

AN INDIAN BATTLE
by Hyrum Belnap

The City Hall of Ogden used to be in a one story building just north of the present Tabernacle,** facing east. In one side of this building was a very large room, which was then used for the school. It contained a common table a few benches without backs.

One day in 1865 my father was going to school when a lot of government wagons handled by soldiers, drove up to the front of the building. They went to the room that was used for a school, pushed the benches to the west end of the room. They carried out of the wagons bodies of dead men. They piled them in the east end of the room. One body on top of the other till they reached fully half way to the ceiling and half the room. These were the bodies of dead soldiers that had been killed in an Indian fight.

This Indian fight took place in the north end of Cache Valley and north of Salt Lake City. The Indians had created a disturbance among the settlers. The government was called on for aid. The soldiers went a few miles from the boundary of Utah, where they located three forts of the Indians. One on Bear River, which was about twelve miles from Franklyn, the other on Swan Lake 15 miles north from Bear River. The other north of Salt Lake City.

The soldiers slipped unseen up from Bear River where the first fort was. When almost to the fort the Indians spied them. The soldiers at once charged on the Indians. When they reached in close range the Indians opened fire killing many soldiers. Then the soldiers scattered and surrounded the camp. Later they repeated the charge with cannon, killing most of the Indians.

None of the Indians escaped except those who swam the river. The rest of the forts were taken in the same manner.

** "The present Tabernacle" in this story was on the north west corner of 22nd and Washington Blvd. It faced Washington Blvd. The Tabernacle was torn down.