

## CAPTAIN BROWN'S DEATH

Gilbert Belnap and family lived at the foot of 24th street, east of the stock yard, on the north side of the street. Capt. Brown's Molasses Mill was across the street and his field covered, where the lower railroad yards are now and long the river. An irrigation ditch came from the 28th street irrigation ditch and emptied into the Weber River. Where this ditch entered into the river a water fall was made, which turned a wheel 4 feet wide. Crude buckets were made on this wheel. When these buckets were filled with the running water the wheel would turn. This wheel in turn, turned three perpendicular rollers, through which the sugar cane was run to squeeze out the juice. On the end of these rollers were large cogs which turned the rollers. The juice fell into tubs or boilers. Fires were built under the boilers and the molasses was made.

The children liked to lick or stick their fingers into these boilers. This particular day Captain Brown sent the children away. Among these children were Hyrum and his older sister Martha Jane Belnap. Martha Jane had gotten as far as the house and Hyrum had followed as far as the chopping block in their front yard. Hyrum was just a small boy. Captain Brown sat feeding sugar cane into these rollers, when Hyrum heard him cry out. Martha Jane screamed when she saw that Captain Brown's sleeve had been caught in the rollers. This brought their mother from the house. She was the first one there and was probably the one to stop the rollers. By the time this was done, the cogs had literally chewed his arm up to the shoulder.

Thomas Doxy and another man came down the street in a wagon. They took Captain Brown and put him in the wagon and took him to his home, which was on the west side of Washington nearly to the corner of 22nd street.

As a small child the thing that impressed Hyrum was the amount of blood, which covered every thing when Brown was being put into the wagon.

Captain Brown died a few days later.

by Hyrum Belnap