

BROWN, JAMES STEPHENS

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BROWN, JAMES STEPHENS, born in Davidson County, North Carolina, July 4, 1828; son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Stephens) Brown; married (1) Lydia Jane Tanner at Salt Lake City, July, 1853; children, James T., August, Valentine, Lydia J. (Mrs. Homer M. Brown), Rachel E. (Mrs. Octavius Fullmer), Emeretta (Mrs. Walter Brown) and Zina May (Mrs. John Gerstner); (2) Rebecca Ann McBride at Salt Lake City, September, 1854; children, Daniel, Vantile M., Homer, Alphonso, Deseret, Alveretta (Mrs. Christopher Sproat), Bertina (Mrs. James Tregagle), and Pauline (Mrs. Thomas Turner); (3) Eliza Lester at Salt Lake City, January 31, 1863; children, Leo L., Zemanka, Wilford, Elando, Frank L., Charles L., Sarah E., Anne E. (Mrs. Ernest E. Jacobs) and Ada (Mrs. Harold E. Grant); (4) Elizabeth M. Clegg at Salt Lake City, March 4, 1872; children, Guardello, Mark C., Benjamin J., Lillious, Louetta and Myrtle J. (Mrs. Henry W. Latimer).

Moved with his parents to Illinois, 1831; joined the Mormon Church and went to Iowa, 1846; mustered in July 16, 1846, at Council Bluffs as Private, Company D, Mormon Battalion; the following is his account of what happened at Tucson:

We then marched through the town, where a few aged men and women and some children brought us water and other small tokens of respect. We made no halt in the village, which had contained some four or five hundred inhabitants, of which number all but about a hundred had fled. Our stop was made about half a mile down stream from the place.

In the town we made purchases of wheat, corn, beans and peas, which we parched or boiled. We were so near starved that we could not wait for this food to be more than half cooked before we ate it.

On the night of December 17, Albern Allen and his son Rufus C. Allen had been placed on picket guard above Tucson, with orders that if anybody of men, say ten or more, appeared, an alarm was to be fired, and the guards were to run into camp. Sometime between

midnight and two o' clock a body of Mexicans put in an appearance, and the alarm was given as ordered.

The writer had been up relieving his stomach of half-boiled wheat, corn and peas, and had just got settled back in bed when the alarm was fired, so he heard all that was going on. As we all slept in our pantaloons, the first thing I thought of in that country of prickly pears was my boots; and while reaching for these and bumping heads with comrades, some of the men whose muskets were used for uprights for the tent thought these the first articles in the emergency and seized them, the tent coming down and the ridge-pole making another bump on heads. At the same time we were all trapped in the fallen tent, which was pinned down tight. I was trying to get the left boot on the right foot, and my footwear being rather small I had no easy job.

For the first time in the whole march the writer brought up the rear in getting to his place, and received a rebuke from the officer in command, George P. Dykes. Right here, however, in that brief experience, I learned a lesson I have never forgotten, namely, order in dressing and undressing. * * * * *

We were held in readiness an hour or more, then learning that everything was quiet, were permitted to retire to our tents.

Crossed the **Ninety-five Mile Desert** to the Gila River and marched down that stream to the Colorado; honorably discharged at Los Angeles, July 16, 1847; went with other discharged members of the Battalion to northern California and was working for John A. Sutter and James Marshall when gold was first discovered, January 24, 1848; arrived in the Salt Lake Valley, Utah, September 28, 1848, served as missionary in the Society Islands, 1850-52; elected Captain of a **Militia Company** and engaged in scouting to report on movements of U.S. troops commanded by Albert Sidney Johnston, 1857; went on a mission to Iowa, 1858, and to England 1860-62; tripped for life by a rifle shot in the thigh fired by a young man who mistook him for a bear during the night of August 20, 1864, in Summit County, Utah.

Left Kanab, Utah, November 22, 1875, at the head of a mission of 14 mounted men to locate suitable places for Mormon settlements in Arizona "south and southeast

of the Colorado River"; returned and reported to Brigham Young at Salt Lake City, January 14, 1876; again left Kanab March 6 in advance of 200 families and arrived at Sunset Crossing on the Little Colorado near which the first settlement was established on March 25; returned to Salt Lake City with a delegation of Navajo chiefs who met Brigham Young in September, 1876; lectured at various places in Utah and secured 80 volunteers to settle in Arizona; again went back to Arizona in February, 1877; returned to Salt Lake August 28, with another delegation of Navajos and was excused by Brigham Young from further service in Arizona.

Went on a second mission to the Society Islands, 1892-93; as a guest of the Society of California Pioneers attended the Golden Jubilee of the Discovery of Gold, January 24, 1898; his autobiography was published in Salt Lake City, 1900, as Life Of A Pioneer; died at Salt Lake City, Utah, March 24, 1902, aged 73, buried City Cemetery, Salt Lake City.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Jenson, A. - Latter-Day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia, S.L., 1920, Vol. 3, pp. 30-31.

Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah p. 774.

McClintock, J.H. - Mormon Settlement in Arizona, Phoenix, 1921, pp. 20, 36, 44, 137, 138, (portrait).

The Adjutant General of the Army - Military service records.

U.S. Veterans Administration - Pension records, Mex. S.C. 8,889.

WANTED

Any newspaper references to him in connection with the Mormon settlement at Sunset Crossing (near Winslow) in March, 1876, or in February, 1877. *no references in Sentinel we have no 1876-1877 papers in State Library file except Sentinel.*