specially impress him. But when, on July 6, 1837, they left his native town to join the main body of Saints in the west, he accompanied them.

The family stopped at Sunbury, Ohio, where they remained nearly two years. There was a branch of the Church there, and during the winter of 1839-40 Franklin listened to a debate between Elder Almon W. Babbitt and a Baptist minister, which nearly converted him. He continued his investigations and on April 12, 1840, was baptized by Elder John Kempton. In June, 1841, the family went from Sunbury to Ramon, near Nauvoo, and a little later settled in the latter city. In the fall of 1842 Franklin went on a mission and was absent nearly two years, travelling in Ohio, Indiana and New York. He reached Nauvoo on his return home from this mission on the day on which occurred the tragedy at Carthage. In the spring of 1846 James Cummings disposed of his property in Nauvoo, preparatory to going west with the Saints, and Franklin made a wagon for the purpose, the first piece of carpenter work requiring special skill that he had ever done, though he had worked at rough carpentry on the Nauvoo temple.

The family, comprising three sons and two daughters, reached Winter Quarters in the fall of 1846, and during the ensuing winter the father and mother died of pneumonia. Lying on a bed in the cabin in which both passed away, were Franklin and his younger brother, Alva, utterly helpless from scurvy. In the following spring Franklin, his sister Mary, who married B. W. Nowlin on the Plains, and his brother Alva, started from Winter Quarter for the West. Franklin, whose legs were so crippled with scurvy that he could scarcely walk, drove an ox team, walking by the side of it and wading the streams of cold water that were frequently crossed. Such treatment would hardly be thought good for such legs as he had, but strange to say, they grew better under it. His team was in Daniel Spencer's hundred, and was among the first immigrant wagons to reach the Old Fort block after the Pioneer company located there.

After remaining in Salt Lake City a year or two, the subject of this sketch settled in Ogden, where, in 1852 he married Catherine Hall. In 1856 he married Jane Yearsley, and about the same time removed to Willard, where he lived until 1861, when he returned to Ogden. He was colonel of a regiment of Weber county militia, and in early days taught military classes in several towns in that and Boxelder counties. In 1865 he removed to this city, where he has resided ever since. He has lived in the Twelfth ward ever since 1868.

He was on the Salmon river mission in the fifties, and his journal is an excellent history of that mission. In the summer of 1878 he went on a mission to Iowa and Nebraska, on which he was absent about one year. He has done a great amount of Temple work, having spent most of the time for several years in it.

On reaching Utah he adopted the trade of carpenter and millwright, at which he earned a livelihood until advancing age compelled him to abandon it. Though his health, much of the time, is not good, he is still quite active, and has thoroughly enjoyed the Jubilee festivities. Having seen the first house built in Utah he can appreciate the growth of the State.