

# Veteran Hosts at Next G. A. R. Encampment

**R**ESPONSIBILITY for the National Encampment to bringing of the Grand Army of the Republic Salt Lake City next August rests in the main on the shoulders of the veterans whose portraits are reproduced in the accompanying cut.

They left Utah last summer for Toledo, with the avowed purpose of capturing the encampment and how well they succeeded has often been told. Backed by the good wishes of Utah in general and the promise of financial assistance they went into the fray incidental to a big national convention and came out triumphant capturing the next big assembly of veteran soldiers of the Civil war from under the very guns of some of the largest cities of the United States.

On the return of the Utah delegation it was given a complimentary dinner at the Commercial club whereat the members of the delegation were individually and collectively thanked and some very nice things were said regarding their efforts.

Now that the first flush of victory has died away one and all are preparing for the big event next summer when the entertained will turn entertainers and take a hand in receiving the thousands of guests of the city who will come pouring into Salt Lake City from every point of the compass as special train after special disgorges its freight of humanity at the Harriman and Gould depots.

One and all realize the immensity of the contract they have willingly undertaken and one and all feel equal to the emergency with the promise on the part of the state and Salt Lake City that financial assistance for the entertainment of the strangers will be forthcoming.

The personnel of the group picture of the Utah delegation at Toledo, as shown in the accompanying half-tone cut is as follows:

Lower row, from right to left—Rudolph Alf. Mrs. Mary A. B. Lawrence, Mrs. Thomas Loughney, (Women's Relief Corps), George B. Squires, N. D. Corser (lying down), Thomas Loughney, M. M. Kaighn. Upper row, right to left—H. P. Burns, Thomas Lundy, W. M. Bostaph, (Ogden), A. B. Lawrence, W. P. Rowe, R. G. Sleater, W. L. Russell (Ogden), B. M. Sperry (Park City).

Just how the prominent Grand Army men of Utah feel regarding the big undertaking of entertaining the thousands who are due to flock to this city in August, is set forth in several interviews secured for the Christmas News. While there are some apprehensions as to the matter of entertainment, it is believed these have all been settled satisfactorily to all concerned, and all classes of the community both in this city and state, look forward to August, when the national encampment of the G. A. R. will be held here, as one of the "greatest events in the history of the Beehive state."

What the veterans say themselves is herewith presented:

Department Commander W. G. Sleater, Sixth Iowa Infantry—"I believe we will have to entertain 50,000 people; but there need be no trouble about this. We are trying to get a rate of 1 cent per mile for the national encampment, and it is possible may secure even a lower rate. We can care for them all right. Col. Sterrett has

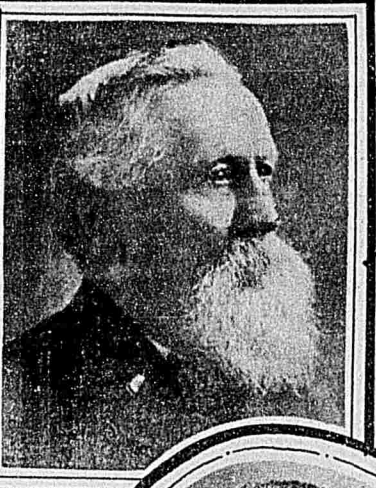
the matter in hand, and will carry out his arrangements without trouble. Large delegations are certain to attend from Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois in special uniform and in organized battalions and in regiments. There will be many sailors, societies of prisoners of war, societies of army musicians, Women's Relief organizations, and other affiliated associations so that a great concourse will be present."

Mr. Sleater enlisted in July, 1861, and was mustered out in July, 1865.

Col. George B. Squires, Fifteenth Conn. Infantry—"The coming national encampment will be the greatest event in the history of Salt Lake City and of the state. It furnishes a grand opportunity for the people of Utah to demonstrate to the world their high appreciation and love for flag and country. The veterans are entitled to every consideration, every



R. G. Sleater  
Commander  
Dept. of Utah



B. M. Sperry  
Past Dept.  
Commander



Alfred Merl  
Past Dept. Commander



Col. M. M. Kaighn  
Past Dept.  
Commander



Harry P. Burns  
Past Dept. Commander



W. M. Bostaph  
Past Dept.  
Commander



Harry S. Kern, Jr.  
Commander  
Post No. 5

courtesy which the people here can possibly show them. I believe the people of the state will demonstrate on this occasion the highest quality of Americanism."

Ex-Territorial Secretary George A. Black, drum major of Forty-sixth Illinois Infantry—"The national commander and his staff are here for a general conference with Utah G. A. R. officials, and prominent business men of the city and state with reference to facilities for properly caring for the national encampment that is scheduled for this city next August, and to make clear whether the railroads will extend such facilities as will enable all who may so desire, to attend from various sections of the Union. I do not think there will be difficulty in showing that fair and reasonable rates can be obtained from the railroads, and accommodate all who desire to come. Accommodations, if necessary can be secured

at points north of this city to Ogden, and south as far as Provo. I am confident the visitors will all be delighted with their experience here, and hope that for the time being, anyhow, all sectional and denominational differences will be buried and absolutely forgotten."

William Crome, One Hundred and Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, past commander Maxwell Post—"The coming national encampment will be a signal success. Many people will be sure to come here through curiosity to see the west, in general and Salt Lake City in particular. They will want to see the great lake, and take a bath in it. Adjutant General Scott of Illinois is to be here with the national officers of the G. A. R., to look the ground over, and I am sure he will be pleased."

Past Department Commander B. M. Sperry, Fifth Iowa Cavalry—"We are bound to have an encampment of which visitors and citizens will have every reason to feel proud. I look forward with enjoyable anticipation to the time."

Commander J. M. Swen, Maxwell Post, Thirty-fifth Iowa Infantry—"The encampment is destined to be a great thing for Salt Lake itself, as well as those who come here; and Salt Lake is going to do itself proud in caring for the encampment. Too much can not be said for the good offices of the Commercial club; the way it is taking hold of it is encouraging. The city and the state will lend material aid. We want \$60,000, of which the state will give \$25,000, the county \$5,000, the city \$5,000. The remainder will have to be made up in voluntary contributions."

Past Department Commander H. P. Burns, Second Pennsylvania Reserves—"Comrade Swen's remarks are identical with my sentiments. We are in for a grand time next summer. I have attended the last six national encampments, and I expect this one will distance them all."

Past Department Commander, M. M. Kaighn, Seventy-ninth Pennsylvania Infantry—"The general staff is here to arrange for the biggest encampment in the history of the G. A. R., when there will be 50,000 veterans present. The Toledo Blade said the veterans left three millions there at the encampment of last summer, while five millions were left at the Philadelphia gathering. Most of the veterans in the west are not over supplied with cash, but there are many old soldiers in the east who are very wealthy. There will be no trouble in caring for the crowds and they will all enjoy themselves."

J. W. Campbell, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Infantry—"The only trouble I can see, will be the housing of all this multitude. But, I believe it can be effected without confusion or embarrassment. We can feed and otherwise entertain the visiting hosts of the encampment without difficulty."

## Monument to Perpetuate Memory of Historic March of Mormon Battalion

"Napoleon crossed the Alps but you have crossed a continent."—Col. Philip St. George Cook, commander of the Mormon Battalion.

"Let me ride bare-headed through the streets of this city in honor of the brave Battalion boys."—Col. Thomas L. Kane.

**T**HE Mormon Battalion was a troop of 500 men enlisted to do service in the Mexican war at the request of President Polk. The men were chosen from a camp of Latter-day Saint refugees at Mt. Pisgah, Iowa. They served one year during which time they made a march of 3,000 miles, from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to San Diego, Cal., through a country which at that time had never been explored. The annals of their sufferings and hardships vie with those of any infantry march on record. After 62 years an organization called the Daughters of the Mormon Battalion proposes to erect a memorial to their fathers who made the longest recorded infantry march in history and took part in the discovery of gold in California.

President Polk had recommended that stockade forts be built along the overland route to Oregon, to protect immigrants. The Church authorities anticipated this call and tried to secure the contracts. Jessie C. Little who was in the east was asked by Brigham Young to place this matter where it would receive attention. Mr. Little procured letters of introduction to Vice President Dallas, Hon. George Bancroft, secretary of the navy, in the matter. Two days after making his overtures he was informed by ex-Postmaster-General Amos Kendall that the president wished to take possession of California with the aid of the Mormons whose affairs were in an unsettled condition. Knowing as he did the discipline and frugal habits of the people, circumstances seemed to fit them for this particular service. Mr. Little furnishing the suggestion they were at once asked by Congress to furnish 500 able-bodied men.

Although Brigham Young had made overtures for the appointment of stockading this territory he had not calculated that the saints would be called to do active service in the Mexican war, which would of necessity separate them from their families. The call contrary to President Young's expectations, was for 500 men to volunteer for 12 months to do service in the Mexican war. The request could hardly have come at a more inopportune time as the immigrants were in poor circumstances. The camps from which they were mustered were miles apart and the predom-

inant question was, how were their families to exist during the coming winter? It was a problem which called into play every feeling of love and loyalty. Brigham Young assured the men that their families would be cared for. The majority of these men were direct descendants of revolutionary stock and the blood which had lain dormant in their veins for one-half century now flowed at highest tide.

### CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

The call was issued June 26, 1846. The order from Col. Kearney to Capt. James Allen was written along the lines suggested by President Polk. The conditions were that they were to volunteer for 12 months, march to California, receive pay and allowances during the stated time, at the end of which they were to be discharged and allowed to retain as private property the guns and accoutrements.

Each company would be allowed four women as laundresses who would travel with the battalion, receive rations and allowances as the regular army. Acting upon this order Capt. Allen proceeded to Mt. Pisgah, where he issued a circular explaining the object of his visit; that he would receive all healthy, able-bodied men from 18 to 45 years of age, and that he hoped to complete the organization in six days, or within nine days from the time he left Council Bluffs.

A council was called composed of Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards and others before whom Captain Allen made known his errand. Captain Allen was a humane soldier and a gentleman. He died six weeks after the march began.

### URGED TO ENLIST.

President Young asked the people to make a distinction between this call of the national government

and their former oppressors in Missouri and Illinois. He assured the men their families would be cared for, and urged the men to enlist. July 16, 1846, the battalion marched from Council Bluffs.

Soon after the march began many of the male and female members of the battalion were attacked with malarial fever. Before crossing the Arkansas river near Bent's Fork in September, it was decided that the sick should leave the battalion and go to Pueblo. Captain Higgins with a detail of 10 men accompanied them. It was with regret and dissatisfaction that they were separated from the battalion, but their weak condition impeded the march. Oct. 1, their first reduction of rations was ordered. They arrived at Santa Fe, Oct. 9, when Lieut. Col. St. George Cook assumed command. From here again the sick were ordered to return to Pueblo. All the women except four had been returned at their own expense. Their names were Mrs. Ebenezer Brown, Mrs. Capt. Hunter, Mrs. Capt. Davis and Mrs. Sergt. Coray. This returning company was in charge of Capt. James Brown, who is known to Utah history as the founder of Ogden.

### RATIONS REDUCED.

After leaving Santa Fe, another reduction was made in the rations. As they advanced roads and general conditions grew worse; men and teams were falling fast. On the Rio Del Norte another detachment of sick men, 65 in number, had to

be sent back under the care of Lieut. W. W. Willis. With no medicine and only five days' rations he started to travel back the 300 miles to Pueblo. At Tucson the members of the battalion purchased a little unbolted flour which they were forced to carry upon their backs. In January, 1847, the rations were reduced to one ounce of flour per day to each man. The contact of a tropical sun in the day time and the winter's cold at night worked its hardships upon these half-naked men and tired beasts. Before reaching Cariz, many of the men were so exhausted from hunger and fatigue that they were unable to speak until water was carried to them. Col. Cook wrote of this time:

"As I passed through camp this morning the men were eating their last ounce of flour. There had been no sugar or coffee for weeks, yet even here their cheerfulness was remarkable."

On first meeting the battalion Col. Cook feared he could not trust the men and was heard to ask if he could rely on the battalion in case of an attack, the reply was, "the battalion will follow where you dare lead." After 1,400 miles of travel under the painful circumstances narrated he gave them proper recognition as became a United States officer. He congratulated them on "marching through a wilderness where nothing but savages and wild beasts were found, or deserts where for want of water there is no living creature. There, with almost hopeless labor," he is quoted as saying, "we have dug deep wells which the future traveler will enjoy. Thus marching half naked and half fed we have made a road of great value to our country. Arriving at the first settlement of California, after a single day's rest, you cheerfully turn out from this point of promised repose to meet as we supposed the approach of the enemy and this

to without even salt to season your sole subsistence of fresh meat."

The last six weeks of the march was made on a diet of fresh meat. The battalion was disbanded at Los Angeles, July 16, 1847. The company re-enlisted for six months to garrison the port of San Diego. Just previous to the discharge of the battalion, Col. J. C. Fremont had declared himself governor of California. For this insubordination he was ordered to Washington to be tried by court martial. A bodyguard of 12 men three from each company of the battalion was chosen to escort him back to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The company followed up the coast from Los Angeles as far north as a mission named in their journals as the mission of St. Francis—the spot, undoubtedly where San Francisco was afterwards built. They marched east by a northern route to Ft. Hall, from there they took a southeasterly direction passing over part of the territory of Utah as it was afterwards laid out. The company passed through the northeastern corner of Utah three days before the pioneers arrived at Salt Lake valley. The Fremont company continued thence to Ft. Leavenworth, thus making the circuit back to that place complete.

Unfortunately the names of this guard have been lost except the name of Nathaniel Vary Jones, who kept a complete journal of the trip.

The first discovery of gold in California was made by discharged members of the battalion as they were working their way to Utah at Sutter's ranch near Sacramento. And when California held her Golden Jubilee the surviving member of the party was sent for and made an honored guest.

### MEMORIAL SOCIETY.

After 60 years had passed a call was issued by a few of the daughters of members of the Mormon battalion to meet and organize a memorial society whose purpose was to accumulate data and erect a tablet to the memory of their fathers. The society has not decided upon the form the memorial is to take. A drinking fountain bearing a bronze tablet inscribed with the names of battalion members is under consideration. The desire for such a memorial has long been felt and to that end the society has worked. Letters have been sent out to descendants of battalion members to which responses have been received in the form of money to a considerable amount. The cost of the memorial is to be governed by the amount raised. It is hoped to complete arrangements for this memorial at an early period and before the last call shall be made and last taps sounded the surviving members of the company may live to see the completion of the monument. It was decided that this memento should be placed in Utah as it is the final resting place of most of the members of the battalion.

MARY JONES CLAWSON



JAMES FERGUSON—SERGT. MAJ.



JEFFERSON HUNT—CAPT. CO. A.



N. V. JONES—SERGT. CO. D.