

Johnston's Army Triggered 'Utah War'

Church Historian Chronicles Events Following Threat Of Military Invasion By U.S. Troops

AUGUST, Friday 7—The first part of the "Utah Army," consisting of the Tenth Infantry and Phelps' Battery, arrived at Fort Kearney.

Saturday 15—Col. Robert T. Burton and James W. Cummings left G. S. L. City for the East, with seventy men, for the purpose of protecting the emigrant trains and observing the movements of the approaching army.

Friday 21—Col. Burton's expedition arrived at Ft. Bridger; on the 30th it reached Devil's Gate.

Friday 28—Col. Albert Sidney Johnston was appointed successor to Gen. W. S. Harney as commander of the Utah expedition.

SEPTEMBER, Tuesday 15—Gov. Brigham Young declared the Territory of Utah under martial law and forbade the troops to enter G. S. L. Valley. Large numbers of armed militia were ordered to Echo Canyon and other points to intercept the soldiers and prevent their access to the Valley.

Thursday 17—Col. Philip St. George Cooke left Ft. Leavenworth with the second division of the "Utah Army." He arrived at Ft. Bridger Nov. 19th.

Tuesday 22—Col. Robt. T. Burton and three other men camped within half a mile of the "Utah Army," (Col. E. B. Alexander's command), near

Devil's Gate.

Wednesday 23—Col. Burton's men met the advance companies of the "Utah Army," and from that time were their "immediate neighbors" until they arrived at Ham's Fork.

Tuesday 29—General Daniel H. Wells left G. S. L. City for Echo Canyon, where he established headquarters. About one thousand two hundred and fifty men, from the several militia districts, were ordered to Echo Canyon, where they engaged in digging trenches across the canyon, throwing up breast works, loosening rocks on the heights, etc., preparing to resist the progress of the army.

OCTOBER—The "Mormon" settlements in Carson Valley were broken up; most of the settlers returned to G. S. L. City in the beginning of November.

Monday 5—Lot Smith, with a small company of men, surprised and burned two trains of government stores, near the Big Sandy and Green Rivers.

Saturday 10—The officers of the Utah expedition held a council of war at Ham's Fork, and decided that the army should march to G. S. L. Valley via Soda Springs. The following day the march was commenced, but after several days of slow and exhaustive traveling, the expedition was forced

to return.

Friday 16—Major Joseph Taylor and Wm. R. R. Stowell, of the Utah militia, were taken prisoners by the U.S. Troops near Ft. Bridger.

NOVEMBER, Wednesday 4—Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston joined his command on Ham's Fork, with a small reinforcement.

Friday 6—Five hundred animals perished from cold and starvation around the U.S. Army camp on Black's Fork.

Monday 16—The "Utah Army" went into winter quarters at Camp Scott, two miles from the site of Ft. Bridger and 115 miles from G. S. L. City.

DECEMBER, Friday 4—Capt. John R. Winder was appointed to take charge of a picket guard, to be stationed at Camp Weber, at the mouth of Echo Canyon, to watch the movements of the U.S. soldiers during the winter. Two weeks later, when deep snow fell in the mountains, this guard was reduced to ten men. The remainder of the militia returned to their homes for the winter.

JANUARY, 1858, Wednesday 6—A memorial from the members and officers of the Utah legislature to the President and Congress of the United States, praying for constitutional rights, etc., was signed in G. S. L. City.

Saturday 16—A large mass meeting of citizens was held in G. S. L. City. A petition and resolution, setting forth the true state of affairs in Utah were adopted and on motion, sent to the U.S. Government in Washington.

FEBRUARY, Wednesday 24—Col. Thomas L. Kane arrived in G. S. L. City by way of Southern California. He came voluntarily for the purpose of bringing about a peaceful solution of the existing difficulties between the United States and Utah. After conferring with Gov. Brigham Young and other leading citizens, he went out to the army, which was encamped at Ft. Scott, (near Ft. Bridger). There he had an interview with the new governor, Alfred Cumming, who concluded to accompany him to G. S. L. City.

MARCH, Sunday 21—The citizens of G. S. L. City and the settlements north of it agreed to abandon their homes and go south, all the information derived from Eastern papers being to the effect that the approaching formidable army was sent to destroy them. Their destination, when starting, was by some supposed to be Sonora, (Mexico).



FAIRFIELD HOTEL—Social center of Fairfield in Cedar Valley near Camp Floyd, later named Camp Crittenden, was this building, now in a state of ruin. Here the troops entertained themselves and entertained special visitors to the military establishment. Only other reminder of Army's heyday besides hotel and marker, is a single cemetery marker put up by the War Department and now overgrown with weeds.

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INVADING UTAH—Johnston's Army camped at Rock Towers in East Canyon when they entered Utah in 1858. This drawing is a sketch made by a member of that Army, Capt. Albert Tracy, and is reprinted here courtesy of the Utah State Historical Society. Word of the Army's march on Utah was received 100 years ago this July 24, as the pioneers celebrated the 10th anniversary of their entering Great Salt Lake Valley.



COL. JOHNSTON
... led Army to Utah

ONE HUNDRED years ago this July 24th the Pioneers, celebrating the 10th anniversary of their entry into Salt Lake Valley, learned the U.S. Government was sending an army against them.

The following account, although leaving much to the imagination, is a fascinating record of events which have come to be known as the "Utah War." The account is taken from "Church Chronology, A Record of Important Events," compiled by the late Andrew Jensen, assistant Church historian.

JOHNSTON'S ARMY TRIGGERED 'UTAH WAR'

Church News; 20 July 1957

MARCH, 1857, Monday 30—Judge W. W. Drummond, in framing the letter of his resignation as chief justice of Utah, wrote the most wicked and abominable falsehoods against Gov. Brigham Young and the People of Utah, thereby influencing the government to send troops against the "Mormons."

JULY, Saturday 18—The Tenth Infantry, the vanguard of the Utah Expedition, took up the line of march from Fort Leavenworth for the West, under the command of Col. E. B. Alexander. The artillery and Fifth Infantry followed a few days later. The command of the whole expedition was given to Gen. W. S. Harney.

Friday 24—The people of G. S. L. City and vicinity celebrated the 10th anniversary of the arrival of the Pioneers by a feast, near the head of Big Cottonwood Canyon. While the festivities were going on, Abraham O. Smoot and Judson Stoddard arrived from Independence, Mo., without the mails, the postmaster there having refused to forward them. They reported that General Harney with 2,000 infantry and a proportionate number of artillery and cavalry, were ordered to Utah.



CAMP FLOYD REMAINS—

This marker, built of stones from the old barracks of Camp Floyd, near Lehi, is all that remains of the Army that marched into Utah and camped in Cedar Valley.