

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF GILBERT BELNAP

During the month of December, 1848, my brother-in-law and I again, left our home in Winter Quarters, a city of 700 log cabins, with its fond associations, and wended our way once more to Missouri. When about fifty miles from Winter Quarters, I met S. B. Frost, who had been a resident of that place since the fall of 1846. With him, I labored at my trade of carriage making until April, 1848. During this time I built a log cabin and prepared to locate my family which I did the same spring. I also established a shop for myself and obtained all the work that I was able to perform. Being prospered in all I turned my hand to do, I saved sufficient means to enable me to gather with the Saints, in the spring of 1850.

My wife was the daughter of Vinson and Martha McBride Knight and we were married Dec. 21st, 1845. The members of her family, consisted of Martha Knight, Almyra, Adeline (my wife), Rizpah (wife of A. S. Gibbons), James, a boy of 14. My wife's grandfather was Rudolphus Knight and Rizpah Lee (paternal); her maternal grandparents were Daniel McBride and Abigail Mead.

My wife Adeline Bolknap relates the instance of the entrance of Brigham Young and his party, of which Andrew S. Gibbons was a member and whose name appears on the Brigham Young Monument, on the corner of South Temple and Maine Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah, enclosed at present, by a low iron picket fence, built in a circle about the monument. From this monument one may see the north, one half a block, the spires of the Temple above the walls surrounding the Tabernacle and Temple block.

She stated that Brigham Young had been ill from mountain fever and was lying in a bed prepared for him in a covered wagon. In a vision, he had seen the Great Salt Lake Valley and as the party entered the valley, he asked to be lifted up and looking out over the valley, he exclaimed, "This is the Place." He was assisted out of the wagon by members of the party and placing his cane on the ground he said three times, "This is the place; this is the place; this

is the place." She was very emphatic in her statement; (caning my wife) saying that her brother-in-law had told her all about it, himself.

She has also related the martyrdom of the prophet and his mock funeral, of the terrible mourning of the Saints; and of attending, with her mother, and Rāzpah Gibbons, the meeting, at which the mantle of Joseph Smith fell upon Brigham Young. He was standing before the people addressing them, when he spoke in the voice of Joseph Smith, and looked exactly like him for a few minutes. She said, "We all knew then that he was to be the successor of the Prophet Joseph Smith."

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