

Elvera Manful
Ogden, Utah
Weber county,
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Pioneer Personal History

Hyrum Belnap

UTAH HRS 314

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1. Hyrum Belnap
2. His home is 2149 Madison Avenue, Ogden, Weber County, Utah.
3. He is now retired but works around the yard of his home caring for the lawn.
4. Mr. Belnap's parents lived on a farm in Hooper and he helped do the farm work until he was called on a mission to the Southern States for the Mormon church July 16, 1879. In May of 1892 he was appointed Assessor and Collector for Weber County in his father's place, his father, Gilbert Belnap, having resigned. He held this office twelve years, until 1894. He was a real estate promoter and an employe of the David Eccles Lumber Company and later manager of the Utah Oregon Lumber Company. Still later he was the owner of the Hyrum Belnap Lumber Company and the Preston Lumber Company of Preston, Idaho.
5. He was born on March 24, 1858.
6. The house he was born in was located on the south side of twenty-sixth street between Lincoln and Grant avenues, in Ogden, Utah.
7. Mr. Belnap is now eighty years of age.
8. He was married in polygamy, his first wife being Christiana Rasmussen. They were married in the Endowment House of the Mormon church in Salt Lake City, on September 20, 1883. His second wife, Anna C. Bluth, he married in Logan, Utah on February 7, 1888.
16. The first home he remembers was located on the north east corner of Wall avenue and 24th street and was constructed of logs.
17. The first form of lighting they used was made by placing a wick in a saucer of grease. They later made candles of tallow.
19. Wood was burned for fuel.
20. Bread was made from meal that they ground by hand in a mortar pestle. This was a round iron dish in which they would put the rye, wheat, barley or corn, and then pound it with the pestle. This meal they would then mix into a bread and bake. Mr. Belnap said he can still remember how it would scratch their throats when they ate it. Fruit was dried for winter use. Molasses was used for sugar.
31. There were lots of fish in the Ogden and Weber rivers. Their home was close to the banks of the Weber river on 24th street and his older brother Gilbert, would put out set lines to catch the fish. One day when he was about six years of age, he and James Pincock were walking by these lines and noticed one of them going back and forth in the water, so they knew there must be a fish on the end of it. He started pulling the line in and the fish was so large it nearly pulled him in the river, so he yelled at James Pincock to help him and between the two of them they managed to get it out on the ground. The fish was a large trout and was still fighting. He jumped on it and finally had to get a club and hit it before he could get the hook out of its mouth. Then the two boys got a stick and managed to get the trout onto it and each boy took a hold of one end of the stick and with the fish hanging between them started for town. They went the back way or up 23rd street to Lincoln avenue and then over to 24th street and on up to Washington avenue. Al West, a brother of Bishop Chauncey West, ran a hotel and boarding house where the First Security Bank Building now stands. The boys took the fish over to him and when he saw them with it he sure laughed as it was nearly as large as they were. They asked him if he wanted to buy it and he said sure he did and pulled out a dollar and gave them.

33. His father, Gilbert Belnap, had a few sheep and he and his brothers would herd them all day on the bench east of Ogden. This was before 1868 when the family moved to Hooper. There were lots of sage bulbs around there then and they would gather them and eat raw. Some of them were poison and some were good but they were able to tell the difference. The bulbs were shaped quite a bit like a radish and were different colors, some red, some yellow, blue and white. They looked pretty and tasted sweeter than a carrot.
34. Along where the rail road tracks are now, below Hall avenue and south of 28th street, the country was quite brushy and there were many wild berries. These were choke cherries, service and haw berries, but they were better than the berries we get today in the mountains as they were larger and juicier. His brother Gilbert made him a sleigh by taking an old bow from an ox-yoke and cutting this in half, he used the two halves for the runners. These ox-bows were made of hickory and his sleigh was better than most of the other boys because of these hickory runners. The boys would walk up the 24th street hill and he can remember being barefooted and how he would have to stop and sit down once in a while and put his feet up on the sleigh so the sun would warm them a little before he could go on. When they got to the top of the hill, they would race down and he always beat because he had the best sleigh. They could coast down nearly to Grant avenue. The boys of the early days also played ball but the ball they used was made of yarn.

His father, ran a ferry boat from their home across the Weber river on 24th street. This boat was just a small skiff and held three or four passengers. The boat would be tied up by the house and anyone wanting to cross would do so and then tie the boat up on the other side until someone returning would bring it back and tie it up on this side. If there was an excursion or anything like that, his father would run the boat across, carrying the passengers back and forth. Mr. Belnap said he didn't think his father ever charged anyone for these trips, it all being gratis.

One of Mr. Belnap's first recollections was on September 25, 1863 when he was but five and a half years of age. Captain James Brown who owned the property on the south side of 24th street opposite their home, had a molasses mill located there. This mill was run by water power, having a large wheel around which were small buckets and a sort of flume which would run water into these buckets, thus causing the wheel to turn. This large wheel then operated a belt on which the sugar cane was carried to three large rollers where the juice was squeezed out of the cane. There were smaller wheels with cogs to operate these rollers. Mr. Belnap said he and his sister had crossed the street to watch Captain Brown who was feeding the cane onto the belt and they also liked to get around the boilers and barrels and get tastes of the molasses. Captain Brown hollered and told them to go on home as he didn't want them over there fussing around. So they crossed back to their home and his sister went on into the house but he sat down on the chopping block in their yard. He had been sitting there for a little while when he heard Captain Brown holler "Och." Looking up he saw that Captain Brown's sleeve had caught in the cogs of the machine. Mrs. Belnap, his mother, hearing the Captain holler came running out of the house and crossed over to the mill. Three men jumped out of a wagon that just then came down the street and they assisted in releasing Captain Brown's arm from the machine. By this time, he had then crossed over to the mill and he remembers yet the sight of the bloody arm and how it was all chewed up by the cogs of the machine. The man then put Captain Brown in the wagon and took him to his home on 22nd street and Washington avenue about where the Lienhart drug store is located now. Captain Brown died five days later, September 30, 1863, from this injury.

Mr. Belnap's father, Gilbert Belnap, and Levi Hammond, laid out the town of Hooper. Levi Hammond worked in the Hooper Herd House looking after the interests of Captain Hooper's cattle and horses. This Captain W. H. Hooper was the first man to represent Utah in Congress. Gilbert Belnap was the first bishop of the Hooper Ward.

Hyrum Belnap was the first boy sent out of Hooper on a mission for the Mormon church. George H. Carver from Plain City was sent with him. They left Ogden on June 16, 1879 and arrived in Tennessee on June 25, 1879. John Morgan was the president of the Southern States mission at that time. Mr. Belnap remained in Tennessee until October 1, 1881.

In the early part of 1869 he and his two brothers worked on the rail road grade for the Union Pacific. His two brothers were just large enough to dump the scraper between them, while he drove the team. He was not quite eleven years of age and his brothers were older.

The Spanish wall built on the west of Ogden in 1849 ran from 21st street on the north to 27th street on the south. It was about four feet wide at the base and narrowed down until it was about 16 inches across the top. It was made of material collected from a mound just west of Wall avenue between 22nd and nearly to 24th street. This mound was of red clay very much like that found at the brick yard now located just east of Jefferson avenue between 29th and 30th streets. It made a mixture about like cement. At 24th street was a gate on the top of which was a large stuffed native eagle. There were port holes with iron bars across about every 15 or 20 feet in the wall. These were to be used to shoot through in case of an attack. Mr. Belnap often walked along the top of the wall when he was a boy.

The meadow land just south of Brown's pasture or about half way between 25th and 26th street was called Binfield's pasture. Many of the freighters and emigrants passing through would stop here over night. It was here that Mr. Belnap one night heard bag pipes for the first time and he thought it was the best music he had ever heard.

37. There was a stage coach station located where the Kiesel building is now. Then Al West ran a hotel and boarding house on 24th and Washington avenue where the First Security Bank building is.
38. The first school Mr. Belnap attended was in the Town Hall in Ogden.
39. The Town Hall was a frame building just north of the Tabernacle. It was just one room but had both a front and a back door.
40. Sarah Shupe was the teacher here. In the first part of February 1863 he was attending school here when some soldiers came in from the north. The teacher dismissed all the children and sent them out through the back door and home. The soldiers carried in some dead men and piled them along the east end of the room. It was years later when Mr. Belnap found out where these soldiers had been fighting and he asked Mr. Freeman who remembered the incident and told him it was the Bear River Fight with the Indians in Cache Valley on January 29, 1863. Mr. Freeman was a resident of Ogden, having been raised by Lorin Farr. The soldiers had been sent up to Cache Valley from Fort Douglas in Salt Lake City, and they were returning to the Fort when they stopped in at the school with the bodies of the people who had been killed in the fight.
The next school he attended was the Ide school. A crippled man named Ide was the teacher at this school which was located on the west side of Grant avenue between 23rd and 24th streets. He remembers how Mr. Ide whipped him once because he had stuck out his foot and tripped one of the girls in his class.
43. Mr. Belnap has in his possession one of the first Ogden City Directories ever published. This is for the year 1876. He also has a desk full of

papers of all his business transactions. His father kept a journal and a note book which he also has.

48. He owned the second Ford in Ogden. Alfred P. Richey an undertaker and embalmer purchased the first one about a month before he bought his.
49. The first train he ever saw was in the early part of March 1869 when the railroad first came to Utah. The tracks were laid for the Union Pacific to Broome's bench which was a knoll or hill just west of Mound Fort on 18th street. This knoll was owned by a man named Broome, hence the name. The Central Pacific had their tracks laid out to Promontory. The officials of the two companies wanted a junction for their railroads but were prejudiced against the Mormons. Brigham Young came up from Salt Lake and looked over the property just west of Wall avenue and between the Ogden river and the 28th street creek. He then called the people together and told them he wanted to buy about 100 acres of this land and he paid them a good price for it. Many of the settlers made money this way, Job Pingree was one, he owned quite a piece of property around 28th street. Brigham Young then went to the officials of the railroads and told them he would give them this hundred acres of land if they would build their junction t here. He asked them if the Mormons hadn't helped them build the grade for their roads and if they were not a good sociable people and willing workers. The officials agreed that the Mormons were the best men who had worked anywhere on the roads. They finally decided to accept this land and have the junction at the present site. They set a date to celebrate the coming of the railroad to Utah. This was just prior to the time the Belnap family moved to Hooper and Hyrum Belnap was eleven years of age. Their home was close to where they built the platform for the celebration and his father was one of the men honored by an invitation to sit on the platform during the ceremony. Hyrum Belnap and his younger brother, along with Will Barrup and Will Douglas, decided to be among the first to see the train come in. They walked down the tracks toward Riverdale and there they came to the bridge where the tracks cross the Weber river. They managed to get across these and then the tracks make a turn and go east toward Uintah. On account of this turn, they didn't see the train until it was just about a half block from them. All the boys with the exception of Mr. Belnap's younger brother, became frightened and jumped clear over into the brush along the side of the tracks. The brother just stepped off to the side of the tracks so he could get a good look at the train as it passed. It had three engines and when they got up close to him one of them let out a spurt of steam which completely covered him. Mr. Belnap was so afraid that his brother was dead because he couldn't see him for the steam, but when the engines had gone by and the steam evaporated he could see that he was alright. The boys then hurried back to the platform to see the ceremony. The trains were stopped south of 28th street until they received word that the celebration was ready to begin. The four boys got on a flat car just west of the platform. There had never before been an engine into Ogden or any farther than Uintah. Little hand cars had been sent in from Uintah though and several flat cars had come in with these. Richard Ballentine was a supervisor of the school children at this time and he had all of them march in a body down to see the ceremony, carrying banners and flags. To get over to where the platform was erected they had to go across a small foot bridge over Brown's slough. This slough was filled with weeds and rushes and the water was anywhere from knee to waist deep in some places. It was quite a slow procedure with the two or three hundred school children and they were only about half of them over the bridge when the train came into sight and all three engines started blowing their whistles. It frightened the children so much, this unexpected noise and the sight of the three

monstrous engines coming down the tracks that they never stopped for the bridge but started running in every direction to get out of the way. Mr. Belnap and the other three boys had received their scare earlier and they knew what to expect so they sure got a laugh watching the rest of the people get their scare.

76. Mr. Belnap's first wife, Christiana Rasmussen, gave birth to seven children. The four still living are;

Miss Flora Belnap, California.

Mrs. Marion Kerr, Salt Lake City, Utah, wife of Professor Walter A. Kerr of the University of Utah.

Mrs. Olive Jensen, 2403 Harrison Boulevard, Ogden, Utah, wife of Dr. Conrad H. Jensen.

Ogden City Judge Hyrum A. Belnap, 2267 Harrison Boulevard, Ogden, Utah.

His second wife, Anna G. Bluth, also gave birth to seven children:

Dr. H. Earl Belnap of Reno, Nevada, head of the maternal and child welfare department of the state of Nevada.

Bishop Arias G. Belnap, 1111 21st street, Ogden, Utah, Weber County treasurer.

Volney B. Belnap 918 21st street, Ogden, Utah, manager of the Associated Building Supply.

Mrs. Jewel Furniss, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Miss Della A. Belnap, 2149 Madison Avenue, Ogden, Utah.

Mrs. Gladys Belnap Carwin, 2149 Madison Avenue, Ogden, Utah.

Byron E. Belnap, 904 21st street, Ogden, Utah.

Mr. Belnap is very proud of his children, six of them have served in the mission field. His first wife Christiana, died at her home 2149 Madison Avenue on July 11, 1928 at the age of sixty-four years. His second wife, Anna, died at her home 904 21st street on May 22, 1931 at the age of sixty-one.

Mr. Belnap served in numerous civic positions. He was one of the organizers of the Ogden chamber of commerce and served as president. He was secretary of the Weber Dramatic society, officer of the Ogden City Betterment league. His father, Gilbert Belnap, kept a journal and a note book. He was the first peace officer of Weber County in the year 1850, before Ogden was incorporated. He was one of Brigham Young's body guards and Porter Rockwell was a body guard of the Prophet Joseph Smith. In the note book he has of his father's are some interesting facts, one of which concerns the shooting of Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum Smith, on June 27, 1844. The book states that Gilbert Belnap and Porter Rockwell slept in the hall of the prison outside of where Joseph and Hyrum Smith were held prisoners in Carthage. the night before they were shot. Then on June 27th Governor Ford ordered them all to return to Nauvoo and he went with them. Gilbert Belnap and Porter Rockwell started out with them in the wagons but on the way they decided to turn back so they slipped from the wagons and hid along the side of the road in the hazelbrush. They crept back and were about a mile from Carthage when they heard the shooting. They were hiding in the brush when Thompson (Mr. Belnap thought the name mentioned in the book was Thompson, but it was the man who went to Nauvoo with the message that Joseph and Hyrum Smith had been murdered) came riding by in a wagon and he was being pursued by two men on horseback. When Thompson got up near them, Porter Rockwell hollered and asked "Thompson, shall I shoot?" Thompson yelled back "My God! Save my life." The book then related how the first rider raised up in the saddle and then stiffened and fell and then the second one also.

Gilbert Belnap was serving as county Assessor and Collector when the Edmund's

anti-polygamy law was passed, February 16, 1852. He was married in polygamy and had two families, seventeen children in all, so he walked up to the county commissioners and handed in his resignation and said he wasn't going to fight the United States. He then went home to Hooper where he was the Bishop. The county commissioners then appointed Hyrum Belnap in his father's place but Hyrum protested as he was then attending the school where the Elks building is now and he felt like he needed the schooling. He had been away on the mission and hadn't had the opportunity to attend. He finally persuaded his father to stay on until school was out in May, which he did. So in May 1852 he became Assessor and Collector for Weber county. With the passing of the Edmund's anti-polygamy bill there was plenty of trouble between the Mormon and the Gentile. The bill disfranchised all Mormons who believed in polygamy as well as those who practiced it. Governor Murray wanted all the books and papers turned over to new officers who were either Gentiles or else Mormons who were opposed to polygamy. The public officers refused this until the proper papers and credentials were given them. It became necessary to keep some one on guard night and day in the courthouse to see that no one got in and took any of the books or papers. Hyrum Belnap and George Larkin slept in the court house nights after having worked all day making the necessary adjustments. It was while he was in this office that William Brown came to him with the deed his father, Captain James Brown, received when he purchased the property that is now Ogden from Miles Goodyear on January 6, 1848 for the sum of \$3,000. William Brown had Mr. Belnap send this deed back to the Secretary of the Interior at Washington, D. C. The deed read something like this; "Beginning at the mouth of Weber Canyon, running straight west to the border of the lake, thence north along the border of the lake to Hot Springs, and thence east by Hot Springs to the foot hills of the mountain, thence south along the high water mark and back to Weber Canyon." It was about four months before they got the reply from Washington. Then Mr. Belnap called William Brown into his office and proceeded to open it and read; "Your deed is good but some years past the United States published a notice and sent out that set a date when these deeds, gained in the Mexican War were to be paid. This date is now seven years past due, therefore the deed is now of no value." Hyrum Belnap gained a lot of the history of Ogden from William Brown at this time and also when he started to write a little of the history for himself. There were three forts or settlements in Ogden in 1848; Brown's fort which was located on the lower end of 33th street north as far as the Ogden river and west from Madison avenue to the Weber river which was about Wall avenue then. The second fort was Bingham's fort and this was located west of Five Points. The third fort, which was the last fort in Weber County, located about where the Old Mill is today and down about to Grant avenue on 12th street. The people in these forts were having a lot of trouble with the Indians and the Indians had about outwitted them. The settlers would corral their cattle and horses for the night and leave a guard at either end of the fort but the Indians would have some of their tribe on horseback outside of the fort and then one of them would sneak in and manage to scare the cattle and horses, causing them to stampede. Then these Indians on the outside on horseback would drive the cattle and horses wherever they wanted them. This became very discouraging to the settlers as they practically lost all their live stock this way. So Captain Brown finally decided to go to Salt Lake and get the advise of Brigham Young. He showed the deed to Brigham Young and told him of all the trouble they were having and Brigham Young told him he couldn't come right at that time but in a few days would make a trip to Ogden and see what he could do to assist these good people. A few days later, about noon, he arrived in Ogden accompanied by Heber C. Kimball and George A. Smith. They went to the hills east of Ogden and spent the entire afternoon

looking over the valley. That night he went to Captain Brown and told him to get all the people to meet him on the hills east of Ogden the next day, women and children and all. When they met him he had them all look towards Weber Canyon, and to look towards Ogden Canyon. "Now then, see where those two rivers join below. There is one thing you good people haven't thought of, horses and cattle when they stampede will run over anything or anybody, but they will never run through water. The water from Taylor's Canyon, Waterfall Canyon and Strong's Canyon, all run down through Bunker's Hollow (this is now Sullivan Road) and then, this water runs down into the 28th street creek into the Weber River. It looks to me, like there are 60 or 100 acres of ground between these rivers. Go down and build a wall along the Weber river on the west for your protection there. Then keep a guard on the 28th street creek. I then advise you to lay out a townsite on the east side of this wall. Make the blocks into ten one acre lots and give each man one of these one acre lots. Give the rich man one and give the poor man one and no more. This will be enough for your home and also to keep your stock on at night. Then take this land west of the wall between the two rivers, and lay off five acre lots. Give the rich man one of these five acre lots and give the poor man one of these five acre lots, and no more. You can then farm these five acre lots but you must remember, when you go to these farms in the mornings, you must all go together and when you return at night, you must all return together. This way, the Indians will not attack you." Then Brigham Young returned to Salt Lake and sent up a surveyor, Jesse W. Fox. The settlers then proceeded to build the wall on the west and that is where Wall avenue gets its name. Mr. Fox laid off the land east of the wall into one acre lots and this is what is still called Flat A of Ogden City. It takes in all of the property from 28th street to the Ogden river and from Wall avenue to Madison avenue. This was as far as Ogden extended at that time. Mr. Fox then proceeded to survey and lay out the lots below the wall and these he made in five acre lots as Brigham Young suggested. This is called Five Acre Flat A. The streets of Ogden now do not belong to the property owner but to the city. After the Edmunds anti-polygamy bill was passed and the trouble was all settled between the Mormon and the Gentile and during Mayor Kiesel's administration in Ogden City, they changed all the names of the streets with the exception of Wall avenue. They left it as Wall and named the rest after the presidents of the United States.

Maurice Howe
Feb. 20, 1937
Ogden, Utah

INTERVIEW WITH HYRUM BELNAP, WHO WAS BORN
IN OGDEN, WEBER COUNTY, 1858

Some interesting sidelights on history which bear on the Good year-Brown transaction were related in February, 1937 by Hyrum Belnap, who served as assessor and collector for Weber county from 1882 until the close of 1890. Mr. Belnap at present (1937) resides at 2149 Madison Avenue, Ogden. He was born March 24, 1848 in a house which stood in the south side of what is now 26th street, between Grant and Lincoln Avenues

In relating certain incidents concerning the Goodyear lands which were acquired by Capt. James Brown Mr. Belnap told the following account " In the years 1880 and 1881 I served on a mission for the Latter-Day Saints church in the southern states and returned to Utah October 3, 1881 I attended the funeral in Salt Lake City, of Apostle Orson Pratt. Later that autumn I came in from my home in Hooper and enrolled in a high school of which L.F. Moench was principal. To obtain board and lodging I took the job of bell ringer in the county courthouse. At that time volunteer fire companies served in time of conflagrations and it was my duty to ring the bell which gave the alarm. I recall ringing the alarm for the fire which destroyed the Mound Fort school during a high wind, The flames leaped across the street and burned a house and two children belonging to Ann Shaw.

" When the Edmunds-Tucker act, making polygamy illegal, was passed March 2, 1882 by the United States Congress my father who was L.D.S. bishop of Hooper, was serving as assessor and collector for Weber County. Father immediately tendered his resignation to the county commissioners because he had married two wives, Adaline Knight and Henrietta McBride. Father said he would not hold public office and oppose the federal government. The commissioners urged father to retain his position until the close of the school year that spring and I was appointed to take his place. Father had been the first peace officer in Weber county, holding the office of marsh marshal when Ogden was organized as a city in 1850.

" During the 1880's while I held office there were two political parties in Ogden striving for power, the Liberal Party, which was anti-Mormon and the Peoples Party which was largely composed of members of the dominant church.

" When the Federal marshals came to demand that all the records be turned over to them, the City and county officials aside insisted that I act as guardian of the courthouse and surrender the records only when proper written authority had been received by the marshalls from Washington, D.C. Eventually the written request came and the records were handed over inspection.

About 1885 or 1886 the office of assessor and collector was divided and I was made collector, or as the office is known today, treasurer. H.H. Rolap was assessor, my brother Gilbert R. Belnap was sheriff at time and we occupied a joint office and I was also deputy sheriff. The person who had held the office of sheriff the preceding term was William Brown, who was I believe the second son of Captain James Brown of the Mormon battalion.

As far as I can recall I was about 1886 that one day Will Brown...

" As near as I can recall it was about 1886 that one day Will Brown came to the office and said in effect, 'Hyrum, you are an officer. I have a deed here from Miles Goodyear to my father. My father and his family were not treated right by Brigham Young. I want you to send this deed to Washington, D. C. and find out what can be done about authenticating title to this land.' He handed me a paper.

" I read it. It was a deed from Miles Goodyear to James Brown transferring property in consideration of three thousand dollars. The deed mentioned ghzg ghd gigid came from Mexico. The wording was in English. I do not recall now that any buildings or livestock were mentioned in the deed.

" The deed embraced lands which were described with boundaries as follows: west from the mouth of Weber Canyon to the Great Salt Lake, thence north along the border of the lake to the hot springs, thence east to what is called the high water mark in the mountains, thence south along the mountains to Weber Canyon.

As an officer of Weber County I sent the deed in a registered letter to an official of the department of the Interior and inquired as to the status of the deed.

In due time a reply came. I did not open the letter but called at Will Brown's home and left word for him to come to the office. Within a day or two Mr. Brown came to the office and I handed him the envelope which he opened. In it were the deed and a letter. The letter acknowledged receipt of the deed and said that the transaction was all right and that Mr. Goodyear's title was all right, but further stated that the United States Government had made a ruling regarding the lands acquired from Mexico by treaty after the war. The letter went on to state that the government had published notices asking persons to fetch their deeds to the proper departments for registration and approval and that the legal time limit had long since expired and the deed was now valueless.

" Will Brown took the letter and deed with him and that is the last I ever saw of it. To my knowledge I am the only living person outside the Brown family, in Weber County that ever laid eyes on the actual piece of paper by which Miles Goodyear transferred his lands to Captain Brown. I have never heard of any others besides the Browns who ever saw that deed of sale. Of course nearly forty years had elapsed since Captain Brown had first bought out Goodyear in late 1847 or the early part of 1848.

" Now we will all recognize that the lines of the Goodyear grant have been given recognition to some extent because the line between Davis county and Weber county follows right down the south boundary of the land as Goodyear transferred it to Captain Brown, and the north boundary marks the line between Weber and Box Elder counties on the north. I held public office for many years and it was my duty as assessor to check the property lines and I know these things are right.

" I have played in the old Brown Fort, as we called it which Captain Brown obtained from Goodyear. It stood just north of 28th street in the banks of the Weber River where the river made a big bend. There were some corrals and buildings and sheds standing there in the sixties, when I was a little boy. I recall that the walls of the sheds were composed of two rows of stakes filled with cat-tails tamped in between.

" Captain Brown has several children , Among his sons I recall John, Will, James, Alex and Moroni . James married an Indian woman. One of their sons was a diligent worker in the L.D.S. church and for many years was bishop of the first ward in Ogden.

I recall seeing Captain Brown receive the injuries which resulted in his death. In the sixties our family lived at the west end of what is now 24th street, on the east bank of the Weber River, near the site of the present packing plant. At that time there was a high mud wall along what is now Wall Avenue and there was a gate at 24th street. For a time this gate had a wooden eagle over it like the eagle in Salt Lake City.

Captain Brown had moved his family from the 28th street home to a house directly south across the road from our house. He had run a ditch from the slough, which formerly occupied the site where the Union Depot is now located, into the Weber river.

Captain Brown set up a small molasses mill on the bank of the ditch and used a water wheel for power to run the mill. Sorghum cane was grown here at that time and after being crushed in the rollers the cane yielded juice which was boiled down to molasses.

"I remember being in our yard when I heard a cry of agony and looked up in time to see one of Captain Brown's arms caught in the cogwheels of the machine I yelled and my older sister screamed and my mother came running. The incident stands out vividly in my mind because I was shocked by the terrible injuries the man received. His arm was cut to pieces and he was bleeding fearfully. The Captain was placed in a wagon and hauled into town through the gate in the wall. He died shortly after.

" One day while I was a county officer I asked Will Brown to tell me the story about Brigham Young and that deed. Brown told me that in the early fifties when the settlers were quartered in three forts, Brown's Fort, Bingham's Fort and Mound's Fort, that the Indians were driving off their livestock and becoming threatening and Captain Brown and others got discouraged. The Captain and one of his sons went to Salt Lake City and talked to Brigham Young. They said they just wanted a home and enough land to make a living and handed Brigham the deed to the ground that had been purchased from Goodyear. Brigham handed the deed back and asked them what the trouble was. They replied the Indian Indians were bothering them and they couldn't make a living. President Young told them to return home and he would visit them soon.

Shortly thereafter Brigham came up to Ogden accompanied by Heber C. Kimball and a man named Smith. Brigham first went up on the hill near where the court house stands today. He looked around for an hour or so and then sent word for the settlers to come in from the three forts for a conference.

Brigham then pointed to the Weber river in the south, the Ogden river on the north, then he pointed out that the rivers join a few miles west of town, then he pointed to the mountains on the east and made a few remarks, Brigham said, 'All you settlers get in between these rivers. You have the best natural protection of any place in Utah. If you follow my advice your livestock won't stray and you can defend yourselves against the Indians. Indians won't be coming from the east because of the high mountains range, the rivers protect you north and south. Now get busy and build a high wall on the west side of Ogden. Send your cattle to graze outside the wall with guards in attendance. Till your fields outside the wall but when you go out in the morning and come back in in the evening all come together, Don't straggle. Stay together and help one another. Indians won't tackle a crowd.

The people did as Brigham directed and were not bothered thereafter. They prospered and soon the settlement grew and expanded. Brigham Young sent up a surveyor named Fox. I don't believe that he was a member of the church but he was a good surveyor. Brigham directed him to lay out a Plat A which embraces the central part of Ogden now, with ten acre blocks, with an acre for each family, the streets to belong to the city and state. The land west of the wall and east of the Weber river was called Five Acre Plat A because it was divided up into five acre plats for farming purposes. Mr. Fox also surveyed Hooper townsite with 20 acre blocks. Brigham believed in giving good measure and nearly all the blocks in Plat A in Ogden contain a little more than ten acres".

INTERVIEW WITH HYRUM BELNAP, who was born in Ogden, Weber County,
1858

Some interesting side lights of history which bear on the Goodyear-Brown transaction were related in February, 1937 by Hyrum Belnap, who served as assessor and collector for Weber county from 1882 until the close of 1890. Mr. Belnap at present (1937) resides at 2149 Madison Avenue, Ogden. He was born March 24, 1858 in a house which stood on the south side of what is now 26th Street, between Grant and Lincoln avenues.

In relating certain incidents concerning the Goodyear lands which were acquired by Captain James Brown, Mr. Belnap told the following account, "In the years 1880 and 1881 I served on a mission for the Latter-Day Saints church in the southern states and returned to Utah October 3, 1881. I attended the funeral in Salt Lake City of Apostle Orson Pratt. Later than autumn I came in from my home in Hooper and enrolled in a high school of which L.F. Moench was principal. To obtain food and lodging I took the job of bell ringer in the county courthouse. At that time volunteer fire companies served in time of conflagrations and it was my duty to ring the bell which gave the alarm. I recall ringing the alarm for the fire which destroyed the Mound Fort school during a high wind. The flames leaped across the street and burned a house and two children belonging to Am Shaw.

"When the Edmunds-Tucker act, making polygamy illegal, was passed March 2, 1882 by the United States congress my father who was L.D.S. bishop of Hooper, was serving as assessor and collector for Weber county. Father immediately tendered his resignation to the county commissioners because he had married two wives, Adaline Knight and Henrietta McBride. Father said he would not hold public office and oppose the federal government. The commissioners urged father to retain his position until the close of the school year that spring and was appointed to take his place. Father had been the first peace officer in Weber county, holding the office of marshal when Ogden was organized as a city in 1850.

"When the federal marshals came to demand that all the records be turned over to them the city and county officials alike insisted that I act as guardian of the courthouse and surrender the records only when proper written authority had been received by the marshals from Washington, D.C. Eventually the written request came and the records were handed over for inspection.

"About 1885 or 1886 the office of assessor and collector was divided and I was made collector, or as the office is known today, treasurer. H.H. Rolapp was assessor. My brother Gilbert R. Belnap was sheriff at that time and we occupied a joint office and I was also a deputy sheriff. The person who had held the office of sheriff the preceding term was William Brown, who was, I believe, the second son of Captain James Brown of the Mormon Battalion.

"As near as I can recall it was about 1886 that one day Will Brown came to the office and said in effect, "Hyrum, you are an officer. I have a deed here from Miles Goodyear to my father. My father and his family were not treated right by Brigham Young. I want you to send this deed to Washington, D.C., and find out what can be done about authenticating title to this land." He handed me a paper.

"I read it. It was a deed from Miles Goodyear to James Brown transferring property in consideration of three thousand dollars. The deed mentioned that the title came from Mexico. The wording was in English. I do not recall now that any buildings or livestock were mentioned in the deed.

"The deed embraced lands which were described with boundaries as follows--'west from the mouth of Weber Canyon to Great Salt Lake, thence north along the border of the lake to the hot springs, thence east to what is called the high water mark on the mountains, thence south along the mountains to Weber Canyon.'

"In due time a reply came. I did not open the letter but called at Will Brown's home and left word for him to come to the office. Within a day or two Mr. Brown came to the office and I handed him the envelope which he opened. In it were the deed and a letter. The letter acknowledged receipt

of the deed and said that the transaction was all right and that Mr. Goodyear's title was all right but further stated that the United States government had made a ruling regarding the lands acquired from Mexico by treaty after the war. The letter went on to state that the government had published notices asking persons to fetch their deeds to the proper departments for registration and approval and that the legal time limit had long since expired and the deed was now valueless.

"Will Brown took the letter and deed with him and that is the last I ever saw of it. To my knowledge I am the only living person, outside the Brown family, in Weber county, that ever laid eyes on the actual piece of paper by which Miles Goodyear transferred his lands to Captain Brown. I have never heard of any others besides the Browns who ever saw that deed of sale. Of course nearly forty years had elapsed since Captain Brown had first bought out Goodyear in late 1847 or the early part of 1848.

"Now we all recognize that the lines of the Goodyear grant have been given recognition to some extent because the line between Davis county and Weber county follows right down the south boundary of the lands Goodyear transferred it to Captain Brown, and the north boundary marks the line between Weber and Box Elder counties on the north. I held public office for many years and it was my duty as assessor to check the property lines and I know these things are right.

"I have played in the old Brown fort, as we called it, which Captain Brown obtained from Goodyear. It stood just north of 26th street on the banks of the Weber river where the river made a big bend. There were some corrals and buildings and sheds standing there in the sixties when I was a little boy. I recall that the walls of the sheds were composed of two rows of stakes filled with cat-tails and rushes which grew along the river. The roofs were made the same way by having two layers of poles with cat-tails tamped in between.

"Captain Brown has several children. Among his sons I recall John, Will,

Alex and Moroni. James married an Indian woman. One of their sons was a diligent worker in the L.D.S. church and for many years was bishop of the first ward in Ogden.

"I recall seeing Captain Brown receive the injuries which resulted in his death. In the sixties our family lived at the west end of what is now 24th street, on the east bank of the Weber river, near the site of the present packing plant. At that time there was a high mud wall along what is now Wall avenue and there was a gate at 24th street. For a time this gate had a wooden eagle over it like the eagle gate in Salt Lake City.

"Captain Brown had moved his family from the 28th street home to his house directly south across the road from our house. He had run a ditch from the slough, which formerly occupied the site where the Union depot is now located, into the Weber river.

"Captain Brown set up a small molasses mill on the bank of the ditch and used a water wheel for power to run the mill. Sorghum cane was grown here at that time and after being crushed in the rollers the cane yielded juice which was boiled down to molasses.

"I remember being in our yard when I heard a cry of agony and looked up in time to see one of Captain Brown's arms caught in the cogwheels of the machine. I yelled and my older sister screamed and my mother came running. The incident stands out vividly in my mind because I was shocked by the terrible injuries the man received. His arm was cut to pieces and he was bleeding fearfully. The captain was placed in a wagon and hauled into town through the gate in the wall. He died shortly after.

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