

The World of Joseph Fielding: Chapter 38

The Sacrament was Restored at the April Conference of 1857

Thousands traveled to Salt Lake City in April of 1857 to hear the sermons of General Conference and to partake of the sacrament, which had been discontinued for months. Joseph Fielding wrote:

On the 5th of April. . . the Sacrament was restored, which gave much joy. Brother Brigham began to encourage us, being full of sympathy and Kindness, as though he felt that some might feel discouraged. He exhorted them to be comforted. It felt like Oil and Wine to many. In fact, such has been his fatherly Spirit that all Israel felt to bless him. I do not think a Man ever lived who had the Confidence of a People equal to Brother Brigham Young.¹

A conference was also held that day in New York at John Taylor's home. Elder Taylor, who had been serving for three years as the mission president, was preparing to return to Utah. His twenty-three-year-old son George was sustained as the new president, with George's cousin Angus Cannon sustained as one of his counselors.²

Only three days after Joseph wrote that the sacrament had been restored, his daughter Hannah Alice, who had been born in the spring following the family's arrival in Utah, died just before her eighth birthday. Because Joseph did not mention an illness or show any concern for her in his most recent entry, the implication is that her death was sudden, perhaps an accident. She was the first of his own family to be buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.³

Parley P. Pratt Murdered

The following month while in Arkansas, Elder Parley P. Pratt was pulled from his horse, shot and then stabbed by an assassin, who was the former husband of one of Parley's plural wives. Parley died soon afterward. The wife, Eleanor Jane McComb, had fled an abusive marriage after joining the Church. She later married Elder Pratt. Betrayed by her parents, who did not want her or her children to associate with the Mormons, they told their former son-in-law where to find Elder Pratt.⁴

Elder Pratt was fifty years old. Twelve wives and over twenty children survived him. Surely Joseph Fielding and his sister Mercy, and countless others, grieved at the news of the death of the man who had brought them the gospel.

That summer, many wagon trains from the States traveled through Utah to the west coast. Tension grew between the Mormons, California immigrants, and those who wanted to use the state as a tool for their political gain. Tragic events occurred, with members of the Church denying permission for large herds of the travelers' cattle to graze on their lands, in addition to refusing to sell flour or other foodstuffs to those heading westward who were hostile to the Church. Two months after Elder Pratt's death, the United States declared war on Utah. The massacre at Mountain Meadows later in September increased animosity against the Mormons.

The United States Sends an Army to Utah

John Taylor's biographer described the beginnings of the Utah War during the summer as Elder Taylor returned from his Eastern States mission⁵ in early August of 1857:

It was a critical time in Utah when he returned. For several years the crops, through excessive drought and grasshoppers, had been at least a partial failure; the isolation of the people from manufacturing and commercial centers, with very limited and very slow means of transportation, had left them almost destitute of clothing; an army was *en route* for the Territory, but as to its mission the governor received no definite information, though there was a general and a fairly accurate understanding that this mission was not one of intended peace and good will to the people of Utah. If its mission was to be judged by the boasts of its officers and men, there was to be a sort of 'Mormon conquest,' and Mormon houses, gardens, orchards, vineyards, fields, and also Mormon wives and daughters were to be the spoils. The very houses were picked out that certain persons were to inhabit; farms, property and women were to be distributed. 'Beauty and booty' were their very watchwords.

It had already been determined by Governor Young and his associates that such an army with such objects in view should not enter the Territory, even if it had to be prevented by force of arms. It had further been determined that before their enemies should again revel in the homes which their industry had built, they would burn them to ashes; every fruit tree and shrub, burn the fences, and leave the country behind them a ruined, blackened waste, while they fled again to the wilderness.⁶



In 1857, Abraham Smoot brought the news to Brigham Young that the mail contract the U.S. Government had with the LDS Church had been abruptly canceled.

President James Buchanan had believed exaggerated claims and even some outright deceptions from his advisors concerning the situation in Utah Territory. He engaged the military to quell what he had been told was an uprising. The army was preparing to leave Fort Leavenworth in early July of 1857.

At that point, the mail contract between Utah and the States, operated by Abraham Smoot, was canceled. Leaders of the Church learned of the advancing army from Brother Smoot and Porter Rockwell, who left Fort Leavenworth without the mail and traveled one hundred miles per day to reach Salt Lake City, arriving in time to interrupt a Pioneer Day celebration held that year in Cottonwood Canyon. They reported the additional news that Albert Cumming had been appointed the new governor of Utah and was on his way to replace President Young.⁷

On the 26th of August, President Young wrote General William S. Harney, who initially was chosen to lead the army, telling him that:

I wish for peace and do not wish to fight anybody, but [you] must not come here with a hostile army, and if [you] undertake it, we shall prepare to defend ourselves.⁸

General Harney's intention had been to "capture Brigham Young and the twelve apostles and execute them in summary fashion."⁹

The following Sunday, President Young spoke in the Bowery, saying:

I prophecy that if this people will live their religion, the God of heaven will fight their battles, bring them off victorious over all their enemies and give to them the kingdom. That is my prophecy.

He then told the people to "lay up your grain," and to plan as much as they could that fall in the hopes for a good harvest in the spring.

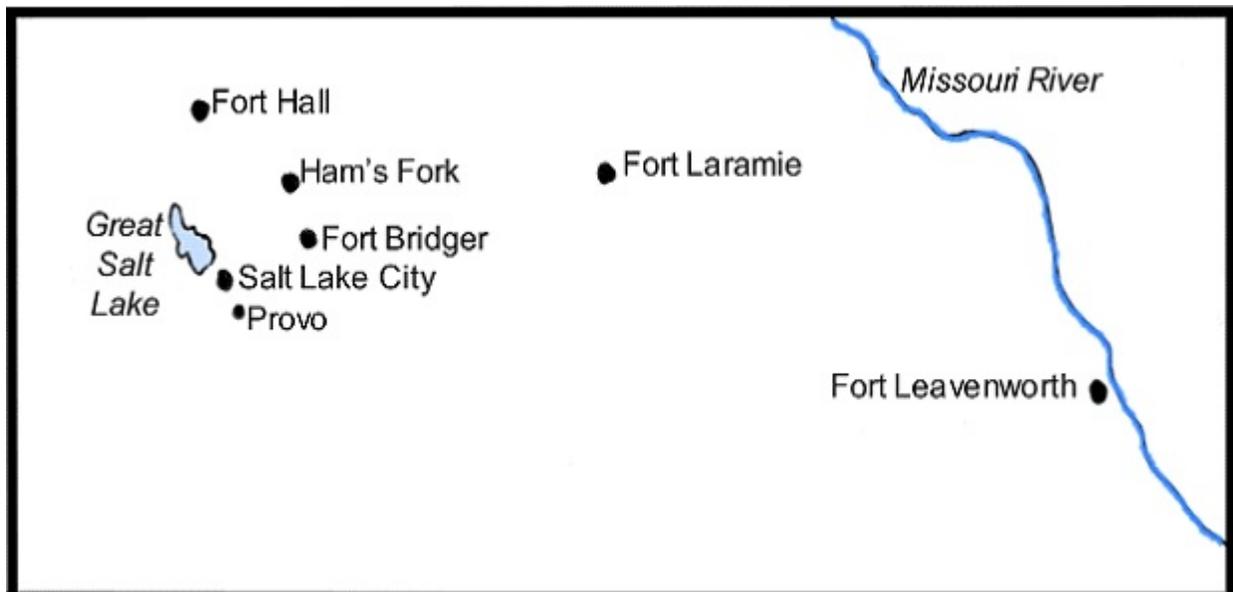
Although the people knew that President Young had plans to burn everything if the army came into the valleys, he counseled them:

What more will I prepare for? I will prepare for a fight. I will prepare for peace, and I will also prepare for everything that comes along, then I am ready for anything. Build? Yes, build, and make your homes as comfortable as you can. If I knew that I was going to burn all my buildings next season, it would not hinder me for one hour from making improvements. The more I do, the more I shall be prepared to do.¹⁰

By September 5th, Mormon scouts had returned with the news that the army was near Laramie, not far behind that season's pioneer trains which had passed Devil's Gate. By this time Brigham Young had learned that army would be led by Sidney Albert Johnston, a hero of the Mexican War.¹¹ However, by fall Colonel Johnston had yet to join with the troops who were still being commanded by underlings.¹²



President James Buchanan sent troops to Utah..



Government troops left Fort Leavenworth on the Missouri River in the summer of 1847. While President Young could track the army, he didn't know if they were going to approach Salt Lake City from the north or the east.

Thomas B. Marsh Returns to Utah and is Welcomed in Fellowship

In the middle of preparations for war, Thomas B. Marsh, who had served as the president of the Quorum of the Twelve a decade earlier, arrived in Salt Lake City and visited with his former friend Brigham Young. Thomas said, "I am reconciled to the Church, but I want to know if the Church can be reconciled to me."

Despite Thomas's involvement with their enemies in Missouri, President Young invited him to speak the following Sunday, where he was warmly received.¹³ Brother Marsh was subsequently re-baptized. He settled in Ogden where he lived nine more years, perhaps humbly aware that had he not left the Church, he might have been the leader facing the approaching army.

Captain Van Vliet from the U.S. Army Visits Salt Lake City

A month after his return from the east, and just days after Brother Marsh's arrival, Elder Taylor met Captain Stewart Van Vliet who, as assistant quartermaster, had come to Salt Lake City to purchase forage rights and acquire lumber for the army. The Captain was familiar with the Mormons, having dealt with them in Winter Quarters in purchasing supplies for the army.¹⁴

With abundant rain, and crops growing, the harvest looked to be bountiful that season.¹⁵ Captain Vn Vliet's intent was to assure the members of the Church that "the troops would not harm or molest them." While unable to come to any firm agreement about supplies, he did attend a church meeting on Sunday, September 13th. Elder Taylor was the speaker. In part he said:

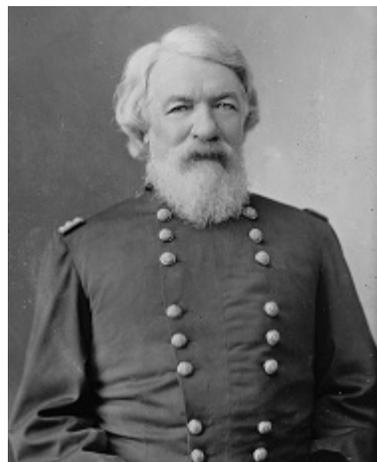
What would be your feelings if the United States wanted to have the honor of driving us from our homes, and bringing us subject to their depraved standard of moral and religious truth? Would you, if necessary, brethren, put the torch to your buildings and lay them in ashes and wander houseless into these mountains? I know what you would say and what you would do.

From a chair behind him, President Young said, "Try the vote." Elder Taylor then asked:

All you that are willing to set fire to your property and lay it in ashes rather than submit to their military rule and oppression, manifest by raising your hands.

The biographer reported that "the congregation, numbering more than four thousand, unanimously raised their hands." The biographer continued:

Captain Van Vliet's surprise was little short of astonishment. He was not prepared to expect such unanimity of sentiment nor such determination of purpose. . . . He pointed out the fact that if they successfully resisted the army then on their borders, the next year would see an overwhelming force sent to suppress and punish them.¹⁶



Captain Stewart Van Vleit visited Salt Lake City to make supply arrangements for the army.

President Young followed Elder Taylor to the pulpit and made reference to an accusation by Stephen A. Douglas who said that ninety per cent of the population in Utah were foreigners and did not feel they owed any allegiance to the United States. President Young asked the congregation to raise their hands if they were “native born” or “naturalized American citizens.” Over two thirds raised their hands. He then said:

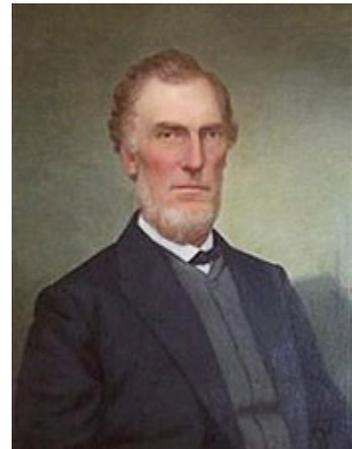
I have called this vote that Captain Van Vliet may be able to do as he always does, speak the truth boldly and tell them of it next winter in Washington.¹⁷

President Young was able to persuade Captain Vliet that the Mormons were not in a state of rebellion. Elder Woodruff reported that the captain promised he would not let the army advance any closer than Ham’s Fork at the Platt River that winter.¹⁸

After Captain Van Vliet’s departure, President Young met with the apostles and other Church leaders and proclaimed martial law in the territory.¹⁹

The Nauvoo Legion was Raised in the Fall of 1857

That fall Daniel H. Wells, who had replaced Jedediah M. Grant in the First Presidency after the latter’s sudden death from pneumonia, organized a militia of about three thousand men, known as the Nauvoo Legion, to defend the Mormons against the oncoming army. His soldiers were described as being “Uncouth, undisciplined, and a ragged set of men,” with “every variety of weapon known to civilized nations,” but it was a group, which in its own habitat, fighting for homes and families, could be ferocious and deadly.²⁰



Daniel H. Wells organized the Nauvoo Militia in preparation for the approaching army.

William Walton Burton, a member of the Legion, wrote:

In the fall of 1857, what is known as Buchanan’s army, was sent to Utah to punish the Mormons for supposed rebellion, reported by our bitterest enemies, which reports were received and acted upon without investigation to see whether they were true. At this time nearly the whole people were destitute of clothing. In many cases it would have been a hard matter to tell the original piece of the man’s pantaloons. Companies were being raised to go and meet the army, to take away their teams, capture their supply trains and hinder them if possible so they could not reach their destination.²¹

Isabella Burton, William Walton Burton’s oldest child, later wrote that her father was dressed no differently than any of the other soldiers:

I have heard father say that he was no exception to the rule; and yet when the body of poorly clad men were lined up in the front of President Brigham Young’s office, he came out and promised them that if they would go and not murmur, not a hair of their heads should be harmed and his words were verified.²²

Scouts infiltrated the approaching army, hearing threats made specifically against Brigham Young.²³ The last of the pioneer companies arrived that year, followed by a wry comment in the Deseret News:

The Companies from Deer Creek and the Devil's Gate arrived on the 19th [of September], saving our enemies the trouble of clearing the road of American citizens lawfully occupying American soil.²⁴

President Young had no intention of cowering to the army. He had been part of Joseph Smith's 1834 Zion's Camp march from Ohio to Missouri. He had witnessed firsthand the atrocities committed against the Saints in Missouri four years later. He had led the Mormons from Illinois in 1846, and now, in 1857, he intended to stand his ground. He was surrounded by capable leaders who had been strengthened by the same experiences, who had been toughened by difficult living conditions for twenty years, and who had learned to trust and follow their Church leaders for survival.

A few months later Elder Woodruff would say:

We have been driven and afflicted for twenty-five years and gained an experience we now begin to profit by, that we might attain power to judge properly of contrasts, and of right and wrong. Had President Young and this people remained undisturbed in Kirtland from '34 till this time, we could not have gained the same experience we now have; therefore, I believe the hand of God has been in all that we have passed through. The experience of the First Presidency of this church has been very great. . . . I do not know what the intention of the Lord is as to us in the future, but victory is promised unto this people.²⁵



The Nauvoo Legion burned the supply wagons of the U. S. Army, forcing them to spend the winter of 1857-58 on the plains.

By the end of September, the army was camped at Pacific Springs, in Wyoming, two hundred miles northeast. The younger soldiers were eager to "whip out Utah," but more reserve was shown by those more experienced, who felt their march was only a political movement.²⁶

At the same time, Mormon troops had left Ham's Fork in Wyoming heading toward the army with the intention of burning supply wagons. President Daniel H. Wells and apostles George A. Smith and John Taylor left Salt Lake City as part of the Legion, leading several companies of men.²⁷

They carried with them a letter from Brigham Young, ordering the army to surrender "all their arms and baggage" to the Quarter Master General of Fort Bridger in order to camp at Ham's Fork that winter. Otherwise they should "retreat back to the States, or we should resist them."²⁸

The United States army left Pacific Springs and moved west, determined to winter in Salt Lake City. Captain Van Vliet had warned his supervisors that “the [Mormon] people would not permit them to go that far, and that they would find a different warfare from any they had [previously] met with.” Upon receiving word that the army was again on the move, “quite a company” left Salt Lake to join the Mormon forces already east of the mountains, determine the path of the approaching army and to stall them if possible.²⁹

By October 2nd, scouts from the Legion on the plains bypassed the army and burned seventy-five supply wagons which were trailing behind.³⁰ Other scouts burned Fort Bridger and Fort Supply, which by that time had been well-stocked by the Mormon Church for overland pioneers.³¹ The damage to the trains and forts exceeded \$150,000.³² One soldier in the advancing army wrote:

Every day when coming to camp they would set the grass on fire, using long torches, and riding swift horses, so that before pitching tents we always had to fight fire. They destroyed so much of it that the animals had to be driven some distance to get feed. One morning, just before daybreak, they rushed through the camp, firing guns and yelling like Indians, driving off all our mules and horses, numbering about a thousand, and before we could get into line they were safely out of reach of our rifles. It was ten o'clock before we recovered our animals. They hovered around daily, watching and taking every advantage of us, feeling safe in their tactics, knowing our inability to cope with them, as we had no cavalry, while they had the fleetest of horses.³³

Rachel's husband William joined the soldiers in Echo Canyon in October, who intended to ambush the army as they traveled along what is now I-80 into Salt Lake City.³⁴ There William served for two months, his blanket at night being a shawl Hannah had made for Rachel, the only warm covering the couple had between them. He clearly remembered their efforts on a particularly cold day:

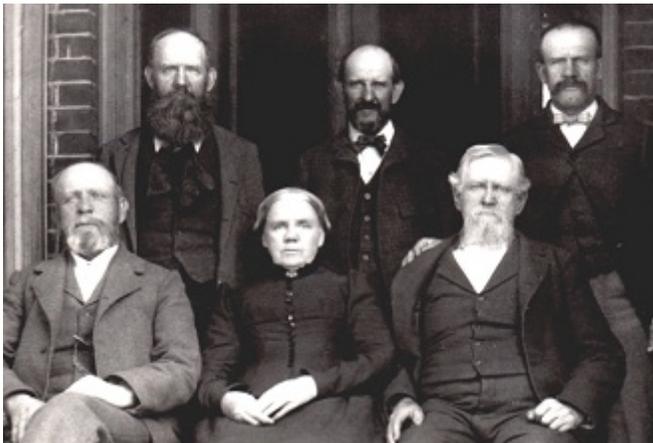
The company camped at the foot of the Little Mountain. . . .It had been snowing all day, but the clouds had passed from the sky. The moon was shining brightly: the night was bitterly cold, and the snow very deep all around. Willie and thirteen others crowded into one wagon bed, where they had to pass the night. Next morning preparations were made for crossing the Little Mountain. It was found that the snow on the side of the mountain was too deep for the horses to face. Ropes were then attached to the end of the tongue of a baggage wagon, and sticks placed from one to two feet apart along the rope. Men were then strung out in twos ahead of the horses to pull on the sticks and tramp the snow till the team could follow behind them. When the men had succeeded in getting a wagon to the summit they then turned back for another till they were all over. At night they camped at the foot of the Big Mountain. Here Willie cleared away about three feet of snow to make a bed. He and two others put their bedding together for warmth. Those on the outside were kept continually turning to avoid being frozen. . . .Rude huts were formed almost like Indian wigwams. In these the men slept, and frequently at night they would have social gatherings and indulge in songs, recitations and other amusements. They had very few arms, and but little ammunition; were poor, ragged, and ill fed; having only about half rations, yet they were measurably happy, in a conscientious and an abiding faith that God was with them, and would overrule all for the best.³⁵

In early October Brigham Young wrote:

At 7 o'clock this morning the drums beat and an army of soldiers paraded in our streets numbering about 400, who were in readiness to march at a moment's warning to the seat of war. We have about 800 men in the mountains. It is a solemn time; the armies of the Gentiles are making war upon us, because of our religion. . . We have to trust in God for the result. We shall do what we can and leave the work in his hands. There is a still solemnity resting over our city.³⁶

William Walton Burton wrote about an evening of festivities in the canyon, with the soldiers having fun around a campfire:

. . .while the merriment was in progress, Willie was strongly impressed that something was wrong at home. He called his eldest brother out of the company and told him his impressions. They went off to a lonely place and knelt down under a rocky cliff at the base of the mountain and there they prayed fervently for the loved ones at home, and that if any were sick that God would heal them. Willie marked the time, and on comparing notes after getting home, found that his little daughter, Isabella, at that very time, was very sick nigh unto death, and as near as could be learned at the time Willie and his brother were praying under the rocky cliff away up in the mountains, little Isabella took a change and was healed.



William, left front, and Robert, right front, served together in Echo Canyon during the Utah War. One night they prayed for William's family, feeling impressed that something was wrong. William's daughter Isabella, named after William's sister, center, had been gravely ill. Brothers James, standing, left, Christopher and Thomas are also in this photograph.

arrive in Utah. Distant colonies were closed with the settlers also returning, including from Northern Idaho, Nevada and San Bernardino.³⁷

By mid October, the army had determined to change its course and head to Soda Springs, Idaho and enter the valley from the north instead of through the Wasatch Front canyons, where their spies had come to believe there were large forces. In truth, the soldiers in Echo Canyon set fires at night, with a few men keeping numerous fires burning,

Preparations for defense in the Utah valleys dramatically increased, with gunpowder and ammunition being produced in Salt Lake City. A manufacturing shop for revolvers on Temple Square produced twenty guns a week. All missionaries were called home, including

Joseph F. Smith from Hawaii, although it would take him and his companions several months to



In preparation for an anticipated war, Brigham Young called all missionaries and colonists home.

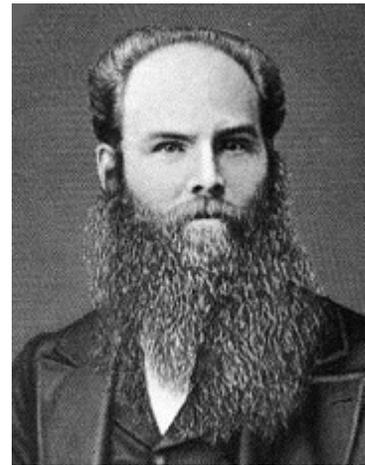
maintaining the impression that their army was much larger than it was in actuality.

The Legion's network of spies were so good that President Young knew the daily movements of the army. However, the national press was very interested in this war, and information concerning the army, although delayed, reached Brigham Young in this manner, also. In mid-October, the U.S. army was still planning on a fight:

There is yet plenty of provisions for us until spring, except forage. We have no corn, hay, or oats for our animals, and must rely upon grass. This the devil saints may burn, unless the snow prevents it, and then our mules can profit little by it. . . .Our expressman believes we shall have to fight for our trains in a day or two more, and it may be so. If attacked, [we] will fight to the last. There will be no surrender.³⁸

In early October, Captain Lot Smith, "with a small company of men, surprised and burned two trains of government stores, totaling fifty-one wagons."³⁹ Similar acts continued. Bounties of \$150 each were offered to the Native Americans for any Mormon soldier except for Lot Smith, for whom the army would pay one thousand dollars.⁴⁰

On October 9th, Colonel Edward Alexander wrote his superiors in the States, informing them that he had taken command of the army and would hold it until Colonel Johnston arrived. However, in fear that his message might be intercepted, he would not state a reason. He explained the army's difficulty in losing supply trains to fire, and he laid out his plan of attacking Salt Lake City from the north. He was certain that as he moved into Idaho, the Mormon communities would surrender to him and provide the army with provisions.



Lot Smith gained a reputation as a fearless leader in the guerilla warfare against the U.S. Army.

Colonel Alexander's worst-case scenario was that the army would be forced to winter in the mountains. In that situation, he explained, "we will have an open road to Salt Lake City in the spring and one which I am told is open early." He reported that the other routes down into the valleys "can be defended by a handful against thousands." Colonel Alexander pointed out that "The want of cavalry is severely felt." He continued. "We are powerless on account of this deficiency to effect any chastisement of the marauding bands that are constantly hovering about us." Last, he asked for additional troops be sent from California to support his army.⁴¹

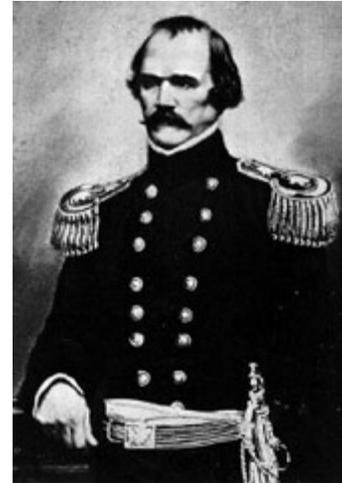


Colonel Edward Alexander commanded the army forces until General Johnston arrived.

News of the capture of supply wagons and their associated cattle continued to reach Brigham Young, and in mid-October he was told to expect seven hundred head being brought from the plains.⁴² Another strategy the Legion employed was to mingle with the teamsters and soldiers guarding the army's supply trains, offering them safe passage to California with the intention of inducing "soldiers to desert with as much ammunition as possible."⁴³

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Direct communication between President Young and Colonel Alexander began by letter. President Young sent issues of the Deseret News to the army on the plains, the implication being that the soldiers were bored. Colonel Alexander sent a “saucy” letter, “threatening . . . extermination” if the opposition didn’t cease. President Young in return asked why the army remained at Ham’s Fork if he considered “he had force enough” to enter the Valley.⁴⁴



Sidney Albert Johnston arrived to take command of the army forces approaching Utah during the winter of 1857-58.

On a subsequent Sunday meeting held in the tabernacle, Brigham Young read the letters between himself and the colonel, stating that he knew the people were “anxious to know the feelings of the two parties – they are very anxious to learn the news.” President Young explained:

I am perfectly willing that they should know all, for my feelings and yours are very different from those of the world. You are aware that among the nations, the soldiers are never permitted to know anything about the plans of the officers.

President Young confirmed to the congregation that he still had not received any official communication from the United States government that an army was coming, or their purpose. He had to assume in any scenario that, “. . . they are sent expressly to destroy this people.”

President Young went on to say:

Colonel Alexander complains about our mode of warfare. They have two or more field batteries of artillery with them, and they want us to form a line of battle in an open plain and then give them a fair chance to shoot us. . . he must be a fool to think that we will ever do any such thing. . . .

Brigham Young Asks the Church to Prepare Provisions for Several Years

President Young then spoke to the bishops, asking that members of their wards supply themselves with provisions. “There is already enough raised in many places this season to supply the people for two or three years.”⁴⁵ With the army east of Echo Canyon hearing rumors the approaching army might attack from the direction of Fort Hall in Idaho, the members of the Church knew President Young was considering a move south.

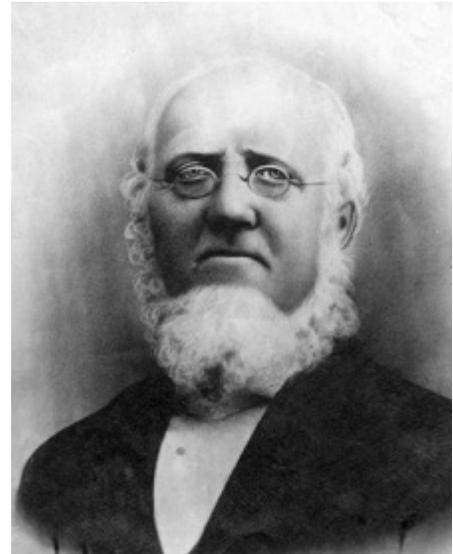
Colonel Sidney Johnston joined his army in early November.⁴⁶ By this time a young LDS soldier from a scouting party had been captured. A patriotic reporter from the New York Tribune mentioned this event:

I have been permitted to-day to read some of the papers found on the person of Joseph Taylor, the Mormon prisoner, against whom a writ was issued yesterday charging him with high treason. . . . It is probably that all the banditti who have been hanging around Col. Alexander’s command for this last month are acting under precisely the same

instructions. As yet, they have taken but one soldier prisoner. . . . They have been more expert in stealing cattle; and in addition in the principal robberies, which I have recorded, they succeed in running off a few head almost every night. On one occasion, I am told, they stole 21 horses and mules within 500 yards of the camp.

What constitutes the basis for the distinction between their present system of hostilities and the shedding of blood, I am unable to understand. But whatever it may be, they give us official information that it will cease to exist the moment we attempt to force a passage through the mountains. If it lies in a belief that they do not become traitors till they take human life, they are greater fools than I am willing to believe. No such scruples exist on the side of the army, and on the first occasion on which a soldier's musket can be leveled at any of the banditti, the trigger will certainly be pulled.

In the present crisis there is no longer room for child's play. There is but one alternative. Either the laws of the United States are to be subverted and its Territory appropriated by a gang of traitorous lechers, who have declared themselves to constitute "a free and independent State," or Salt Lake City must be entered at the point of the bayonet, and the ringleaders of the Mormon rebellion seized and hung.⁴⁷



Joseph Taylor would later write that he had gone ahead of his small group which was attempting to determine the location of part of the army. "All of a sudden I was flanked by horsemen. I drew my pistol and cocked it at them, when something suggested me not to shoot." His intention had been to die rather than give up his gun, but he surrendered, and a few moments later another member of his party was captured in like manner. They were questioned separately the next morning. Joseph recalled the conversation going this way:

Joseph Taylor, captured by the U.S. Army while burning supply wagons, escaped in his bare feet, running to safety while carrying his boots.

Colonel Alexander: Are you Major Taylor?

Joseph Taylor: Yes.

Colonel: Where are you from?

Joseph: Bridger, Sir.

Colonel: Where do you live?

Joseph: In Salt Lake Valley.

Colonel: What is your business out here?

Joseph: To fight a mob, Sir.

Colonel: Where were you raised?

Joseph: All over, Sir.

Colonel: Where were you born?

Joseph: In the state of Kentucky, a citizen of the United States.

The colonel replied with indignation that Joseph must be an Englishman, or else he would know better than to oppose the army. Joseph replied, "Excuse me, Sir, I don't know any better."

At that point Joseph was marched away, but he was soon brought back again for questioning:

Colonel: What is the strength of the Mormon troops?

Joseph: From 20,000 to 25,000 good warriors.

Joseph explained in his journal that his military orders had been on his person at the time of his capture:

In those orders I was, with my command to stay the progress of the expedition, by stampeding their cattle, burning their grass, etc, and not to take life only in case of self-defense.



William Stowell was too ill to escape with Joseph Taylor, but he was later freed by the army.

Joseph wrote that he and his companion were treated very poorly by the army, and at one point were fed poisoned soup, but through miraculous means and prayers upon each other, they did not die. Joseph's deceased grandmother appeared to him and told him to escape. He did not want to leave his companion, but that man was far too ill to flee and encouraged him to leave and get help. Joseph took off his boots, holding one in each hand, dropped his buckskin coat, it being dry and therefore rustled when he moved, and he slowly edged his way out of the camp. He then broke into a run, his absence not being discovered in time to stop him.⁴⁸ When far enough away, he put on his boots and continued running, providentially finding a coat and stockings in a bundle in his path.

He was eventually found by friends, returned to good health, and spent the rest of the winter with the army at Echo Canyon.⁴⁹ His friend William Stowell was not freed until the following summer.⁵⁰ William later reported that Joseph had been out of the camp fifteen minutes before anyone knew he

was gone. He and subsequent prisoners continued to feed the military misinformation about the number of forces in Echo Canyon to deter them from invading the valley that winter.⁵¹

A few days after Joseph Taylor's escape from the army, over a thousand LDS soldiers and seventeen officers drilled in front of Brigham Young's office. They then headed into the mountains with twenty baggage wagons to "defend themselves against their enemies."⁵²

In late December President Young learned that the army was building their own winter quarters near Fort Bridger. The snow was deep, the army's cattle were dying, and they were in great need of salt. President Young sent a large load of salt to the army.⁵³ However, the salt was rejected by Colonel Johnston. The men bearing the load were allowed by President Young to sell bags of the salt to individual soldiers, netting over two thousand dollars.

The profits were later offered to President Young who thanked the men for their industriousness and told them they need not share with him. President Young cautioned one man selling salt. He wanted to return to the army with items for the soldiers to purchase. Brigham told him that he could sell salt but not food.⁵⁴

A soldier in the U.S. Army wrote his brother in the east, a letter which was published locally, a copy reaching Brigham Young. He stated that the army had made camp for the winter just two miles from Fort Bridger. He continued:

The Mormons are in open rebellion against the government and the whole territory [is] in arms. Bro. Brigham prophesied that the army would not reach [Salt Lake City] this winter, and took every means to prevent it, by burning grass, burning supply trains, and stealing government and private property.

The Mormons have stolen about 1,200 head of oxen, and between 400 and 500 mules, which were run off by mountain Mormons while grazing at a distance from the camp. . . . Of course we had no means of pursuing. They have burned 468,000 lbs. of supplies for the army. . . . We have enough left to subsist upon until the middle of June, by which time we can whip the Mormons, or get supplies from the States. When the fighting commences. . . if there is any fun, we want our share.⁵⁵

In early December, two missionaries who had been captured by the army as they headed home from their missions were released and returned to Salt Lake. One of the missionaries reported that a great quantity of liquor was in the camp, there was a great division between the soldiers and their leaders, and he felt that with just one hundred armed men, they could take the fort.⁵⁶

With the army quartered for the winter in Fort Bridger, Daniel Wells, who had remained with the army in the mountains for several months, released hundreds of the Legion's soldiers who returned to their homes in the valley.⁵⁷ William Walton Burton was included in this number. William arrived home only to learn that Rachel and Isabella had left for Millcreek the day before to stay with her parents. He quickly joined them.⁵⁸

Chapter 38 Endnotes Pages 565-578:

1. Joseph Fielding Diary, page 153. It appears that in the early days of the Church, the sacrament was given to the congregation during sermons. One example comes from Journal History, 20 September 1857, images 181-182. John Taylor was speaking in the Bowery, and after an introduction of his talk, he “Asked a blessing on the bread.” In the middle of his talk, according to the transcriber, he “blessed the sacramental cup.” I searched for other references to this practice but could not find any. On 28 February 1858, image 122, the record reads, “After the sacrament was administered Pres. Brigham Young and Elders John Taylor and Samuel Butler spoke in the afternoon.” Perhaps the practice of administering the sacrament during sermons ended during the move south.
2. Journal History, 5 April 1857, image 222.
3. According to the Utah Cemetery Database, it appears that young Hannah’s remains were moved from A_4_11_5E, to Joseph’s grave when he died in 1863. Three years later, his two sons were buried next to him at B_8_15_1W. Joseph did not record Hannah’s death in his journal. Interestingly, those who compiled Joseph’s journal created a time line of his life. They also created a list of his children. Hannah Alice is not named in this list.
4. Journal History, 13 May 1847, images 35-50.
5. Journal History, 7 August 1857, image 22, “Arrival: Elders John Taylor and Erastus Snow of the Twelve. . . .”
6. Life of John Taylor, pages 271-272.
7. Journal History, 23 July 1857, image 310. Great Basin Kingdom, pages 170-171.
8. Journal History, 26 August 1857, image 80.
9. Deseret News, 9 July 2006, “America’s Forgotten War: LDS Raiders Kept Army at Bay in 1857-1858.”
10. Journal History, 30 August 1857, image 87.
11. Journal History, 5 September 1857, images 111-113. It appears that the army spoke ill of the Mormons on their way across the plains. At Laramie the soldiers lost several hundred head of cattle and in their search came upon John Murdock’s company. A soldier reportedly said, “We have lost 850 head of cattle and don’t know who got them, Indians, we believe stole them; [but] we believe half of the Indians that stole those cattle were Mormons.” Brother Murdock kindly informed the officers, “This company is all Mormons [and] you had better mind what you say. After this the party were [treated] very respectfully.”
12. Journal History, 9 October 1857, image 36.
13. Journal History, 5 September 1857, image 112. “Thos. B. Marsh, one of the Twelve, came in to see the President.” 6 September 1857, images 115-120, “At the forenoon meeting Pres. Brigham Young asked for a vote of the saints as to their willingness to receive Thos. B. Marsh back into the Church through baptism. The vote was unanimous.”
14. Journal History 13 September 1857, image 141. “. . . some of you have been previously acquainted with the Captain. Captain Van Vliet visited us in Winter Quarters (now Florence), and. . . many of this people have become personally acquainted with him, both through casual intercourse with and working for him.”
15. Journal History, 11 August 1857, image 34, “Geo. A. Smith went to Paragonah, where he preached in the afternoon. The prospects look bright for the raising of between four and five thousand bushels of wheat at that place.” 19 August 1857, image 59, “Bro. Geo. A. Smith drove to Hamblin’s Fort. . . The people there had raised a very heavy crop of corn. . . .” 4 September 1857, image 111, President Young wrote two nephews serving in

Hawaii, saying, "Our harvest has been most abundant. We have threshed 80 bushels of wheat from an acre on the Church farm. Almost all the men are engaged in harvesting and securing our grain." 8 September 1857, image 122, "Capt. Van Vleit from the invading army arrived in the City in the evening and had an interview with Gov. Brigham Young.

16. Life of John Taylor, pages 279-281. The full speech is found in Journal History, 13 September 1857, images 146-149.

17. Journal History, 13 September 1857, image 142.

18. Journal History, 13 September 1857, images 149-150.

19. Journal History, 14 September 1857, image 168.

20. Great Basin Kingdom, page 175.

21. Little Willie, Autobiography of William Walton Burton.

22. Short autobiography of Isabella Burton Foulger found in the Burton Genealogy Histories.

23. Journal History, 18 September 1857, image 175. Two men took the roles of California immigrants and heard members of the U. S. Calvary state that they were going to "Scalp old Brigham."

24. Journal History, 19 September 1857, image 176.

25. Journal History, 6 December 1857, image 207.

26. Journal History, 25 September 1857, image 188. The phrase "whip out" is what was written.

27. Journal History, 26-27 September 1857, images 189-190.

28. Journal History, 1 October 1857, image 3.

29. Journal History, 28 September 1857, image 194.

30. Journal History, 2 October 1857, image 5.

31. Journal History, 14 September 1857, image 169. This newspaper clipping is dated November 11th. Reports from the army at Fort Laramie stated that they were seeing snow seven inches deep, and that "News had reached Laramie that the Mormons had burnt three government trains, consisting of seventy-five wagons near Green River. . . ."

32. Journal History, 25 October 1857, image 84. "The damage at Fort Bridger [was estimated to be] at \$2000, and the damage at Fr. Supply at \$50,000. Bro. John Taylor estimates the damage done to the troops by Major Lot Smith at \$100,000."

33. Great Basin Kingdom, page 178.

34. William specifically stated that he went to Echo Canyon in October in "Little Willie."

35. Sketch of the Life of Rachel Fielding Burton, 1914. "In the winter of 1857 my husband spent in Echo Canyon, helping to keep back Johnston's Army. All the bedding I had to give to him was my shawl given to me by my mother, for I had a young baby so had to keep the only bed we had." Little Willie, Autobiography of William Walton Burton.

36. Journal History, 30 September 1857, image 197.
37. Great Basin Kingdom, pages 177-178.
38. Journal History, 2 October 1857, image 4. Included in these clippings from the Millennial Star was this communique from 13 October 1857.
39. Journal History, 5 October 1857, image 18; 8 October 1857, image 35.
40. Journal History, 13 April 1858, image 196.
41. Journal History, 9 October 1857, image 37.
42. Journal History, 10 October 1857, image 38. "At 9:40 a.m. an express arrived from Bro. Wells which [stated] that 25 wagons and a number of cattle had been captured." 13 October 1857, image 47, "The brethren came in from the east and brought in 153 head of cattle. Three teamsters and one deserter from the army helped drive them in. The deserter reported that neither Johnston nor Harney nor the Governor nor judges nor any of the territorial officers had arrived at the army." 16 October 1857, image 54, "The brethren had taken a herd of cattle of some 700 head and were bringing them in."
43. Journal History, 14 October 1857, image 50.
44. Journal History, 14 October, image 51; 16 October 1857, image 54.
45. Journal History, 18 October, images 58-61.
46. Journal History, 3 November 1857, image 119; 5 November 1857, image 121.
47. Journal History, 5 November 1857, image 121. In fact, soldiers had shot at the Mormons, one bullet grazing and frightening a horse, another passing through a man's hat, but no one was injured. Journal History, 25 October 1857, image 91; 2 December 1857, image 189, record of November 1st. Four officers "fired several times from a high bench at one of our company, the balls passing over him, whirling through the air, but doing him no harm."
48. Journal History, 11 November 1857, image 131. William Stowell, his companion, later provided this information upon his return. Governor Cumming brought him and other prisoners back to Brigham Young when he entered the valley.
49. Journal History 16 November 1857, images 143-150.
50. William Rufus Rogers Stowell, 1822-1901, Papers, Utah War, 1857-1858, Brigham Young University, Special Collections, MSS 506; Journal History, 8 November 1857, image 124. George W. Hickman had been held captive, but was also freed, apparently in a separate incident. Journal History, 11 November 1857, image 131.
51. Journal History, 7 June 1858, images 324-327.
52. Journal History, 10 November 1857, image 130.
53. Journal History, 27 November 1857, image 170.
54. Journal History, 16 December 1857, image 242.
55. Journal History, 28 November 1857, images 171-172. Letter from H. F. Morrell.
56. Journal History, 2 December 1857, images 183-185.

57. Journal History, 2 December 1857, image 185.

58. Little Willie, Autobiography of William Walton Burton.