

BROWN'S FORT by Hyrum Belnap- in 1936

Brown's Fort covered all the ground between the forks of Weber and Ogden rivers and the mountain on the east.

Mound Fort took in that tract of land north of Ogden river and about tenth street. Bingham Fort took in all that portion of land from tenth street to the north boundry of the city limits, called Five Points.

We as young chaps visited Ogden Hole, it was near the south side of the road that lead over the mountain into Ogden Valley, several miles north of Ogden City.

The Indians seemed to out wit the whites and was taking away the whites cattle and horses. Capt. James Brown went to Salt Lake City and seen Pres. Brigham Young. He offered the whole country covered by the deed to Young and his people, he desiring only a home along with the rest.

Shortly Pres. Young and a few of his co-labors came to Ogden. Before seeing Capt. Brown, however they drove near the elevated foot hills between Ogden and Weber Rivers. There they gazed over the country an hour or more. Pres. Young then called the settlers of the three forts together. Here, he told them, they had the nicest place in the whole Valley to protect themselves from the Indians. And we are aware the Indian will slip up at night with a red robe scaring and stampeding the animals. They run over every thing before them until they are far beyond the guards. Then the Indians take the animals.

Brothern, he said, if you will observe the horse or the cattle will not run into water. Now you see three miles west these two rivers run together. The best thing for you to do is, all move in between these rivers and settle in a bunch at Brown's Fort and we will send you more help.

Mr. Fox a surveyor, came up and laid out Plat A and Five acre Plat A. Naming the first street Wall Street. This street divides Plat A and 5 acre Plat A. Each block was to have ten acres, and every family to have one of these lots to build on, whether they were rich or poor.

Now, he said, when you go out to work in this big field, go out together and return together. Then the Indian will not trouble you. If you go out alone the Indian will pick you off.

A wall was built from the creek on 28th street, north to the Ogden river, on the west side of Wall Ave. The wall was 4 feet at the bottom, two feet on the top and about twelve feet high. Every short way there was a port hole through the wall. Through the wall at 24th Street there was a large gate built on the same order as the Eagle Gate in Salt Lake City. A real stuffed eagle, streched out, was placed on the top of the gate.

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During the fifties many houses were built in and near the old Brown's Fort. Brown reserved a large field on the south side of 24th, from the Weber river, running east to the old Brown's slew some 30 rods west of Wall Ave. There was a ditch from 28th street to twenty fourth street, thence west to the Weber river.

On the north side of 24th Street just opposite Brown's farm was the home and farm of Gilbert Belnap, my Father.

Where this ditch of Capt. Brown's entered the Weber river, the water fell over a high bank. Here the Captain had built a water wheel. This wheel had buckets on it to catch the water which made the wheel whirl around. There was a molasses mill built here by Brown on the south side of the street. This water wheel was attached by a belt to three perpendicular rollers. On the end of these rollers were large cogs which fastend them together. Through these rollers the sugar cane was feed by Capt Brown. The juice fell into tubs.

One day Captain James Brown was feeding the cane stocks into these rollers. I, Hyrum Belnap, a lad four and a half years old was playing about 40 ft. away on the north side of the street, when I heard a loud moan. Looking up quick I saw his coat sleeve was caught in the cogs which was drawing his arm in. My sister older than I screamed. Then mother ran there and turned the power off. This sight I see to this day. The Captain bled internally and died in a few days.

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