

and worked at it five years. At nineteen I went to what was then called the Black Hawk purchase, now called Iowa, became acquainted with the celebrated war chief Black Hawk, and it was there I built the first known flour mill that was built in Iowa.

In 1839 I became acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith, and heard him expound the principles of the true plan of life and salvation. I believed it as soon as I heard it, and was baptized in the early spring of 1840, and with my family took up our abode with the Saints. After the massacre of the Prophet and Patriarch, we left Nauvoo at the time of the exodus of the Saints, and journeyed with them until we arrived at Mount Pisgah. Here we found President Brigham Young with the main body of the Church. We traveled in President Young's company from Pisgah to Council Bluffs, arriving there on the 11th day of June, 1846.

On the 13th of June President Young called on me to build a ferry boat. I selected some of the brethren to help me, and took them into the woods, where we selected the best trees I could find that would at all suit the purpose, and with the poor facilities and improvised tools at our command we commenced the work, and finished our boat on the 29th of June. That night we ferried our cannon (nick-named the "old sow") and other pieces of artillery, with several wagons, across the river. I kept at work day and night, ferrying the hosts of Israel with their wagons and all their belongings to a place of safety. We ferried hundreds of wagons across, and at last I had to rest; I was completely tired out. I had worked for weeks, day and night, without money and without price.

The majesty and greatness of the spirit that the Lord bestowed upon President Brigham Young has not been thoroughly understood or correctly estimated, nor fully appreciated even by many of our own people, especially those who were not participants in the mobbings and drivings, and who did not know the distress of the people in consequence thereof. His genius and forethought enabled him to grasp every phase and prepare for every emergency. The tender care and anxiety that he manifested for every soul under his watchcare, and the skillful way he handled the vast body of people and met every difficulty that transpired, makes him a greater hero than any general that has ever lived. A general over an army has his men well drilled and disciplined, but here was a vast body of people fleeing from a relentless foe, whose leader had been told by the President of this great nation, "Gentlemen, your cause is just, but we can do nothing for you." After this their leaders had been murdered, the people robbed, and scattered; yet Brigham Young, then president of the quorum of the Apostles, by his own voice under the inspiration of the Lord, collected the people and directed every their benefit and preservation.

In the midst of our troubles after we had reached Council Bluffs, Captain Allen came as an agent for the United States government and made a demand for five hundred men to fight against Mexico. President Young called for volunteers. I went to him and gave my name to go, but he said, "No, I want you to stay here." In the exodus the people

could take with them only very few things for their use. Some brought hand mills, and coffee mills, which were poor things to grind corn or flour. President Young, knowing I was a millwright, called on me to build a mill for the accommodation of the people to grind their corn, as very few had anything else for food. I at once went to work and built the mill as soon as it was possible to accomplish it. It had one run of four feet burr stones.

Early in the spring of 1847 very many went into Missouri and other places to seek employment, whereby they could earn means to fit themselves out for crossing the plains. I had no supplies except one hundred of flour, two sacks of corn meal, and some whole corn. Our clothing was scant and needed replenishing. I went, as did many others, to find work to earn a fit out: I obtained work in Jackson county, Missouri. The Lord blessed by labors so that we could come more comfortably. I remained there at work until the early spring of 1851. After I had earned sufficient to bring us through, although my prospects financially were bright if I remained longer, no one could induce me to stay one day after the spring. We left Kansas City and travelled in our wagon on the north side of the Missouri river until we arrived at Winter Quarters. From Winter Quarters we journeyed across the plains in Elder Orson Pratt's company and arrived in the Valley on the first day of October, 1851.

After being here some little time I thought of going north to start business for myself; but President Brigham Young desired me to stay here, and take charge of the mill building, and the machinery for the Church. The first work I did was to put the water power machinery in place for the public works. It was situated on the northeast corner of the Temple block.

In 1854 President Young organized a company that was known as the Big Cottonwood Lumber Company. It was composed of six persons, the names being as follows: Brigham Young, Daniel H. Wells, Abraham O. Smoot, John Sharp, Feramorz Little and Frederick Kesler. President Young, gave us instructions to explore the mountains and hills in the Big Cottonwood district and see if there was suitable timber in sufficient quantity to justify the vast expense that would necessarily be incurred in procuring and conveying the lumber out of the canyon. I was also to select locations for mills. We were conveyed by team as far as team could travel up Mill Creek canyon. From there we travelled on foot, carrying our blankets and provisions until we reached the top of the divide, where we made our first camp, and we were so weary that we were very glad to lie down to rest. We could not find water that night. We thoroughly explored the district of Big Cottonwood, climbing over the most rugged, rocky, and rough places I had ever traveled over. We found nothing to dispute our progress except some colonies of rattlesnakes, which were plentiful and some of them very large, but they did not harm us. Five of our company went on this exploring tour. President Young remained at home. Feramorz Little was selected to superintend the construction of the roads from the mouth to the head of the canyon. I was called to superintend and build the mill. The first mill

built was called mill "A;" we had to transport all our iron and provisions for this mill on mule back. I built five mills in Big Cottonwood which were designated as "A," "B," "C," "D," and "E." We had a wagon road before the second mill was built. It was hard work from the first. I do not think any harder work was ever done by man, than we did from the time we started until we had our first saw mill completed. The road cost somewhere near forty thousand dollars before it was finished.

We commenced sawing lumber, running the mills day and night, and continued manufacturing until we had a vast amount, from which we supplied the entire public works. We also had a great amount of lumber stacked up, and no apparent use for it, or market where we could sell. It was not long, however, before the superior judgment and matchless wisdom of this mighty leader and undoubted servant of God were displayed before all Israel. We were very poor, no money, very little clothing or merchandise. The people were very destitute. At this time General Johnston with the U. S. army was sent against us. They went to Camp Floyd, and they needed lumber. They came to us and bought our lumber and paid us thousands of dollars in gold for it, while we needed everything that gold could buy. This undoubtedly saved our people considerable suffering and helped us to develop the country and provide for the necessities of the whole people.

In 1858 President Young called Horace S. Eldredge and Frederick Kesler to go east and take the gold we had received for our lumber and make purchases for the benefit of the people. Brother Eldredge was to purchase mercantile goods, while I was to select and purchase machinery for manufacturing purposes. I bought from the best manufacturing factories in the United States and bought the best material in every purchase I made. In Wareham, Massachusetts, I bought the first nail-making machines that were ever brought here, machines that would make from four to twelve-penny nails, making a nail complete at one stroke. I purchased two chilled rolls at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. The two rolls alone made one heavy wagon load. These rolls were for rolling the iron for making the different sizes of nails. I also bought carding machines for carding both wool and cotton, power looms, mule for spinning wool, and a paper mill. These were the first that were ever brought to Utah. The paper mill Brother William Howard superintended putting up, with my assistance. He also ran it after it was ready for work. I purchased at the same time material for building flour mills, consisting of irons, burr stones, bolting cloth, etc. President Brigham Young called Brother D. H. Wells to take charge of and run the nail machine. I put up the machinery for him, and Brother James H. Hart, now living in Bear Lake, was his foreman. I also bought a button machine for making both pearl and bone buttons. This I bought at Philadelphia. I do not know who operated it. I have built mills in ten different states, to wit in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Mississippi, Texas, Nebraska, Kansas and Utah; fifteen in the last named State.

There was no general move made in the early days of Utah that President Brigham Young did not suggest; and