

## CHAPTER 2. THE MORMON BATTALION 1846-1848

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### 1846 - Early in the year - Council Bluffs, Iowa:

Even as the river crossing began, word came that Colonel Stephen W. Kearny was seeking volunteers to serve in the army. The United States had declared war with Mexico in a dispute over the annexation of Texas. Mexican pride had been wounded. The Mexicans still claimed much of Texas territory, and they held the provinces of Upper California and New Mexico. Upper California included present day Utah, the destination of the Saints. President Polk had authorized the enlistment of fifty thousand men to pursue the cause that was popular with American expansionists because it meant the possibility of adding new territory for the United States. Although the Latter-day Saints were indignant and suspicious of a plan that would recruit five hundred from among their number, Brigham Young surprised them by his favoring the plan to recruit a battalion. It could provide needed funds for transporting families west. And it would demonstrate the Mormons' loyalty, many of whose ancestors had fought in the American Revolution.

*Then came the adoption of the general plan of operation involving the calling of five hundred volunteers. Colonel Kearney was authorized to receive into service, as volunteers, a few of the Mormons on their way to California, "with a view to conciliate them, attach them to our country, and prevent them from taking part against us."...He [Kearney] sent Captain James Allen to the camp of the Saints to muster the Battalion, march them to Fort Leavenworth where they would be armed and equipped.<sup>1</sup> [He said] "I will receive all healthy, able-bodied men from eighteen to forty-five years of age."<sup>2</sup>*

Brigham Young led the enlistment drive himself and promised that if they were faithful, the Mormon soldiers would not be required to fight.<sup>3</sup> He arranged for the volunteers to wear their own clothing so their uniform allowance of \$42.00 and part of their pay could be returned to their families.

### 13 July 1846 - Council Bluffs, Iowa:

"Before they left Winter Quarters, a farewell ball was given them in a place they called 'Father Taylor's Bowery.' The afternoon was spent in dancing and such merriment as the sadness of the approaching parting would permit." <sup>4</sup>

### 16 July 1846 - Council Bluffs, Iowa:

Franklin Weaver and his brother Miles enlisted with the rank of private in Company A of the Mormon Battalion to fight in the United States' war with Mexico. They were among the first twenty-five to enlist.<sup>5</sup> "Franklin was [not] old enough to enlist, but managed somehow to do so because he could not bear to be separated from Miles. Martha [their younger sister] was a child of eleven [nine] years but through the scarce number of young men some mere children were forced into service as teamsters."<sup>6</sup> Franklin at the time was only seventeen. He could not enlist without the permission of his mother, who had no fear of his being taken because she knew he would tell the truth about his age. Franklin was possibly too young but he laughed that his age would not be questioned because of the length of his manly beard.<sup>7</sup> He told his mother he would not have to tell his age and felt he must go. True to his intuition he was not asked how old he was because of his size and appearance.<sup>8</sup> It is for this reason that his date of birth has been questioned. Even though he later stated that he was born in 1828, if that were true he would have had no problem enlisting in the battalion in July of 1846 because he would have been eighteen in the previous May.

*The oldest brother, Horace, stayed to care for the family. The youngest brother, Gilbert, was not fourteen at the time, so Miles and Franklin felt that they should go, to represent the Weaver family in the ranks of the Battalion. Martha threw her arms around Franklin and begged him to watch over his brother Miles, [saying] "Guard him and support him, and promise me you'll bring him back to me." Miles' health was far from robust and her anxious heart was wrung at seeing her two boys start off for unknown country.<sup>9</sup>*

But Martha was not the only one who grieved over saying goodbye to her two sons.

*At this time, the family of Samuel Clark was living in Winter Quarters. They had a beautiful daughter with blond hair and pretty gray eyes. Her name was Sally. Now, Sally did not care for her name at all. And having made her feelings known in that regard, her mother resignedly said: "Alright, then, you may be called Sarah." Ever afterward she was called Sarah Clark. When Sarah was 16 years of age, she became engaged to Miles Weaver. That was before he went away to the war with Mexico. It was a sad day for young Sarah when she watched her lover, Miles Weaver, and her two brothers, Joseph and Riley Garner Clark, march away to the strains of "The Girl I Left Behind Me." And she was truly the girl Miles was leaving behind him. Franklin was not leaving a girl behind. Sarah never ever mentioned the incident thereafter without her eyes growing misty."<sup>10</sup>*

Sarah Emmaline Harris<sup>11</sup> wrote: "We suppose that Horace, the older son, was away working, or he would have been in the battalion also [referring to the enlistment records of the Mormon Battalion]." He married Caroline Mary Jane Parsons the 19th of July 1849 in Wiota, Lafayette County, Wisconsin.<sup>12</sup> Records show that his first child, Mary Lucinda Weaver, was born the 7th of October 1850 at Wayne, Wisconsin, showing that he had drifted away from his family.<sup>13</sup> There was a massive influx of people into Wisconsin during 1846 to 1850. Some went to look at land, others to work on the railroad. [See Supplement regarding first marriage of Horace.]

It has been suggested that perhaps Horace stayed with Martha while Miles and Franklin left with the Battalion, not going to Wisconsin until after Martha's death and his sisters' departure for the west. At the time of the mustering of the Battalion in July, Martha Weaver Draper would have been about thirteen weeks from delivery of her expectant child.

Nevertheless, Franklin was determined to go. His obituary noted that "when the call came to that little band of exiled Mormons for five hundred of their best men to take up arms in behalf of the government, he was one of the first to step forth and join the `Mormon' Battalion. With that brave company he traversed the dreary plains and the great desert of North America, and endured great hardships."<sup>14</sup>

#### July 1846 - Council Bluffs, Iowa:

Ebenezer Brown, Franklin's uncle by marriage, enlisted with the Mormon Battalion. His wife Phebe, went along with them as laundress. His eldest daughter was married and his younger boys, Norman and John, were left in her care. Ebenezer was Second Sergeant in Company A of which Miles and Franklin were privates. Riley Garner Clark and Joseph Clark, brothers of Sarah Clark, sweetheart of Miles Weaver, were also privates in Company A. Mustering into company B, was John Rufus Stoddard, age 19, who would later marry Martha Elizabeth Weaver, sister of Franklin.<sup>15</sup> And in Company D, Jonathan Harriman Holmes enlisted with the Mormon Battalion, as a private. He would later become a second father-in-law of Miles and subsequently, Franklin Weaver.<sup>16</sup>

#### 18 July 1846 - Council Bluffs, Iowa:

*The group that left ... included 541 soldiers and nearly a hundred other Latter-day Saints, including wives and children of some of the officers and twenty Battalion wives who served as laundresses. The Battalion consisted of five companies under Captain Allen, who was promoted to lieutenant colonel when he assumed command. Church leaders were allowed to choose the other officers. The Battalion was given a gala farewell on June 15. Later the officers met privately with six of the Twelve, who admonished them "to be as fathers to the privates, to remember their prayers, to see that the name of Deity was revered, and that virtue and cleanliness were strictly observed."*<sup>17</sup>

Eliza R. Snow wrote a poem about the Battalion. The first verse follows:

*When Mormon trains were journeying thru'  
To Winter Quarter from Nauvoo,  
Five hundred men were called to go  
To settle claims with Mexico--  
To fight for that same government  
From which, as fugitives we went.  
What were their families to do--  
Their children, wives and mothers too,  
When fathers, husbands, sons were gone?  
Mothers drove teams, and camps moved on.*

### 20 July 1846 - Council Bluffs, Iowa:

The Mormon Battalion... "started on the march to the tune, 'The Girl I Left Behind Me.'" <sup>18</sup> They marched to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas where they were equipped with one tent for every six privates, a flintlock musket, and a few cap-lock Yeager rifles for sharpshooting and hunting. The pay of private volunteers was \$7.00 per month and an allowance of clothing, which was the cost price of clothing of a regular soldier. On the 5th day of July they drew their checks for clothing, \$42.00 each, paid one year in advance. A substantial portion of this money was sent back for tithing and for support of their families. The paymasters were very much surprised that so many of these men were able to sign their names, because many of the regular army were unable to do so.<sup>19</sup>

### 23 July 1846 - on the trail:

From the history written by an eye-witness and member of the Mormon Battalion, Daniel Tyler:

*We had to perform the painful duty of burying brother Samuel Boley, who died between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock the previous night. This was the first death that occurred in our ranks. He was wrapped in his blanket and buried in a rough lumber coffin, which was the best we could get. On the succeeding day we crossed the Nishnabotany River at Hunsaker's Ferry and camped near Lindon, Missouri. The weather being excessively warm, Colonel Allen was in favor of moderate marches; but Adjutant Dykes, being himself a great walker, and having the advantage of a horse to ride, urged long marches. Colonel Allen consented to this, presuming, probably, that the men wished it. They, however, desired only reasonable, healthful marches. Thus many began to fail at almost the beginning of a journey of over two thousand miles. Several parties, about this time, were taken sick, among whom was the author [Tyler] and were healed by anointing with oil and the laying on of hands, and went on their way rejoicing.*

### 25 July 1846 - Oregon, Missouri:

That evening

*...the command being out of flour, and there being none in the vicinity to purchase, many retired to bed fasting, while others made the best supper they could on parched corn; yet all seemed to be in excellent spirits in the expectation of soon having full rations. No flour, however, was obtained for two days afterwards, during which time a distance of thirty-eight miles was traveled in the heat and dust, and that too, while many of the men were sick. When we had crossed the Nodaway River.... a Missourian, probably a mobocrat of the old type, whose name, we regret, does not appear, who had been hired to deliver a load of flour, stopped at some distance from our camp and refused to deliver it to the quartermaster and take his receipt, because he was a Mormon. He would deliver it to no one but the Colonel. That noble officer, however, was highly insulted, and ordered him to deliver the flour immediately upon pain of being arrested and put under guard. Delivery was made immediately. "Good for the Colonel!" and "God bless the Colonel!" were repeated from one end of the camp to the other.* <sup>21</sup>

### 28 July 1846 - Nodaway River, Missouri:

"Passing on from the Nodaway river, we found the country poor and broken, the road bad and the inhabitants very miserable. A great many of the settlers in this part of the country were old mobocrats, as several of them admitted. They said that they had been misled by false rumors, and very much regretted having persecuted the Saints." <sup>22</sup>

### 30 July 1846 - Weston, Missouri:

"We passed through the thriving town of Weston, keeping time to music, the same as at St. Joseph, to the admiration and astonishment of the inhabitants. They said none but Mormons, under such forbidding circumstances, would have enlisted." <sup>23</sup>

### July 1846 - Between Council Bluffs and Ft. Leavenworth:

The following humorous occurrence took place:

*In the Battalion was a man whom we will call C., who had, by some means, procured a peculiar kind of hat belonging to an officer's uniform of the Nauvoo Legion. This lone hat was the only article of uniform in the Battalion, except that worn by the colonel. Our friend C. was the "speckled bird" of the flock. Naturally enough, his messmates teased him, and by others, many rich and perhaps some cutting jokes were passed at his expense. C., being somewhat eccentric in his way, concluded he had rather "too much of a good thing," and dropped out of the ranks, as some supposed, to desert and return to the Bluffs. This opinion was strengthened by his long absence. Finally "Joe," who is now a resident of Utah, an acquaintance of C., overtook the command on*

*the way to Fort Leavenworth, and gave the following account of the missing man, whom he had passed on the road, and who he thought would be in camp that night.*

*A Missouri farmer, learning that "Joe" belonged to the Mormon community, informed him that he had had the honor of having this colonel to dine with him, and represented him as being a fine appearing man and a gentleman. On receiving a description of the colonel's person and dress, "Joe" concluded that it could have been no other than our eccentric friend, C. An hour or two after "Joe's" arrival, but not until the story of the fine dinner had been pretty well circulated through our camp, in came the missing man, C. No sooner did he enter the lines than one of the boys swung his hat, crying out at the top of his voice, "Three cheers for Colonel C.," which, we believe, were several times repeated, accompanied with loud hurrahs throughout the camp. Col. Allen, who was lying on the ground in his tent, hearing the noise, sprang to his feet and hastily inquired what was the cause of it. On being informed, instead of being angry and ordering him under arrest, as many a stiff-collared fourth corporal would have done, the noble, high-minded commander settled himself down again and laughed and shook his sides until he almost wept. To this day [1881] there are many members of the Battalion to whom our friend is known only as Colonel C. I trust my genial friend, for whom I entertain a high regard, will pardon me for taking away a portion of the monotony of our narrative at his expense.*<sup>24</sup>

### 1 August 1846 - Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas:

The distance from Council Bluffs to Ft. Leavenworth is about two hundred miles, directly down the Missouri river. Their line of march from Fort Leavenworth had taken them across the Kansas River and then westward to the Arkansas, which they followed upstream about one hundred miles. From that point they journeyed southwest to the Cimmaron River and passed the junction of Kansas, Colorado and Oklahoma.<sup>25</sup>

"The new soldiers marched to Ft. Leavenworth, where they were outfitted with muskets and supplies. Col. Allen was suddenly taken ill and remained behind when the Battalion left the fort on Aug. 12, and on Aug. 23 he died. Allen was well liked by the Mormons, and his death caused great sorrow..."<sup>26</sup>

*The officers held a council, and agreed that Captain Hunt should assume the command of the Battalion, which decision was unanimously sustained by the men. At the same time the officers wrote a letter to the President of the United States, informing him of the death of Colonel Allen, and praying him to appoint Captain Hunt to the command. This letter was forwarded to Independence, MO, by Sergeant Ebenezer Brown of company A.*<sup>27</sup>

### 31 August 1846 - Lost Springs, Kansas:

Now, the hopes of the Battalion turned to bitter disappointment when Lt. Andrew J. Smith was named successor to Allen. The Mormon soldiers disliked Smith, and "seeds of

tension were sown... [when] he pushed ahead more rapidly than the men thought proper." <sup>28</sup> In addition, he imposed upon them his own military doctor, Geo. B. Sanderson of Missouri. Sanderson disliked the Mormons and the feeling was reciprocated.

### 2 September 1846 - Kansas:

*About this time, quite a number of the Battalion took sick with the chills and fever, and were administered to by Dr. Sanderson out of an old iron spoon. After this it was customary every morning for the sick to be marched to the tune of 'Jim along Joe' to the doctor's quarters, and take their portion from that same old iron spoon... So determined was Dr. Sanderson that the men should take his calomel and arsenic, that he threatened with an oath, to cut the throat of any man who would administer any medicine without his orders.* <sup>29</sup>

In a letter to the battalion from Brigham Young stated that: "If you are sick, live by faith, and let surgeon's medicine alone if you want to live, using only such herbs and mild food as are at your disposal." In spite of that, even Dr. McIntyre, the assistant surgeon, could not administer a single herbal remedy to his afflicted friends and brethren "unless ordered so to do by the mineral quack who was his superior in office. Every morning at sick call, those who were unable to travel reported themselves to the Surgeon, not only to receive his medicine but his wicked cursing also." <sup>30</sup>

### 5 September 1846 - Kansas:

The farther west they marched, the fewer were the inhabitants. Nevertheless, the Indians kept a watchful eye on the movements of the battalion. Across the vast prairies a march of any size was monitored by Native Americans who passed the word along to their peers in other tribes. Those who knew the land like no soldiers nor settlers could were both puzzled and alarmed with the growing westward encroachment.

"We saw a few buffalo, the first that most of us had ever seen. Several carcasses of these animals that had been killed by Missouri Volunteers lay by the wayside, no portion of them having been used except the tongues. We thought of the scripture: 'Woe unto those who take life and waste flesh when they have no need.'" <sup>31</sup>

### 10 September 1846 - Pawnee Fork, Kansas:

"An express from Santa Fe brought us the glad news of the surrender of that place to General S. F. Kearney, without resistance. An order from the General directed the Battalion to leave the road and not go by way of Bent's Fort, whence we had been ordered by Colonel Allen, but march direct to Santa Fe." <sup>32</sup>

### 17 September 1846 - Ft. Mann, Kansas:

*When the command was given to Lieutenant [Andrew Jackson] Smith, [a non-Mormon] the soldiers were not consulted. This caused an ill-feeling between them and the officers that many hold to this day. The appointment of Smith, even before his character was known, caused a great gloom throughout the command than the death of Colonel Allen had.<sup>33</sup>*

However, Smith made a wise decision, despite protests, in sending ten men with most of the soldiers families up the Arkansas River to Pueblo, Colorado. Here the contingent of mostly women, children and sick men were to spend the winter, then to proceed to the Great Salt Lake valley the following spring. They reached Pueblo November 17. They were sent to Pueblo, rather than elsewhere, specifically to meet a group of Saints from Mississippi and other southern states, who were unaware that Brigham Young had decided to wait until spring before setting out for the west and was still in Winter Quarters. They had been informed of the fact by trappers returning from California who told them that no Mormons were ahead of them. They decided to take up an offer from one of the trappers to spend the winter near the trading post at Pueblo. If Martha Elizabeth Weaver, nine-year-old sister of Miles and Franklin, was among one of the three detachments from the battalion sent to Pueblo, we can locate no verification of it.

### September-October 1846:

*The battalion followed the dry Cimarron Cutoff of the Santa Fe Trail where the terrible taunt of thirst also plagued them...one meager water source [was] a mud hole where the famished men would rush in and suck and strain the water between their teeth "to keep back the dead as well as the live insects" [while] the more able men filled their canteens out of the tracks of oxen and mules to carry water back to brothers disabled by thirst.<sup>34</sup>*

### 9 October 1846 - Santa Fe, Mexican Territory:

"The first division of the Battalion arrived in Santa Fe. On their approach, General Doniphan, the commander of the post, ordered a salute of one hundred guns to be fired from the roofs of houses, in honor of the Mormon Battalion. The second division arrived on the 12th of October."<sup>35</sup>

*When Colonel Sterling Price with his [Missouri] cavalry command which left Fort Leavenworth two or three days ahead of us, arrived at Santa Fe, he was received without any public demonstration, and when he learned of the salute which had been fired in honor of the "Mormons," he was greatly chagrined and enraged. This same General Doniphan, who had been an eminent lawyer of Clay County, Missouri, was present, when Joseph Smith and others were tried by a court-martial of the mob at Far West, in 1838. When the prisoners were sentenced upon that occasion to be shot in the presence of their families, General Doniphan denounced the decision as "cold-blooded*

*murder," and swore that neither he nor the regiment which he commanded should witness the execution. He was not only an officer in the militia, but he was the only lawyer of prominence who was present on that occasion, and his influence was such that by his firm and spirited action the decision of the court-martial was changed and the prisoners were turned over to the custody of the civil authorities of the state.*

*When the battalion arrived at Santa Fe, General Doniphan was pleased to find a number of old acquaintances and friends among the soldiers, whom he knew to be honorable, upright and loyal men, and it was probably the memory of the wrongs which they had suffered from the Missouri mobocrats which prevented him from extending any courtesies to Colonel Price and his disgraceful command on their arrival.*<sup>36</sup>

For this writer, it is particularly heartwarming to note that some of the old buildings around the central square that were built long before 1846 still exist today (1996), and were there when Franklin and Miles came through Santa Fe. Of particular importance is the old Palace of the Governors, now a museum, under whose porticoes sit many Native Americans selling their handmade pottery and silver. Santa Fe is an old, old city!

About arrivals in old Santa Fe, another observer wrote:

*Day after day...until the weeks grow into months...finally the trail climbs the last pass and drops down into a great valley, A small river is near at hand and far to the westward can be seen the course of the Rio Grande. In the middle distance lies the second oldest white-man's city in America--old before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock--Santa Fe, dirty, drowsy, squalid: but picturesque, romantic outpost of the Spanish monarchy... There are straggling adobe huts among the fields, and then the trail becomes a city street. Dogs bark, children shout, and suddenly the town awakes from its afternoon siesta. People run into the streets and take up the cry: "Los Americanos!" All the town comes out in holiday attire...*<sup>37</sup>

### 18 October 1846 - Santa Fe, New Mexico:

After a council was held, all of the sick, together with the remaining women and children, were sent back to Pueblo, Colorado for the winter. They traveled under the direction of Captain J. Brown.

### 19 October 1846 - Santa Fe, New Mexico:

The battalion, now under the command of Lt. Col. Philip Cooke, and "destitute of clothing and with [a] meager supply of provisions, and with broken-down and worn out mules...were pushed out, by companies, six miles to Agua Fria, where some grazing might be had."<sup>38</sup> After departing the Santa Fe area they followed the river variously called Rio del Norte, Rio de las Palmas, Rio Bravo and known now as the Rio Grande, southward. Colonel Cooke said "everything conspired to discourage the extraordinary undertaking of marching this battalion eleven hundred miles through the wilderness...without road or even trail..." See inset map, page 45.

### 10 November 1846 - South of Belen, New Mexico:

A third detachment of worn and weakened men turned back. They were as far south as today's city of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, and had to retrace their way back to Santa Fe and beyond. Lt. Wm. W. Willis led them to Pueblo, Colorado, where the Mormon colony grew to about 150 men and their families.

### 17 November 1846 - along the Mimbres River:

"Camped on the Mimbres, a branch of the Rio Grande. Here we found some grass and willow bushes."<sup>39</sup> The Mimbres, a river in Grant County, New Mexico, means "willow trees" in the Spanish language.

### 21 November 1846 - southern Arizona:

Miles and Franklin, with the battalion now at only 350 members, crossed the lower Rio Grande and turned toward Tucson. Occasionally they followed Spanish or Mexican trails, but generally they cut new roads.<sup>40</sup> This part of the march also took its toll in sickness. Though the days are often warm this time of year, the nights are very cold. The months of November and December were actually the ideal time for the battalion to pass through the desert countries of southern New Mexico, Arizona and California. Though their difficulties were severe, it is doubtful if they could have survived a march during the heat of July, August or September.

### 7 December 1846 - San Pedro Valley, Arizona:

From the journal of Nathaniel V. Jones, Company D, it is reported that they "found horses and wild cattle in great herds...One of our guides killed a wild bull in camp that night." The famous "Battle of the Bulls" took place here. Wild cattle were the product of cattle abandoned by ranchers of San Bernardino and San Pedro because of the incessant Indian attacks. This livestock increased and spread over the area and were as wild and more dangerous than buffalo. The wild cattle stampeded the line of march, goring and killing some of the battalions pack animals and injuring two men. However, the wild cattle provided much welcomed meat for the battalion. "When a large bull charged Miles Weaver, it was a shot from the musket of Franklin that dropped the animal at his brother's feet and saved his life. Many of these wild animals were killed, providing meat for many days. This was the only fighting the troops had to do."<sup>41</sup> Franklin had saved the life of his brother, Miles.

### 15 December 1846 - Tucson, Arizona:

Tucson, capital of the Mexican state of Sonora, was a northern outpost of the Mexican nation. If there was to be fighting, the Mormon Battalion expected it here.

*About six miles before we came to the garrison we met several men from there who tried to have us pass around the fort, but the Col. pushed on with double speed, until*

*we came to the town, when on our arrival the soldiers fled, and many inhabitants with them, taking all their public arms, cannons, etc. We marched through the town and camped on the west side of it.*<sup>42</sup>

Thus the battalion's nearest encounter with the enemy, the Mexican army, failed to produce a single shot fired in combat. They were later to learn that

*reinforcements from three other garrisons had been ordered, and were on their way to aid their Tucsonian brethren in the defense of their pueblo.... In fact, the soldiers and citizens able to bear arms, at Tucson alone would have outnumbered us, and, having a fort and walled town, with two pieces of cannon, could have resisted a force far superior to our little band... Who shall say that the same God who sent terror into the camps of the enemies of ancient Israel, did not have an eye over the little modern Israelitish force then crossing the great desert by his Divine command through the Prophet Brigham, who had said, "There will be no fighting, except with wild beasts."*<sup>43</sup>

Colonel Cooke then sent a conciliatory letter to the governor of Sonora stating that

*...I have found it necessary to take this presidio in my route to the Gila.... Meanwhile I make a wagon road from the streams of the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, through the valuable plains and mountains, rich with minerals, of Sonora. This, I trust, will prove useful to the citizens of either republic, who, if not more closely, may unite in the pursuits of a highly beneficial commerce...*<sup>44</sup>

## 21 December 1846 - at the Gila River:

A march of about fifty miles

*...brought us to the Gila River, where we made a halt. While here our camp was visited by from 1,500 to 2,000 Pima Indians. Although all our property was exposed in such a manner that many articles might have been easily stolen, not a thing was molested by them. Weaver, one of the guides, assured us that these Indians were so scrupulous that they had been known to follow travelers half a day to restore lost property to the owner.*<sup>45</sup>

The other guides of the Mormon Battalion were Charboneaux and Antonio Leroux, the principal guide. Because of the many references in the history of the Mormon Battalion mentioning "Weaver" as a guide, some have assumed that either Miles or Franklin acted in that capacity, but there is no evidence that either of them ever were guides to the Battalion, whereas there are a number of references indicating the true identity of "Weaver, the guide," as Pauline Weaver, a Frenchman and a well-known guide.<sup>46</sup> However, the confusion about this point has a valid source, as Franklin's obituary stated that "at that time he had more power of endurance than most of his companions, hence was chosen and sent out to search for water and scout for his

company [Company A] through all their weary marches; and many times carried back canteens of water to his flagging companions.<sup>47</sup>

**23 December 1846 - west of Tucson, Arizona:**

"On the night of the 23rd and during the 24th we camped at a village of the Maricopa Indians, who were estimated to number about ten thousand... Colonel Cooke very kindly suggested to our senior officers that this vicinity would be a good place for the exiled Saints to locate. A proposition to this effect was favorably received by the Indians."<sup>48</sup>

**25 December 1846 - west of Tucson, Arizona:**

"We spent Christmas day by marching eighteen miles from the Maricopa village, mainly up hill and over sand, and camped without water. The following day we advanced twenty-three miles and encamped near the Gila River."<sup>49</sup>

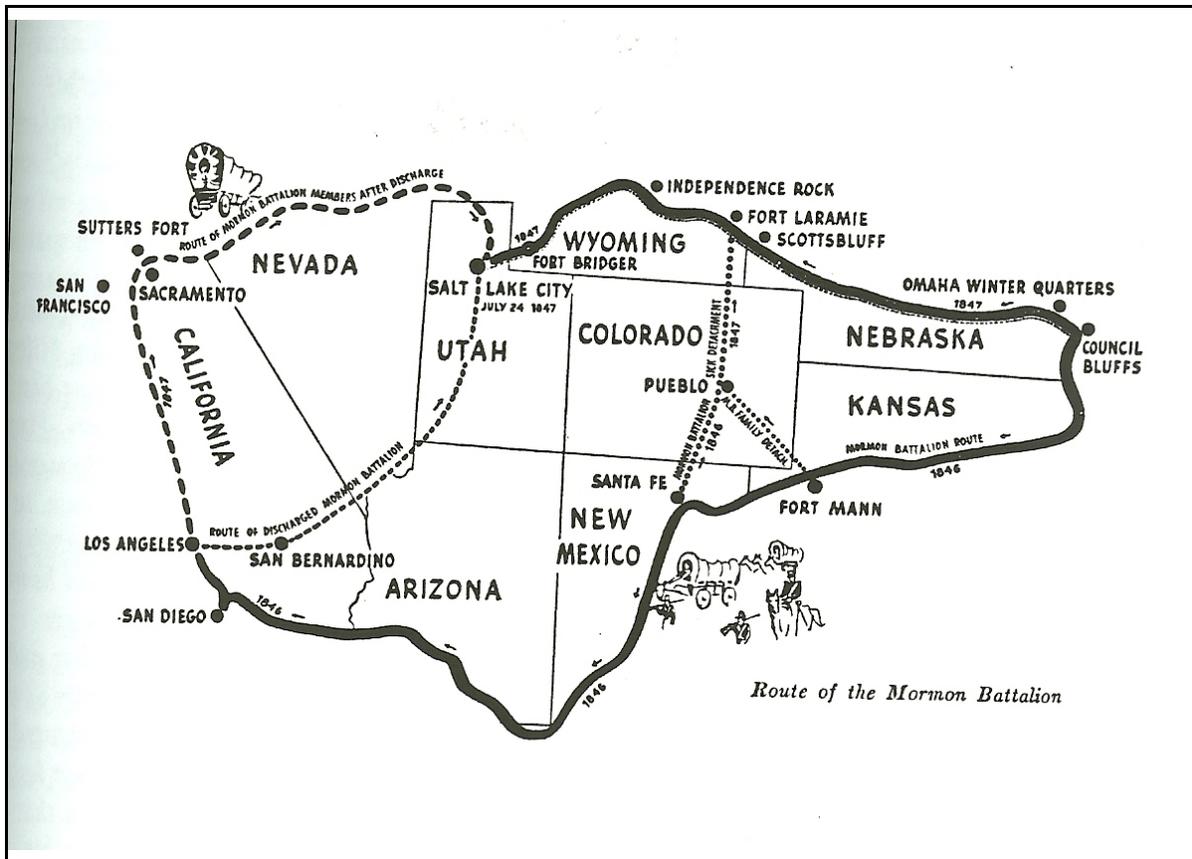
**5 January 1847 - west of Tucson, Arizona:**

Supplies having been lost in an attempt to transport them down the Gila River by floating wagon beds, the rations were reduced to one ounce of food per man per day until the 9th, when the men arrived "who had been sent back to recover the provisions left on the Gila from the barge. They brought with them about four hundred pounds of flour, but found no pork."<sup>50</sup>

**10, 11 January 1847 - crossing the Colorado River:**

The Battalion crossed the wide and shallow Colorado River. They were no longer in Sonora but were now in the Mexican state of Alta California. The guides led them in a westerly direction to cross the desert. The days were hot and nights freezing. The trail ranged in texture from hard clay to soft sand. Colonel Cooke became alarmed at the report that there was not a drop of water for the next sixty miles. His fear for his men was justified. Tyler wrote that:

*in this emergency, [Pauline] Weaver, one of the guides and an old mountaineer trapper, was sent for, to ascertain the practicability of traveling sixty miles more or less down the river. He thought, with our weak teams and worn-out men, it would be next to impossible. According to Cooke's account which is doubtless correct, he now cast one more anxious look down the old well, and ... ordered a fresh detail to further sink the new well... A half hour later all hearts were made glad with the tidings of water deep enough to fill our camp kettles.<sup>51</sup>*



Norma Baldwin Ricketts, Mormons and the Discovery of Gold. Placerville, CA: Pioneer Press, 1966. <sup>52</sup>

14 January 1847 - across the desert:

"On the morning of the 14th, Lieutenant Stoneman and Weaver, with about twenty-five men, started early to hasten on to the next well, called the Pozo Hondo, and make preparations for the arrival of the command ... As usual, the night was very cold, and the half-naked men suffered for want of more and better clothing." <sup>53</sup>

Twenty-five miles later they came to the first running water they had seen since leaving the Colorado River.

*The march of the last five days was the most trying of any we had made, on both men and animals. We here found the heaviest sand, hottest days and coldest nights, with no water and but little food. Language fails to provide adjectives strong enough to describe our situation... At this time the men were nearly barefooted; some used, instead of shoes, rawhide wrapped around their feet... Others wrapped cast-off clothing around*

*their feet, to shield them from the burning sand during the day and the cold at night. Before we arrived at the Cariza, many of the men were so nearly used up from thirst, hunger and fatigue, that they were unable to speak until they reached the water or had it brought to them. Those who were strongest reported, when they arrived, that they had passed many lying exhausted by the way-side.*<sup>54</sup>

#### Undated:

*Day after day, over the long weary miles, trudged the two [Weaver] brothers, cheering and helping one another along the way. After weary weeks, one day Miles came down with a high fever. Franklin helped him along the line of march as best he could, giving him his own ration of water. Miles became weaker and weaker. Finally Jefferson Hunt, captain of the company, ordered Franklin to leave Miles. He was too weak to continue on, and they couldn't hold up the whole company for one man, as they had to find a camp near water by nightfall. Miles seemed unconscious as Franklin fixed a shelter for him with a blanket over some bushes. With a sad heart he went on with the others. That night, after camp was made and all were asleep, Franklin made his way back to his seriously ill brother. He found him weaker and could get no response from him. So he administered to Miles by the authority of the Priesthood, and pleaded with the Lord for help--that his brother could be restored to health. He reminded the Lord of the promise he had made to his mother, that he would bring Miles back to her and [he] beseeched the Lord to help him keep that promise. He had brought his portion of food with him, and after praying for his brother and massaging his limbs, Miles started to respond and near dawn he was able to sit up and take the food Franklin had brought. Strength returned hastily to Miles, and they were able to make it to camp, just as the company was awakening. With humble, grateful hearts, the two brothers were able to continue the long journey together--with thanks to their Heavenly Father who had heard and answered their prayers.*<sup>55</sup>

Once again, Franklin had saved the life of his brother, Miles.

#### 15 January 1847 -in a westerly direction across the desert:

*This morning we started through a rough mountain country and continued on until two the next day, when we came to water and some grass. The men were scattered for fifteen or twenty miles along the road. Some sick and some out for want of water, and other with their feet so sore they could not walk...no water for the last hundred miles except the little that we got by digging for it and that, poison.*<sup>56</sup>

The men made boots from the hides of oxen and sewed them with sinews. Others improvised by wrapping rawhide around their feet. The men survived with water from their canteens, but the animals had no water for three days.

#### 18 January 1847 - Pometo Springs, California:

A letter arrived announcing the arrival of men who had been sent for supplies and promising assistance. The Colonel's journal says: "I went through their companies this morning;

they were eating their last four ounces of flour; of sugar and coffee, there has been none for some weeks." The company did not advance on the 18th, "But spent the day in cleaning up our arms, and in the evening the men were paraded and inspected. The Colonel expressed great surprise at seeing the half starved, worn-out men who, only the night previous, had staggered into camp,... from sheer exhaustion and hunger, now playing the fiddle and singing merry songs." <sup>57</sup> From the journal of Henry Standage of this date is the following entry: "We have nothing but beef and very small rations of that; I was glad, today, to go and pick up the pork rinds that were thrown away by the Colonel's cook, although they were in the sand." <sup>58</sup>

### 19 January 1847 - through the mountain pass:

With the Laguna Mountains on the west and Vallecito and Pinyon Mountains on the east the Battalion chose to travel the dry wash known as Box Canyon. However the wagons were too wide and the walls of the canyon were widened with picks and axes, then the wagons were raised and lowered by ropes. This pass later became known as the *Foot and Walker Pass* because the Butterfield stage passengers had to get out on foot and walk up.

*On the 19th, after about three or four miles of hard travel, mainly up hill, we came to a halt; even Weaver [the Frenchman], our regular guide, believed "we were penned up." Our indefatigable commander, however, seemed to think it was too late in the day to abandon the wagon enterprise. He very sternly told the guide if he did not find a crossing or passage through these rocks and mountain gorges, he would send men that would do it ... We surmounted all difficulties and succeeded in getting over the ridge inside of two hours.* <sup>59</sup>

### 21 January 1847 - Warner's Rancho:

Not far from the present day Santa Rosa Indian Reservation the Battalion came to Warner's Rancho and ate the first full meal since leaving Tucson. "Came to Warners about two in the afternoon, the first settlement in California. Here we found one white man and about three hundred Indians." <sup>60</sup> In 1844, Governor Manuel Micheltoarena of Upper California granted 44,322 acres to Juan Jose Warner who built his home near the present day junction of California Highway 79 and S-2. The Butterfield Stage Line, in 1858, using the road first carved out by the Mormon Battalion, stopped at the Warner Rancho enroute from Tipton, Missouri to San Francisco. The distance was 2600 miles. It took the stage 24 days.

*Warner's was the first house we saw in California...Here we had the first full meal, except at Tucson and the wild bull country, since the reduction of our rations on the Rio Del Norte [Rio Grande]. This meal consisted of fresh, fat beef without salt, obtained from Mr. Warner, a native of the State of Massachusetts. A few pancakes were purchased from Indians, but no other bread could be got. Three fat beeves were purchased (Warner reserving the hides) for \$3.50.* <sup>61</sup>

### 23 January 1847 - Warner's Rancho:

"The commanding officer decided to march towards Los Angeles and join and assist General Kearny in capturing that place, it being the Spanish capital of California." <sup>62</sup>

### 25 January 1847 - Warner's Rancho:

Orders were received that the battalion proceed to San Diego rather than to the Pueblo de Los Angeles.

*We received a dispatch from General Kearny, ordering the march to San Diego, as at first anticipated, to meet him there. We reached Temecula Valley that day, where we found a portion of the San Luis Rey Indians, who had gathered to bury their dead, and they mistook us and we them for Californians. Both lines were in battle array before the mistake was discovered. The Indians were much pleased to see us, and the leading men shook hands heartily with Cooke and many others.* <sup>63</sup>

### 27 January 1847 - San Luis Rey, California:

*Traveling down the river, we arrived at a... deserted Catholic mission about noon. One mile below the mission we ascended a bluff when the long, long-looked for great Pacific Ocean appeared plain to our view... Prior to leaving Nauvoo, we had talked about and sung of the "great Pacivid sea" and we were now upon its very borders, and its beauty far exceeded our most sanguine expectations...Traveling in sight of the ocean, the clear bright sunshine, with the mildness of the atmosphere, combined to increase the enjoyment of the scene before us...January there seemed as pleasant as May in the northern States...The birds sang sweetly and all nature seemed to smile and join in praise to the Giver of all Good; but the crowning satisfaction of all to us was that we had succeeded in making the great national highway across the American desert, nearly filled our mission, and hoped soon to join our families and the Saints, for whom, as well as our country, we were living martyrs.*

*The next thought was, where, oh where were our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, wives and children who we had left in the howling wilderness, among savages, or at Nauvoo, subject to the cruelties of the mobs?... Had they found a resting place where they could dwell in peace until they could raise a crop, or go, unknown, among their enemies and labor to replenish their exhausted store of provisions? We trusted in God that they were in the land of the living somewhere and hoped we might find them on our return in or near the valley of Great Salt Lake, within the limits of California, then a Mexican State, but this was only hope. We comforted ourselves with the fact that it was the "Lord's business to provide for His Saints," and that He was "not slack concerning His promises." Amid it all, we went on our way rejoicing.* <sup>64</sup>

### 29 January 1847 - San Diego, California:

The battalion camped about a mile below the Catholic Mission, some four or five miles from the seaport town of San Diego, where General Kearny was quartered. "The Colonel rode down in the evening and reported to the General." <sup>65</sup>

### 30 January 1847 - San Diego, California:

Col. Cooke's Order No. 1 was to commend the battalion. He congratulated the battalion on their safe arrival on the shore of the Pacific Ocean and the conclusion of their march of over 2000 miles. He read the men the following commendation:

*History may be searched in vain for an equal march of infantry. Half of it has been through a wilderness where nothing but savages and wild beasts are found, or deserts where, for want of water, there is no living creature. There, with almost hopeless labor we have dug deep wells, which the future traveler will enjoy. Without a guide who had traversed them, we have ventured into trackless table-lands where water was not found for several marches... The garrison of four presidios of Sonora concentrated within the walls of Tucson, gave us no pause. We drove them out, with their artillery...unmarked by a single act of injustice...Arrived at the first settlement of California, after a single day's rest, you cheerfully turned off from the route to this point of promised repose, to enter upon a campaign, and meet, as we supposed, the approach of an enemy; and this too, without even salt to season your sole subsistence of fresh meat...Thus, volunteers, you have exhibited some high and essential qualities of veterans.* <sup>66</sup>

According to a brochure available at the Old Town San Diego Mormon Battalion Visitor's Center, the two thousand mile march still stands as the longest infantry march by any unit of the United States Army.

Peace was brought about in California, and as General Kearny said, "From thence forth Californians may consider themselves as Americans." The Mormon Battalion performed garrison duty and other sundry tasks, including construction of a fort amidst rumors of armed resistance by the Mexicans.

An additional accomplishment of the Mormon Battalion lay in the logistical contribution they made to the United States. The wagon road they carved out of the southern wilderness was followed by the Butterfield Stage Lines across New Mexico, Arizona and California. Later, when the stage lines were put out of business by the railroad, the Southern Pacific was chosen and the land for the Gadsden Purchase was selected by using maps made by the Mormon Battalion. Some of the re-enlisted volunteers of the battalion cut a road from San Bernardino through Las Vegas to the Salt Lake Valley, which route eventually became interstate highway I-15.<sup>67</sup>

Many of the campsites of the battalion in New Mexico, Arizona, California and also Nevada later became outposts of Mormon settlements which have become both populous and prosperous in the century-and-a-half to follow.<sup>68</sup>

### January 1847 - New Hope (San Francisco), California:

Samuel Brannan began publishing the *Yerba Buena California Star*, using the equipment he'd brought from his New York publishing business. A settlement was started which was called New Hope, but later, when word reached them that the Saints were staying in the Great Salt Lake Valley, the place was abandoned.<sup>69</sup>

### 30 May 1847 - San Diego, California:

"A letter from San Francisco to Sgt. Hyde... stated that the Saints who sailed from New York on the ship *Brooklyn* had arrived and sown 145 acres of wheat, and that Samuel Brannan had gone to meet the Saints at or near the Great Salt Lake." <sup>70</sup>

#### 22 June 1847 - San Diego, California:

The Mormon Battalion provided the military strength and support that General Kearney needed to keep the peace in what was now American territory. He hoped that many would re-enlist when their term of service was concluded.

*Col. Stevenson arrived from Los Angeles... He spoke in the highest terms of the industry and morals of the Battalion and of their good reputation among the Californians, and expressed a great desire to have the men re-enlist... Cpt. Hunter [of the Battalion] followed in a short speech, in which he offered to re-enlist, for six months, on condition that the Col. would grant the company, at the expiration of the term, pay and rations to San Francisco Bay or Bear River Valley, which proposal the Col. readily accepted, also promising that a small detachment should be sent to meet the families, and act as pioneers for them if necessary. He further promised that those who remained in San Diego should have the privilege of continuing to obtain work and earn money whenever off duty.*<sup>71</sup>

Many availed themselves of this opportunity. Among the battalion's accomplishments at San Diego was the building of the first fire brick kiln in California. With the bricks they built the first brick building in California which was first used as a courthouse, later as a school and a church. They dug wells in San Diego and lined them with bricks to improve the water supply. They built a blacksmith shop and a bakery. Members of the battalion also whitewashed many of San Diego's buildings, repaired carts and performed other services for the community. Lt. Robert Clift, a battalion member, was the third mayor of San Diego and served in that capacity until the end of his enlistment.<sup>72</sup>

One of the men, Henry G. Boyle, writing of their labors, said, "the citizens of San Diego became so attached to us that before our term of service expired, they got up a petition to the Governor of California to use his influence to keep us in the service. The petition was signed by every citizen in town." <sup>73</sup>

#### 28 June 1847 - San Diego, California:

*The Southern Military Dist. Commander told the governor of California: "All persons at San Diego are anxious that the Mormons should remain there; by their industry they have taught the inhabitants the value of having an American population among them, and if they are continued, they will be of more value in reconciling the people to the change of government than a whole host of bayonets."* <sup>74</sup>

#### 4 July 1847 - San Diego, California:

"The roar of cannon at daybreak announced the seventieth anniversary of our nation's birth... These demonstrations pleased the citizens so well that they brought out all the wine and brandy we wanted, and a hundred times more."<sup>75</sup>

Orders were immediately given for the company to be in readiness to march to Los Angeles and join the remainder of the Battalion, preparatory to being discharged on the 16th.

### 16 July 1847 - Los Angeles, California:

*All the [Mormon] Battalion who did not re-enlist were mustered out, most prepared to go to Salt Lake City. They went by way of Sutters Ft. and the Sacramento River, intending to follow Fremont's trail. Near Lake Tahoe they met Samuel Brannan and Cpt. Brown, who carried a message from the apostles of the Mormon church, advising all members of the battalion who had no means to remain in California for the winter and come to Salt Lake the next spring. Acting on this advice, about one half of the members obtained employment at Sutter's Ft. and at Caloma Mill on the American River, where gold was discovered. Among those were the Weaver brothers.*<sup>76</sup>

A small group of men who were anxious to see their families, or sweethearts, as in the case of Miles Weaver,<sup>77</sup> went on ahead.

The majority of the disbanded Battalion members traveled together arriving at Sutter's Fort on August 25th. Sutter offered them fair wages and some of the Battalion decided to stay and work. Some did, including Franklin.<sup>78</sup>

From a diary or log book kept by Captain John A. Sutter and his staff the following entries were made. For the dates included the entries were made by Sutter exclusively:

*Friday Aug. 27th 1847 - A good Many of the Mormons here, to get some Blacksmith work done, & to buy some provisions. Made a contract and entered in partnership with Marshall for a sawmill to be built on the Amer: fork.*

*Saturday Aug. 28th 1847 - A many Mormons again got the horses shoed etc. Made some contracts with some of them to work here.*

*Monday August 30th 1847 - Engaged about 7 Mormon more.*

*Tuesday Sept. 1st 1847 - This Day entered in Service Thomas Weir tanner and curryer, likewise [Jonathan Harriman] Holmes Shoemaker.*<sup>79</sup>

Although the main body of the Battalion began leaving for the Salt Lake valley on August 27th, they turned around when they met Sam Brannan and Captain Brown carrying a message from Brigham Young. The Battalion members were advised to spend the winter in California and earn as much as they could to help the suffering Saints still on the plains. Brigham Young's letter stated that all Battalion members who had no families in the Salt Lake Valley or did not have sufficient means, were to return to California to work for clothing, stock and provisions, until next spring. Brown also was instructed to collect the mustering-out pay of the Battalion members. Brown told them that over one hundred pioneers had arrived in the Salt Lake Valley and that provisions were extremely short. About half the Battalion turned back to Sutter's Fort and the other half continued on. Brannan felt that California, not Salt Lake should be the gathering place

of the Saints, and felt disillusioned and angry. His return stop at Sutter's Fort was a brief one. He then formed a partnership to open a one-room store in the Vaquero House. In an effort to forget his disappointment Brannan plunged into the affairs of business, eventually acquiring a large fortune, and "growing apart" from the Saints he had shepherded from East to West.<sup>80</sup>

Sutter's diary reveals much traveling around Sutter's domain by the Mormons as they were assigned different jobs. There was a flour mill, a lumber mill, a shingle and clapboard operation. There were trees to be felled and logs to be hewn. Sutter also had a carpenter shop, a blacksmith shop, a tannery and a boot making shop. His farm produced wheat, potatoes, pumpkins, melons and other vegetables. The Mormons built three granaries for Sutter. The flour mill had to be run night and day to satisfy the demand of flour. There was also a lot of illness. Sutter recorded on October 2nd, 1847: "a good many of the Mormons are sick on account their working to hard." But the work of the expansion of California was soon to take on dramatic proportions.

### 24 January 1848 - Sutter's Fort, California:

One of the most significant events in the history of the development of the western United States came about when gold was discovered. John Marshall, Sutter's partner in the sawmill that was built on the American River, got a tin plate from the Mormon cabin and "just before quitting time, Marshall told the men he thought he had found a gold mine."<sup>81</sup> That night Henry Bigler, a discharged Battalion member, recorded in his small pocket diary the words which later established the date for the discovery of gold: "This day some kind of mettle was found in the tail of the race that looks like goald [sic]."<sup>82</sup> The following Sunday he wrote: "Our metal has been tride and proves to be Goald [sic] it is thought to be rich [.] We have pict [sic] up more than a hundred dollars worth last week."<sup>83</sup>

*California is indebted to Mormon colonists for her first newspaper, published by Brannan's colony in 1846, and it was the picks and shovels of the Mormon Battalion boys that brought to the surface the first grains of yellow metal declared by their foreman, James W. Marshall, to be gold; a discovery that made California the mightiest of the Pacific States and revolutionized the commerce of the world.*<sup>84</sup>

It was not long before gold would become more plentiful than food.<sup>85</sup> Four major factors contributed to the expansion of the West. The Mormon Battalion assisted in all four areas: The opening of highways, the conquest of northern Mexico, the discovery of gold, and the adoption of irrigation-style farming.

*In addition to the accomplishments already noted, the Battalion made a great logistic contribution. The wagon road they literally carved across the wilderness was followed by the Butterfield Stage Lines and other travelers for decades. When the stage lines were put out of business by railroads, the route of the Southern Pacific was chosen and the land for the Gadsden Purchase selected by using maps and the route made by the Mormon Battalion. The great southwest was opened up and profoundly influenced by the faithful men of the Mormon Battalion.*<sup>86</sup>

### July 1847 - March 1848 - New Hope (San Francisco), California:

*While here Franklin met a very lovely young lady by the name of Christiana Rachel Reed [or Read], the daughter of John H. and Christiana Gregory Reed [or Read] who lived in Philadelphia, PA. Rachel had sailed on the ship "Brooklyn" with Samuel Brannan all the way around Cape Horn, over to Hawaii to unload a cargo of merchandise then back to San Francisco. Franklin became very much in love with this young lady and asked her for hand in marriage, which she gladly accepted.*<sup>87</sup>

"Rachel's mother, Christiana Gregory Reed [or Read], was a midwife and was kind and generous. When the survivors of the Donner party were taken into the camp at Sutter's Fort, she cared for an orphan child who had somehow lived through the ordeal. The little girl's feet were badly frozen, but Christiana doctored her and nursed her back to health."<sup>88</sup>

*Christiana Rachel with her mother, Christiana Gregory Reed [or Read] and her sister Hannah [Reed] Tucker, who was widowed, used what little money they had a booked passage on the ship "Brooklyn" bound for the west coast of America, then Mexican territory. Rachel washed clothes and tended children to help pay her way. Trials and hardships were many on board the ship. They sailed around South America, stopping at the island of Juan Fernandez, where Robinson Crusoe lived. They also visited the Hawaiian Islands, landing in San Francisco July 31, 1846... Christiana weighed the first gold in Sutters Mill because she was the only person with a pair of scales small enough to do the job.*<sup>89</sup>

#### **2 December 1847 - San Francisco, California:**

John Borrowman, who was mustered out of the Battalion with Franklin also went to San Francisco, first called Yerba Buena, to work. He engaged the services of Rachel's mother to make him some clothing. "Bought 24 yards of muslin for shirts and garments and paid four dollars and seven cents for it, one bolt of tape and two spools of thread included... I took the remainder of my cloth to Sister Reid [Reed or Read] to make me two garments... Went to meeting and the San Francisco branch of the Church as organized."<sup>90</sup>

#### **11 March 1848 - Sutter's Fort, California:**

The Mormons had agreed to stay with Sutter until the sawmill was finished, although they could have made considerably more money by panning or mining for gold. The mill was finished by March 11th.<sup>91</sup> Franklin abandoned his opportunity to stay on to get rich quick. He was ready to start a new life with his new bride and to start his family at the new gathering place of the Saints in the valleys of the Great Basin.

#### **12 March 1848 - San Francisco, California:**

The wedding of Franklin Weaver to Christiana Rachel Reed took place the 12th of March 1848 in San Francisco, the ceremony being conducted by Elder Addison Pratt. Zelnora Glover acted as bridesmaid for Rachel. "The next morning they started for Utah on horse back with all their possessions on one pack animal. After traveling 365 miles alone they met a wagon train and continued on to the valley with them."<sup>92</sup> A delayed marriage record was filed in Davis Co., Utah, on the 26th of March 1888 and witnessed by Zelnora Glover.<sup>93</sup> However, in a 1996 compilation of Mormon Battalion sources, Norma B. Ricketts has determined that Franklin and Rachel were part of the Ebenezer Brown company which left Pleasant Valley (50 miles east of Sutter's Fort), but not until August 10, 1848 (see Supplement).

### April 1848 - Mormon Island, in the American River, California:

In just one day in April a few men, panning for gold, took out \$250. Henry Bigler, Sidney Wills, William Hudson, Azariah Smith and Levi Fifield of the disbanded Mormon Battalion explored upriver, finding even more gold and laid their claims. Others followed after them and founded the first gold camp of the Great California Gold Rush, Mormon Bar. Sam Brannan could just imagine the flood of business that this would bring after he surveyed the busy scenes at Mormon Bar, Mormon Island and Mormon Diggings. He sold everything from blankets to shovels to whiskey. By mid-May he was back in San Francisco spreading the word of vast riches just waiting to be gathered up by those with ambition.

By June the news had gone far beyond California. Returning members of the Mormon Battalion brought news to Salt Lake City, where Brigham Young said, "If you elders of Israel want to go to the gold mines, then go and be damned."

Only a few Mormons hitched up and hurried to California. Even Bigler and his men turned away from the gold fields and went home to Salt Lake. But from Canada to Peru the entire rim of the Pacific was inflamed with gold fever. Some, like Brannan, even sailed around the tip of South America to reach the west coast from the east coast.

### 2 July 1848 - Sutter's Fort, California:

Though many former Battalion members recognized that the promise of riches from the discovery of gold was a great inducement to stay in California, yet preparations continued to made to go east to join the main body of the Saints in Utah. The first group to leave northern California (Pleasant Valley) to journey to the Salt Lake Valley was the Holmes-Thompson Company of approximately 44 men. The next group left under the direction of Ebenezer Brown August the 10th, 1848 and included Miles, Franklin, Rachel and members of Rachel's family.<sup>94</sup> Of the vanguard company Joseph Fish wrote:

*They were making a new road and it was with almost incredible toil that these brave men cut the way for their wagons, lifting them up the stoney ascents, and letting them down the deep declivities. As the wagons rolled up along the divide between the American River and the Cosumnes on the National Fourth, their cannon thundered independence before the high Sierra. It was a strange sight, exiles for their faith thus delighting to honor the power that had driven them as outcasts into the wilderness. On the nineteenth they found the bodies of Browett, Allen and Cox, at a place that still bears the name of Tragedy Spring. A week earlier those three had started out to look for a road across the Sierra Nevadas and met their end by the hands of hostile Indians.<sup>95</sup>*

On August 26th, eleven men of the Brown company decided to go on ahead. Among them was Miles Weaver, John R. Stoddard and John Reed, Rachel's brother (see Supplement).

Of those who remained in California, about 45 adults and some 65 children, some, like Brannan, lost interest in the affairs of religion. A few joined a Mormon community at San Bernardino. Later two of Franklin's sisters would become part of the San Bernardino community. Although the Saints officially vacated that place early in 1858 to return to Utah, some stayed. Some who remained kept the faith.<sup>96</sup>

Survivors of the Mormon Battalion have been honored in many times and places. Some of their descendants organized The U.S. Mormon Battalion, Inc., and provide literature at the Mormon Battalion Visitors Center near Old Town San Diego. A sole survivor of the Battalion was honored as late as 1935.<sup>97</sup>

Riley Weaver, a son of Franklin, used to sing to his children a song from his father's Battalion days entitled "The Lonesome Howling Wolves." The chorus was as follows:

*We burnt ashes and coal over their graves,  
To hide them from the savages,  
And the lonesome howling wolves.*

While singing the chorus Riley used a carpenter saw, running his fingers up the blade to demonstrate the howling wolves.<sup>98</sup>

It has been a great source of pleasure to this writer to realize that Miles and Franklin, as part of the Mormon Battalion, marched through the parts of New Mexico that have become home to this descendant. It is with satisfaction that a certain recognition can be frequently viewed. Between Santa Fe and Albuquerque, on the west side of the interstate highway, I-25, a spire of rough rocks topped by a wheel, stands as a monument to the Mormon Battalion which passed by so many years ago.<sup>99</sup> In 1996 church members, community leaders and government officials in New Mexico gathered to rededicate the monument (see Church News, October 5, 1996, p. 11). Walter Bradley, New Mexico Lt. Governor, and personal friend of the author, spoke on that occasion.

A booklet produced for the Visitor's Center in San Diego notes 21 other Mormon Battalion memorials and markers along the 2000 mile route the Battalion covered. Another publication notes over seventy sites and markers along the route the Mormon Battalion covered.<sup>100</sup>

In reviewing the achievements of the Mormon Battalion it must be noted that the Battalion participated in four areas of major events of American history. They are the opening of highways, the conquest of northern Mexico, the discovery of gold and the adoption of irrigation. Lesser but nevertheless important contributions included building a kiln which manufactured the first bricks in San Francisco, the digging of wells in San Diego, building of shops for various services, the supply of labor which helped Sutter build a shoe factory, a grist mill, a shingle and clapboard plant and other enterprises. Members of the Battalion were also instrumental in the introduction of seeds of various kinds, obtained at every opportunity along the long march, into the Great Basin.

The monumental undertakings achieved by the Mormon Battalion were behind Miles and Franklin now. But other challenges lay ahead for these two young men.

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NOTES FOR CHAPTER 2:

1. Kate B. Carter, The Mormon Battalion 1846-7 (Salt Lake City, Utah: Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1956), p. 6.
2. Ibid., p. 8.
3. James B. Allen & Glen M. Leonard, The Story of the Latter-day Saints (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1876), p. 230.
4. Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Library, Ethel Stevenson, Life Sketch of Miles Weaver, MSS, 1967, p. 1.
5. Carter, p. 76.
6. Early Mormon Research Institute (quarterly) The Nauvoo Journal, Vol. 2, Jan. 1990, Number 1; p. 15. Martha Elizabeth Weaver, who would have been nine years old at the time, was not listed by name among any Mormon Battalion records that I could locate, nor was she named among the women and children of the battalion that were sent to Pueblo (now Colorado). However, Sarah Harris Mickelson, in her Life Sketch of Franklin Weaver, stated that Martha went with the Battalion. The only evidence I could locate to support that lies in the statement made by a biographer of William Draper who said that after Martha Raymer Weaver (Draper) died, that one of William Draper's wives cared for Martha's two little girls. There were three little girls in the family. Martha Elizabeth Weaver is not listed among The Women of the Mormon Battalion, by Carl V. Larson.
7. Mary Daines Weaver and Barbara Weaver, Horace & Adelaide Wright Weaver First Annual Family Reunion August 23-24, 1958, Ideal Beach, Bear Lake County, Idaho; Vol. 1. See full text in appendix.
8. Kate B. Carter, Treasures of Pioneer History (Salt Lake City, Utah: Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1955), Vol. 4, p. 445-446.
9. Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Library, Sarah W. Madsen, Franklin and Miles Weaver, MSS, p. 1.
10. D. Gary Christian, A Few More Miles, (Holladay, UT: D. Gary Christian, 1995), p. 24.
11. Sarah Emmaline Harris Mickelson, Life Sketch of Franklin Weaver, MSS in possession of editor, p. 2.
12. Lafayette County Marriage Index 1847-1900 Groom's Book, by the Lafayette County Genealogy Workshop, Shullsburg, Wisconsin, p. 320. Also, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, FamilySearch, Ancestral File, 1994 edition.
13. Mickelson, p. 2.
14. The Utah Journal, July 12, 1884.
15. Carter, The Mormon Battalion, p. 95.
16. Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, Manuscript Collection, #1164. The biography, diary and obituary of Jonathan Harriman Holmes reveals a breadth of experiences within the church and with its members over a span of 74 years. See Appendix B for full text of biographical sketch and obituary.
17. Allen & Leonard, p. 230.
18. Carter, Mormon Battalion, p. 9.
19. Mickelson, p. 3.
20. Daniel Tyler, Concise History of the Mormon Battalion in the Mexican War, (Glorietta, New Mexico: Rio Grande Press, 1980 reprint), p. 131-2.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid. p.

23. Ibid., p.
24. Ibid., p. 134, 135.
25. Mickelson, p. 3.
26. Allen & Leonard, p. 230.
27. Tyler, p. 143.
28. Allen & Leonard, p. 230-31.
29. Ibid.
30. Tyler, p. 146, 147.
31. Ibid. p. 148: referring to Doctrine & Covenants Section 49, verse 21.
32. Tyler, p. 149.
33. Tyler, p. 144.
34. Cee Savvy, "The Mormon Battalion," Enchantment, May 1980.
35. Tyler, p. 165.
36. Tyler, p. 164, 165.
37. Kenneth S. Bennion, Along the Trails of Yesterday (Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum, Logan, Utah Scrapbooks), [FHL# #1421954].
38. Joseph Fish, The Pioneers of the Southwest and Rocky Mountain Regions. 7 vols. n.p., n.d. Vol. 5: Mormon Migrations and Related Events. [FHL# 1059486/item 2], p.55.
39. Carter, The Mormon Battalion, p. 18, quoting the diary of Nathaniel V. Jones.
40. Both Franklin and Miles are noted in Dan Talbot's book, A Historical Guide to the Mormon Battalion and Butterfield Trail, (Tucson, AZ: Western Lore Press, 1992), p. 112.
41. Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Library, Ethel Stevenson, Life Sketch of Miles Weaver, MSS, 1948, p. 3.
42. Carter, Mormon Battalion, p. 20.
43. Tyler, p. 230.
44. Tyler, p. 230, 231.
45. Carter, Treasures of Pioneer History, Vol. 11, p. 342.
46. Fish, p.55 & p.90: "Pauline Weaver, one of the guides, was a Frenchman. It is stated that he visited the Casa Grande in 1832 where he wrote his name on the walls of that old ruin. There may be some mistake about this as it is claimed by some that he could not write. He was one of the discoverers of the La Paz gold diggings and the following year he was the guide for the Peoples party that discovered gold on Rich Hill, in Central Arizona. Thereafter he was an army scout. He died of old wounds at Camp Verde in 1866." Weaver's Needle, a mountain peak in Arizona, is said to have been named after Pauline Weaver. William Hafford's Arizona Mileposts (Arizona Dept. of Transportation, 1993), p. 120, says: "...the Weaver Mountains named for

famed 19th century Arizona trailblazer and gold prospector, Paul Weaver. Weaver's nickname, 'Paulino' was eventually twisted into Pauline. Weaver generally wore a pair of pistols, but there is no record of his ever drawing on anyone who called him Pauline."

47. The Utah Journal, Saturday July 12, 1884.

48. Tyler, p. 236.

49. Ibid., p. 237.

50. Ibid., p. 240.

51. Ibid., p. 243.

52. Also see B. H. Roberts, A Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Century I (Salt Lake City, Utah: 1930), Vol. III, p. 112.

53. Ibid., p. 243-4. He does not indicate which Weaver he meant. The exact location of "Pozo Hondo" has been lost, according to the U. S. Mormon Battalion, Inc.'s data.

54. Ibid. p. 245.

55. Hulse, p. 1.

56. Carter, Mormon Battalion, p. 22.

57. Tyler, p. 246, 247.

58. Ibid.

59. Ibid.

60. Carter, Mormon Battalion, p. 23.

61. Tyler, p. 249.

62. Ibid., p. 250.

63. Ibid., p. 251.

64. Ibid., p. 252-3.

65. Ibid.

66. Ibid., p. 254-5.

67. U. S. Mormon Battalion brochure, p. 15.

68. Roberts, Vol. 3, p. 118. Daniel Tyler is quoted as saying that the Pima Indian chief favored the proposition that the exiled Mormons settle among them.

69. Fish, p. 37.

70. Tyler, p. 286.

71. Ibid.
72. Brochure, Mormon Battalion, United States Army, U.S.-Mexican War, 1846-1848. (Mormon Battalion Visitors' Center, San Diego, CA)
73. Tyler, p. 330, 331.
74. Brochure, Mormon Battalion.
75. Tyler, p. 287.
76. Mickelson, p. 5.
77. Norma B. Ricketts, Mormons and the Discovery of Gold (Placerville, CA: 1966), p. 39 Miles Weaver is among 82 others listed as having gone to the Salt Lake Valley in July of 1847.
78. Ricketts, p. 38: Franklin Weaver, Jonathan Holmes and John Stoddard are among those listed as Battalion members known to have worked in California after their discharge.
79. Ricketts, p. 11, 12.
80. Ibid, p. 10.
81. Ibid., p. 16.
82. Ibid.
83. Rodman W. Paul, The California Gold Discovery (Georgetown, CA: Talisman Press, 1967), p. 62.
84. Utah Semi-centennial Commission, The Book of the Pioneers (Salt Lake City, 1897) Vol. 1, p. 13.
85. Lyla Faun Weaver Bennett, Biographical Sketch of the Life of Rachel Reed Weaver. Daughters of Utah Pioneers Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, p. 2.
86. Brochure, Mormon Battalion.
87. Mickelson, p. 5.
88. Mary Daines Weaver & Barbara Weaver, Horace & Adelaide Wright Weaver First Annual Family Reunion, (Idaho, 1958), p. 3.
89. Family History, (Book of Remembrance of Horace Weaver family), p. 2.
90. Carter, Mormon Battalion, p. 45.
91. Fish, p. 86.
92. Family History of Horace Weaver, p. 2.
93. Utah Justice's Court Records, Davis County, delayed marriage certificate, 26 March 1888.
94. Fish, p.87. However, on p. 38, Fish states: "The company of 1848 was composed of the Brooklyn saints and members of the Battalion and was commanded by Ebenezer Brown of the Battalion." Also see Supplement to the 1998 edition of this volume.
95. Fish, p. 87, 88.

96. Ibid., p. 38.

97. Cache County Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Museum scrapbooks, [FHLC# 1421954].

98. Kate B. Carter, Treasures of Pioneer History. Salt Lake City: 1935-57, D.U.P., Vol. 4, p. 437.

99. Saavy, p. 4. Also see Church News, Week ending October 5, 1996, p. 11

100. Stanley B. Kimball, Historic Sites and Markers Along the Mormon and Other Great Western Trails (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1988), Chapters XXIV & XXV.