

When Brigham Young Piloted His People West

Fifteen Thousand Mormons Lived at "Winter Quarters" Near the Present Site of Omaha

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An interesting echo of the great exodus of Mormon people from Nauvoo, Illinois, which began in 1845—a party of land voyagers being sent out that year to locate a new home for the faithful... following the assassination by a mob of President Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum, the "Great Patriarch," at the county jail in Carthage, has rather recently been heard along the banks of the Missouri river for the first time by many men and women whose hair has turned gray. This means that until the fact was established, during the latter part of the first month of last year, by a historical research investigator, but few citizens of Nebraska knew that at Florence, a little city up the river from Omaha, there has stood, much as it was erected many years ago, the house in which Brigham Young, the most noted of all Mormon leaders, lived at "Winter Quarters," from June, 1846, until May, 1848, his wives and children, a family of twenty-six, living there continuously until they were taken to Salt Lake City by President Young when he made his last trip across the plains in May, 1848.

The only reason why this somewhat ancient house should have been so long generally unknown as the home of Brigham Young is that Omaha, the metropolis of the state, hadn't a house in it until 1854, when a log-cabin was built by a non-resident claim company, the members of which lived on the Iowa side of the Missouri and periodically crossed over that year to pay tribute to the Indians, whose title to the land had not yet been extinguished, and by whose suffrage the claim company hoped to later establish, and did, their right to valuable land located where the city of Omaha now stands. Nor is there now living, so far as known, a man or woman who came west and located on the Iowa side of the river when the first Mormons came, in 1845. The building now has a tenant. Two small buildings in the rear were used by some of President Young's wives and offspring. The structures were erected by Jonathan Mitchell, a Mormon, of St. Mary, Iowa, and finished in the early spring of 1846, Brigham Young being the first to occupy the main structures.

The main house is built along the southern scheme in vogue many years ago. It is a roomy affair, and stately, built of native lumber, sawed from nearby trees, and from lumber brought up the Missouri river on pioneer steamboats. The first story is constructed of brick, burned on the banks of the river, half a mile away, and shows but little wear. A veranda extends around the main building and a large fireplace is located in the great living room. Through an opening in the veranda, in front, grows a huge pine tree, planted, no one knows how long ago, a row of other pines growing in the front yard. Off to the south is the old wine cellar, now used as a garage. The two smaller buildings in the rear are two-stories high, half brick and half frame. Some necessary repairs to the framework have been made, but the general contour of the three houses is the same as when erected and occupied by Brigham Young while waiting for the establishment of what he termed, in after years, an "earthly paradise beyond the desert."

Out in front of the main building, in a small city park, is yet the famous "Brigham Young cottonwood tree," planted, asserts the late President Joseph F. Smith, head of the Mormon church in Salt Lake City, by President Young, in 1846. It is massive, with a wide spread—the largest cottonwood, perhaps, in Nebraska. President Smith occasionally visited Florence, his mother being buried there. He was a small boy when President Young led the Mormons westward, and accompanied them. He often recalled the planting of this tree, which has become a Nebraska memorial to the intrepid man who piloted his people away from devastated Nauvoo.

History of Brigham Young
While doubtless many thrilling incidents cluster around this old home of the great Mormon apostle, yet if they do, they are buried with the pioneer past, as was the house itself until forced to be historically appreciated by one who delves into the forgotten. The present genera-

PIONEER CLUB WOMEN



MISS OLIVE JONES

Who has Served Plattsmouth as Librarian 52 Years, longer than any Woman has ever been known to Serve.

tion has generally supposed Brigham Young lived, as did his followers, in adobe houses and whip-sawed cabins, at "Winter Quarters." In this belief, they were mistaken.

Brigham Young was a man of unusual energy and farsightedness. His association with the Mormons dated from 1832, when he left the Baptist church and associated himself with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which had been organized by Joseph Smith, at Manchester, New York, in 1830. The same year he was ordained an "elder" and in 1844 chosen president to fill the vacancy caused by the death of his predecessor. He died in Salt Lake City, August 29, 1877.

It was by the orders of President Young that a strong body of men and eighty wagons left Nauvoo in 1845 to seek an asylum where the saints could worship as they wished, they declaring their persecutions were unbearable in their old home. Various convoys of Mormons left Nauvoo in 1846, not waiting for a report from the party sent out, settling all the way from the Mississippi to the Missouri river. Some of them, as well as some of the explorers, settled at St. Mary and Kanesville, Iowa, across the river from the present Omaha, and some at famous "Winter Quarters"—now Florence. During 1846, 16,000 Mormons crossed the Missouri river with their animals and vehicles. President Young came west in June, 1846, and with him all the Mormons then living in Illinois. By the close of 1846 large numbers of Mormons were living in cabins and adobe houses on both sides of the river, near Omaha. On the Iowa side they erected many substantial buildings and entered extensively into commercial pursuits. The influx was augmented from other states than Illinois.

President Young and his family crossed the Missouri river from St. Mary on June 29, 1846, and went direct to "Winter Quarters." During the winters of 1846-7 there were 15,000 Mormons living at "Winter Quarters." They occupied 538 cabins and adobe houses, and 83 sod houses. Malaria, and other diseases caught from the Indians who were plentiful there then, caused the death of 600 people during the two inclement seasons, who were buried in the old Mormon cemetery that lies near the Brigham Young home in Florence.

Exploring Parties Sent Out
While there President Young caused to be erected an \$8,000 grist mill, which was razed years ago, except the frame structure.

On April 7, 1847, by council agreement, Henry C. Kimble, an apostle, started west to explore. A second party was sent out the following day, a runner finding one in who reported the great find of a "paradise" at Salt Lake—so named for its inland magnificent body of salt water. All was soon commotion and President Young decided to lose no further time waiting, but to start immediately. With a strong party, he left April 9, 1847. With him went many families, some pushing handcarts, some carrying their belongings, and some traveling with ox teams, and a few had horses. President Young's party reached Salt Lake on July 21, 1847. First, he held devotional services and gave thanks for the deliverance of the Saints. Then he began to arrange matters by dividing the land into ten acre plots and locating his farmers all up and down the valley of the Wasatch range, from the salt lake to what is now Ogden. He laid out the city of Salt Lake, also in ten acre plots, and that is how Salt Lake came to have such long blocks with no alleys in them; unless private alleys of a more modern date.

Leaving the work in the hands of his elders, Brigham Young took 107

men, and sufficient teams to accommodate them, and started, back to "Winter Quarters," where the party arrived on October 31, 1847. Here they were forced to remain until the following spring, owing to the lateness of the season. In May, 1848, President Young again started westward, taking his family with him, the total number of people being 1,229, and 397 wagons, all loaded with grain, farm machinery, household effects and food. By July of that year all who had planned to go west had left and "Winter Quarters," which had a population of 15,000 only a year before, was practically deserted. Some of the Mormons, however, never left "Winter Quarters." They remained, raised families and became prosperous—a small number of their great-grandchildren still making Florence their home.

This, in brief, covers the wanderings of the Mormons under the direct supervision of Brigham Young, from the time they were forced to leave Nauvoo up to the time they reached that wonderfully productive haven in the once trackless desert of Utah, where they have worked wonders along agricultural, commercial and educational lines.

GOVERNOR WEAVER COMING

Arthur J. Weaver, former governor, now a candidate for the republican nomination for United States senator, will be a visitor here Thursday in the interest of his candidacy. Governor Weaver is well known here and a very large number is expected to be in attendance.

The meeting will be held Thursday evening at 8 o'clock at the district court room, where Governor Weaver, pronounced liberal candidate, for the nomination, will present his views.

STATE COMMANDER HERE

From Friday's Daily—
Eugene A. Nutzman, state commander of the American Legion, with his son, Neb, noted Nehawka high school football and basketball star, were in the city today. Mr. Nutzman, who returned recently from the U. S. Veterans' hospital at Lincoln, is feeling much improved, and is much lighter after the course of treatment.

LIKES NAVY FINE

Louis A. Puls, Murray young man, who just recently enlisted in the United States navy, is now at the naval training station at Great Lakes, Illinois. He likes the service fine so far and finds it very fascinating in the training that makes up the day at the station. Friends who wish to write him may do so by sending the card or letter to the Naval Station, Great Lakes, Illinois.



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NEBR. FEDERATED CLUBS

Our theme is "Adjusting Democracy for Human Welfare." We believe we can help to do this through united efforts for peace, a better understanding of public welfare and a spiritual reawakening.

We feel if the intelligent people in the United States do not solve our problems, the unintelligent will. Therefore, it behooves us to have an educated citizenry. Our duty is to help to bring this about and help to mold public opinion in the light of our faith in this democratic form of government.

We want in the next two years to help our young people in ever way. We think they are important as individuals despite the fact many are unable to secure employment and find their niche in life. We are asking each community in Nebraska to honor all young women and men who reach their majority within the year. Make it a gala occasion, a party, at this meeting to point out each has a responsibility when he reaches the age of maturity. It was Theodore Roosevelt who said, "Everyone should be willing and able to pull his own weight."

We want every senior club to sponsor a youth organization of some sort—Scouts, Girl Reserves, Campfire, Junior clubs, etc.

We must work for peace as we would work for our boys in war. A federated club is a group of women in every community who can be depended upon to promote all things looking toward the betterment of life.

MRS. C. R. CALEY,
President Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs.

History of the Cass County Federation

Had Its Inception About Time the Present Senior Club Organized—Officers Who Served

In 1922 members of Women's clubs of Cass and Otoe counties held a get-together at the home of Mrs. R. P. Westover, president of the Platts-mouth Woman's club. Plans were then laid for a Cass county federation.

A county and civic meeting was held at Plattsmouth in October of 1922. Another Cass county convention was held at Weeping Water in 1925.

In the spring of 1926 the county convention was held at Plattsmouth, and at this time the Cass County Federation of Women's clubs was organized, with the following officers: Mrs. H. C. Leopold, Plattsmouth, president; Mrs. C. E. Tefft, Weeping Water, vice president; Mrs. Nelson Burger, Nehawka, secretary and treasurer. There were five federated and three non-federated clubs. In the fall of 1926, Mrs. Leopold

moved to Lincoln and Mrs. C. E. Tefft, vice president, acted as president.

The first meeting of the Cass County Federation was held at Avoca on Tuesday, October 26, 1926, with Mrs. Minnie Brendle, president of the Avoca Woman's club as hostess. At this meeting we used the "By Laws and Recommendations" sent us by the state office. Mrs. Tefft presided over the meeting. Mrs. Warren Ingersol, First District president, was a guest speaker.

The second meeting was held at Plattsmouth with Mrs. L. L. Turpin, president of Plattsmouth club as the hostess. Before the time of holding this convention, the new president, Mrs. C. E. Tefft, had the by-laws typed and sent to each club in the county. These by-laws were adopted with some changes.

Officers presiding were Mrs. Tefft, president; Mrs. Oscar Zink, vice president, and Mrs. Nelson Burger, secretary and treasurer. The guest speakers were Mrs. W. W. Whitfield, newly elected district president, and Mrs. T. W. Johnson, of Omaha, state chairman of Public Welfare. There were 250 present.

The third meeting was held at Nehawka October 3, 1928. Maple Grove and Triangle clubs extended the invitation. During the fall of 1927, the Nehawka Woman's club was organized and they were asked to help entertain. Mrs. Owen Pollard, president of Nehawka Woman's club, was hostess. This was the largest attendance, with 420 present when the convention opened at 10 o'clock in the morning. There was 19 cents in the treasury as at that time the clubs paid dues at noon of convention day.

The following have served as president of the Cass County Federated Women's clubs:

Mrs. C. E. Tefft, Weeping Water, 1926-1927-1928.

Mrs. Nelson Burger, Nehawka, 1928-1929-1930.

Mrs. G. G. Douglas, Elmwood, 1930-1931.

Mrs. J. T. Begley, Plattsmouth, 1931-1932.

Mrs. Eugene Nutzman, Nehawka, 1932-1933.

Mrs. W. S. McGrew, Louisville, 1933-1934.

Mrs. E. Ray Norris, Weeping Water, 1934-1935.

Mrs. Lawrence Meisinger, Union, 1935-1936.

Mrs. Elmer Sundstrom, Platts-mouth, 1936-1937.

Miss Evelyn Wolph, Nehawka, 1937-1938.

Mrs. G. R. Eveland, Elmwood, 1938-1939.

Mrs. Jordan Kokjer, Avoca, 1939-1940.

Serving with Mrs. Kokjer as this year's officers are Mrs. L. S. Devoe, Plattsmouth, vice president, and Mrs. Carl Tefft of Avoca, secretary-treasurer.

There are now seven federated and several non-federated clubs in the Cass County Federation of Women's clubs.

Plattsmouth Woman's clubs will entertain the county convention this fall.

BOWLING CONTEST RESULTS

From Thursday's Daily—
Last night the Couple Event was held at the local alleys with a good number taking part. The men put a number in a box and the ladies drew out these numbers to determine who were to be partners.

The two dollars awarded was given to Clara Toman and Charles Ault who bowled a total of 768 in the three consecutive games. The close runnerup couple was Alberta Detlef and Paul Gallentine with a total score of 762.

Third place scores were bowled by Carey Mead and Bob McClanahan who rolled a total of 731.

WINNERS AT PINOCHLE

From Friday's Daily—

Frank Kalasek and Miss Phyllis Robbins were awarded the prizes at last evening's pinochle tournament, which attracted eight tables of pinochle players. Jack Reno, Joe's New-Way Grocery store, and Mrs. Frank Konfrst served as hosts and hostess. Scores of some of the guests at the tournament ranged as follows: Frank Kalasek 5950; Phyllis Robbins 5570; Jerry Konfrst 5870; Lee Phillips 5800; A. Crawford 5750; Jack Reno 5640; Ben Siebolts 5510; Mrs. Albert Young 5430; Jack Durell 5140; Mamie Mendenhall 5110; Elizabeth Bergman 5110; Mrs. Jack Reno 5110; E. A. Cadwell 4860; George Olsen 4840; Mrs. Bruce Fleischman 4790; Ira Clinkenbeard 4650; Mrs. Albert Gray 5650; Harry Plybon 4630; Mrs. Frank J. Konfrst, Sr. 4560; George Sheesley 4330; Florence Rhoades 4130; Mrs. Frank Konfrst, Jr. 4060; James Clark 3860; C. Gray 3470.

Eight of the guests' names and their scores are omitted.



NEBR. DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S CLUB SENDS GREETINGS

Greetings to the Plattsmouth club and congratulations on this, your birthday anniversary. From pages of the first history, which was written at the time of the organization of our General Federation, I find some very interesting things concerning the Plattsmouth club, which was one of the early clubs to join our state federation. These pages concerning our state were given to me by our General Federation secretary at our January board meeting, and from these pages I have learned that at the time of our state organization in 1894, Plattsmouth organized a club the evening previous, that they might have a delegate to send to this state meeting. Also, that Mrs. B. M. Stoutenborough, Plattsmouth, was one of the first officers of our state organization. I certainly enjoyed my meeting with the Plattsmouth club in their Golden Jubilee celebration.

MRS. WALTER KIECHEL,
Nebraska Director of Gen. Fed. of Women's Clubs

FATHER DIES IN ENGLAND

Dear Co-Workers is Platts-mouth, Nebraska:

I am so glad that you—both Junior and Senior clubwomen—are entering into the spirit of the Golden Jubilee celebration. It means something to be fifty years old. It means that we are no longer a youthful organization, looking forward to a possible future contribution to life. It means that we have served a period of apprenticeship and learned many valuable lessons. It means that we are able to accept adult responsibilities and work together in meeting them.

We rejoice in our heritage. Shall we use it abundantly, now that opportunities are greater than before? The answer rests with you and the club women in every part of the country. Your activities bespeak a most encouraging answer, and I am delighted and grateful that in your community you are cementing and strengthening the bonds of federation. May your efforts be rewarded. And may our activities as a whole redound to the benefit of every group participating in a program to encourage and enlarge the work of our great organization.

Cordial greetings and best wishes to you all. Sincerely yours,
SAIDIE ORR DUNBAR,
President G. F. W. C.

SUFFERS FROM APPENDICITIS

Ray F. Becker, county register of deeds, has for the past two days been confined to his home as the result of an attack of appendicitis, which is of a chronic type and from which he has suffered in the past. Whether an operation will be necessary has not been determined.

Frank Bestor sells Yager's Hybrid Seed Corn, grown in Nebraska, at \$3.50 and \$4.50 bu. Call 350.



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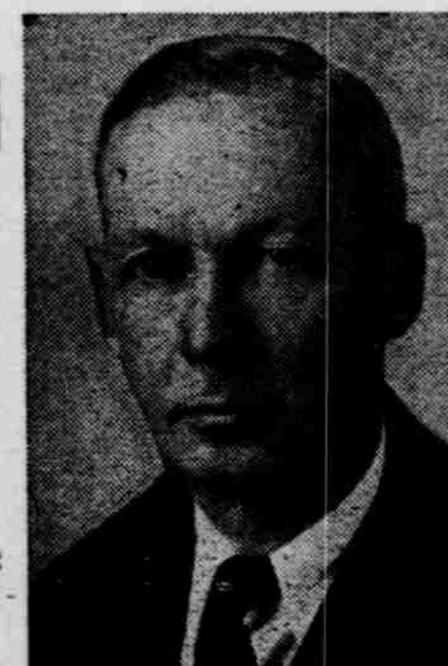
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