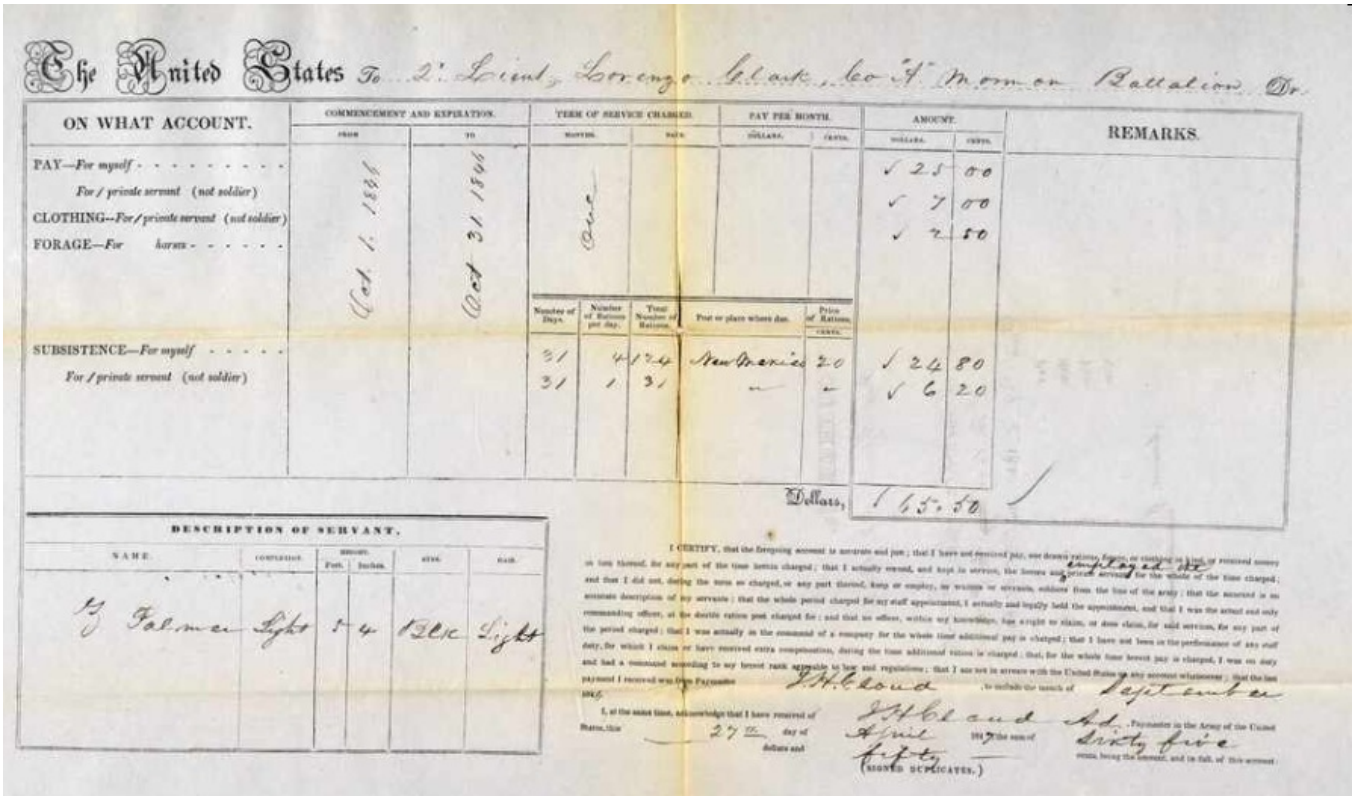
MORMON BATTALION

OFFICER SERVANTS AND OTHER FOLLOWERS

Compiled by Mary Ann Kirk, Mormon Battalion Association
(Last updated November 1, 2026)



The United States To 2d Lieut Lorenzo Clark Co F Mormon Battalion Dr.

ON WHAT ACCOUNT.	COMMENCEMENT AND EXPIRATION. FROM	TO	TERM OF SERVICE CHARGED. MONTHS.	DAYS.	PAY PER MONTH. DOLLARS.	CENTS.	AMOUNT. DOLLARS.	CENTS.	REMARKS
PAY—For myself	Oct 1. 1846	Oct 31 1846	One				25	00	
For / private servant (not soldier)							7	00	
CLOTHING—For / private servant (not soldier)							2	50	
FORAGE—For horses									

	Number of Days.	Number of Rations per day.	Total Number of Rations.	Post or place where due.	Price of Rations. CENTS.		
SUBSISTENCE—For myself	31	4	124	New Mexico	20	24	80
For / private servant (not soldier)	31	1	31	"	"	6	20

Dollars, 165.50

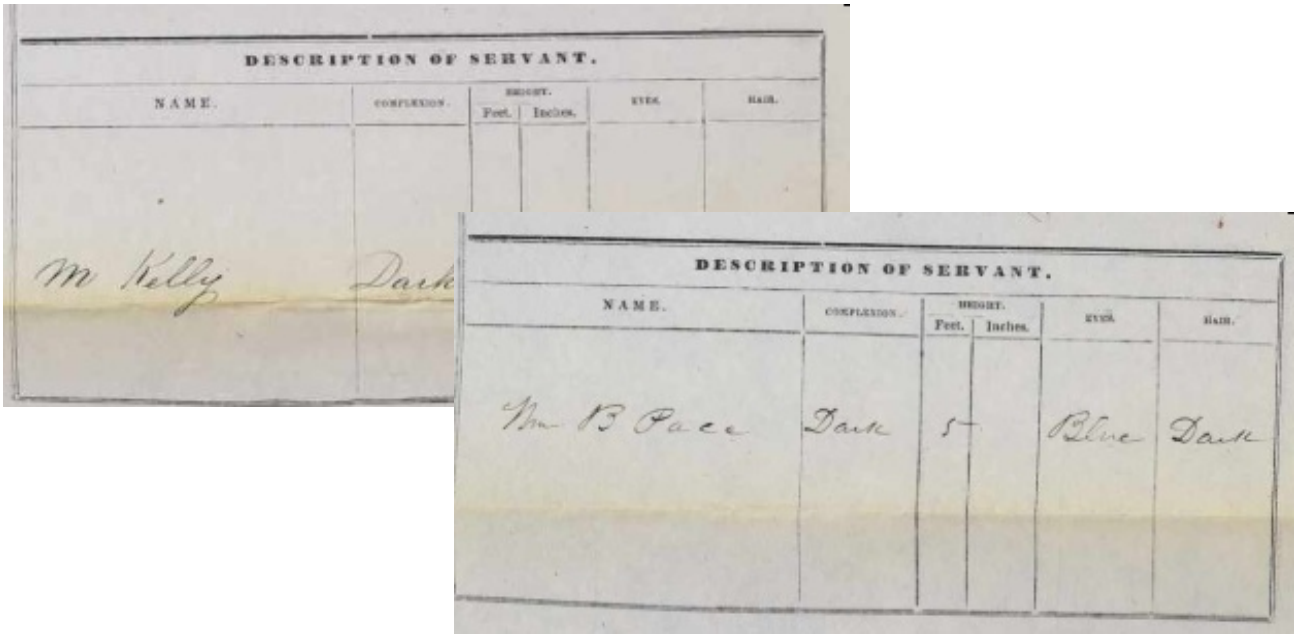
DESCRIPTION OF SERVANT.

NAME.	COMPLEXION.	HEIGHT. Feet.	Inches.	EYES.	HAIR.
G Fabian	Light	5	4	Blue	Light

I CERTIFY, that the foregoing account is accurate and just; that I have not received pay, nor drawn rations, forage, or clothing in kind, or received money in lieu thereof, for any part of the time herein charged; that I actually owned, and kept in service, the horses and private servant for the whole of the time charged; and that I did not, during the term so charged, or any part thereof, keep or employ, as waiters or servants, soldiers from the line of the army; that the annexed is an accurate description of my servants; that the whole period charged for my staff appointment, I actually and legally held the appointment, and that I was the actual and only commanding officer, of the double ration post charged for; and that no officer, within my knowledge, has a right to claim, or does claim, for said services, for any part of the period charged; that I was actually in the command of a company for the whole time additional pay is charged; that I have not been on the performance of any staff duty, for which I claim or have received extra compensation, during the time additional rations is charged; that, for the whole time lowest pay is charged, I was on duty and had a command according to my brevet rank agreeable to law and regulations; that I am not in arrears with the United States on any account whatsoever; that the last payment I received was from Paymaster [illegible] to include the month of September 1846.

I, at the same time, acknowledge that I have received of [illegible] Paymaster in the Army of the United States, this 27th day of April 1847 the sum of Sixty five dollars and fifty cents, being the amount, and in full, of this account.

(SIGNED DUPLICATES.)



DESCRIPTION OF SERVANT.

NAME.	COMPLEXION.	HEIGHT. Feet.	Inches.	EYES.	HAIR.
M Kelly	Dark				

DESCRIPTION OF SERVANT.

NAME.	COMPLEXION.	HEIGHT. Feet.	Inches.	EYES.	HAIR.
Wm B Pace	Dark	5		Blue	Dark

OFFICER SERVANTS:
In the 1840s, US military officers were permitted to hire servants, and the government provided financial incentives to do so. This made hiring servants almost universal, and about two-thirds of the servants were Black. The government would reimburse the cost of the servants, pay for their clothing, and provide additional rations.

A total of 24 Mormon Battalion officer servants have been identified in military or journal records excluding servants for the non-Mormon Command Staff. There may be others not yet located. We are missing many documents for specific time periods, making it difficult to determine how long each servant was in that capacity. Commissioned officers (Captain and Lieutenants) for each company were allowed to have a "servant" or aide authorized by military regulations to assist with various needs. Military records provided physical descriptions of the individuals. Ages ranged from 10 to 48 from those that have been identified. Many officer servants were young family members who arrived at Fort Leavenworth on August 7 although most pay documents backdated their service to July 16 like soldiers not present at the muster on July 16, 1846. Two officer servants were older men. For his servant, the officer would typically collect $7 per month, $2.50 per month for clothing allowance and 20 cents per day for food ration and supposedly pay them. At least two and possibly three servants were also soldiers which was discouraged per military regulations. One servant was a local native and hired in California for one month. Two officer servants died during the Battalion enlistment - one in Pueblo and one on the trail after Santa Fe. One pay record was found for a young officer servant with the detachments in Pueblo and four were shown on a detachment pay roll Captain Brown took to Monterey. Several officer servants enlisted in the Mormon Volunteers on July 20, 1847 after the Mormon Battalion was discharged.

OTHER FOLLOWERS:
Dr. McIntyre was appointed as the assistant surgeon by Capt Allen at Council Bluffs (Order #3) but his appointment was not approved and commissioned by the Army. He was hired as a contract physician for the Pueblo detachments.

There were 35 women accompanying the battalion although 15 of those joined at Fort Leavenworth. Approximately twenty left with the Battalion at Council Bluffs and served as laundresses, four of them had one young child with them. Although a few who did not start out as a laundress were designated as such at Santa Fe as they were sent to Pueblo. Three additional women became followers during the one year enlistment - one was initially a daughter who married a soldier at Pueblo, one was a girl from the Mississippi Saints who married a soldier at Pueblo, and one was a local native in San Diego. The women's life sketches are featured in another compilation.

There were 49 children ages 16 and under, with 13 becoming officer servants. The majority of children traveled with their families and met the Battalion at Fort Leavenworth. James Pace left to get his son and nephew at Mt. Pisgah. Edwin Charles Colton ran away at age 11 and caught up to the Battalion.

Four other men were identified with the Battalion as camp followers. John Bosco was an older man traveling with his wife, both of them in the Hunt entourage. Peter Fife was identified through various sources that indicated he was with them, but his role is unknown. John Edmunds was first identified with the detachments as they came into Salt Lake with no clues about who he was with. Andrew Jackson Mayfield was an adult 18-year-old son from the Shelton/Mayfield family who served as a family teamster.

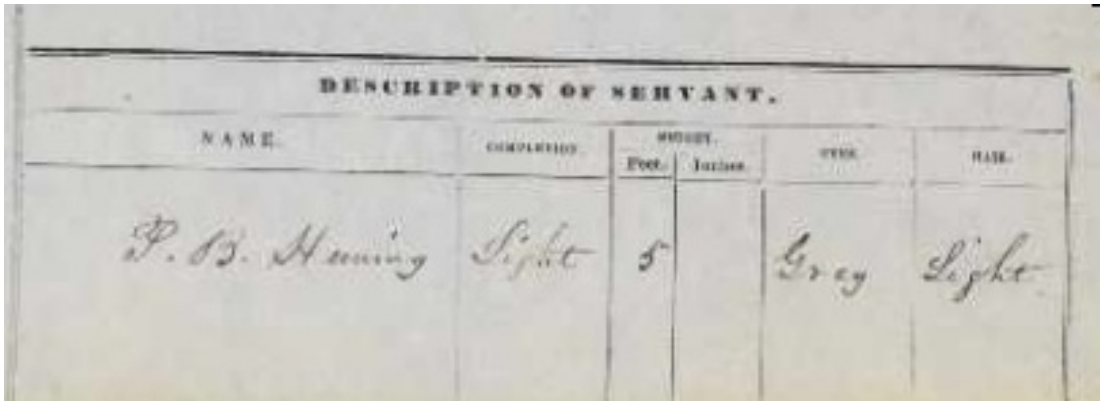
Officer/Company	Officer Servant	Age	Time period on pay doc
Company A			
Capt Jefferson Hunt	John Mayfield (det)	14	no pay doc, served "acting captain"
	Milton Kelley (det/died)	38	July 16-Sept 30, 1846 (backdated)
Lt George Oman	Henry Alexander Boring*	18	July 16-Sept 30, 1846
Lt Lorenzo Clark	William Francis Boring (det)	16	July 16-Sept 30, 1846
	Zemira Palmer*	14	Oct 1-Oct 30, 1846
Lt William Willis	Lot Elisha Huntington (det)	12	July 17-Sept 30, 1846 (backdated)
	Wm Boring/alt spellings (det)		? - July 16, 1847
Company B			
Capt Jesse D Hunter	Nathan Young*	18	July 16-Sept 30, 1846
Lt Elam Luddington	James Blevin (det)	18+	April 1847
Lt Ruell Barrus	James Lawson*	13	July 16-Sept 30, 1846
Lt/Adj Philemon C Merrill	Charles Edwin Colton*	11	July 16-Sept 30, 1846 (backdated)
	(Known as Edwin)		Nov 2-July 1847
Company C			
Capt James Brown	Alroy Root (det)	15	July 16-Sept 30, 1846
Lt George W Rosecrans	James Allen Mowery*	16	July 16-Sept 30, 1846
Lt Samuel Thompson	Clark Allen Huntington (det)	15	Aug 14-Sept 17, 1846
	Edmund Lee Brown, Jr*	12	Oct 1-Dec 31, 1846
Lt Robert Clift	John Thomas	?	July 16-Sept 30, 1846
Company D			
Capt Nelson Higgins	John H Tippets (also soldier)	35	July 16 - Sept 30, 1846
	Nelson Daniel Higgins (det)	10	April 1-30, 1847
Lt George P Dykes, D	Philo Marshal Behunin*	18	July 16-Oct 16, 1846
Lt Sylvester Hulet (resigned)	Almon Whiting (also soldier)	24	July 16-Sept 30, 1846
	A San Diego	?	March 10-April 10, 1847 (California)
Lt Cyrus C Canfield	John Reese (Clawson?)	?	July 16-Sept 30, 1846
Company E			
Capt Daniel C Davis	Elisha Smith (died)	48	July 16-Sept 30, 1846 (arrived late)
Lt James Pace	William Byram Pace*	14	July 16-Sept 30, 1846 (backdated)
Lt Andrew Lytle	Wilson Daniel Pace*	14	July 16-Sept 30, 1846 (backdated)
Lt Samuel Gully (initially 1st Sgt)			Resigned Oct 19, 1846
Others with Battalion			
Hunt entourage	John Bosco (died)	51	
	Jane Bosco (died)	55	
	John Edmunds (black) (det)	31	
Likely with brother	Peter Muir Fife*	40	
With Family/Co D	Andrew J Mayfield (det)	18	
Command Appointment			
Asst Surgeon	William McIntryre, (det)	34	

*Arrived in California (verified)

Note: Almon Whiting's life sketch is featured in compilation for soldiers.

Life Sketches for

OFFICER SERVANTS



DESCRIPTION OF SERVANT.

NAME.	COMPLEXION.	HEIGHT. Feet.	Inches.	TYPE.	HAIR.
P. B. Anning	Light	5		Grey	Light

Philo Marshall Behunin was born 4 February 1828 in New York. One of five siblings, his two older siblings were born in Vermont before the family moved to New York. Isaac's mother died when he was six and his father married the sister of future Battalion member Daniel Tyler in Kirtland Ohio. Joining the Church sometime in this time period and experiencing the persecutions of its early members, his family eventually moved to Nauvoo and traveled with the exiled Saints in 1846. While his family remained at Mt Pisgah where they were still living on February 20, 1847, Philo likely traveled with his uncle to Council Bluffs. He became an officer servant at age 18 to George P Dykes who was originally a 1st Lt in Company D. In a letter to his wife dated 7 August 1846, Lt Dykes noted Philo was in his service and sent $10 to Philo's father. Dykes also submitted a pay request that included pay for Philo of $2.50 for two months for the first payroll, spelling the name phonetically as P. B. Huning. Philo's father, Isaac, was caring for Daniel Tyler's wife along with the wife of David Pulsipher, both in Company C, as noted in clothing allowance records.

Philo arrived in California with the main command in late January 1847, stationed at Los Angeles for the last four months of the Battalion's service. After the Battalion was discharged, Philo traveled north but it is unclear if he initially traveled with his uncle, Daniel Tyler with the large Hancock Company or with Dykes who was with a smaller company led by Jefferson Hunt, both groups on their way to find Brigham Young and their families. But Philo remained the winter in California and worked somewhere in or around Sutter's Fort and possibly did some mining. He donated $15 toward the purchase of two cannons from Sutter before he traveled to the Great Basin with the Holmes Thompson Company arriving in early September 1848. When he arrived, his name appeared on a list from the Holmes Thompson Company submitting requests for land in the Salt Lake Valley. He then returned to Winter Quarters to help his family travel to Salt Lake in 1850 and was found with his parents and a younger brother in the 1850 census (taken in 1851) in Provo. His family eventually settled in Sanpete County. Although names of other family members appeared on Utah Militia records as early as 1852, his name did not. So it is likely he soon returned to California and later married in the gold country of Placer County, California in 1868. Eight children were born in various locations of Santa Rosa, Santa Barbara, San Francisco, and Fresno. His family appeared on a Census record in 1870 and his name was regularly on California Great Registers for voting through the late 1880s. He died in 1891 in Fresno California.

Sources:

Church and military records
George P Dykes letter to wife, 7 Aug 1846
Mt. Pisgah records, February 20, 1847
U.S. census records, Voter registrations

James Bliven birth and family relationships are unknown. A single pay record was found indicating he was the officer servant for Elam Luddington who was traveling with his wife and mother-in-law Jane Blevin. The pay record was dated July 16 through September 30, 1846 and due at Santa Fe before the Luddingtons were sent with the Brown detachment to Pueblo. Although the name is spelled differently, it is highly likely that James is related to Jane. It is possible he is a brother or child of her previous husband. However, his name does not appear on the Thomas Bullock roster as the detachments including the Luddingtons entered the Salt Lake Valley, suggesting he may have returned east at some point before entering Pueblo or Salt Lake or continued with the command to California. No other information has been found for James.

Source:

Military pay documents

Henry Alexander Boring (alternate spellings) was born 1828-1829 in Canada, although his birth year varied in many documents. He was one of two children according to Family Search. His father likely died when he was a young child and his mother remarried in 1832 and gave birth to five additional children, the last two in Hancock Illinois. In a document written by Juanita Brooks, William's mother and stepfather were Jewish and were baptized in 1837. They made their way to Salt Lake with the Saints in 1852.

By July 1846, Henry made his way to Council Bluffs where at age 17 or 18, he became an officer servant for Lt Oman in the Mormon Battalion, Company A, serving with his brother William. His brother was a servant to Lorenzo Clark and later to Lt Willis in Pueblo. Although no officer pay documents have been found for Oman other than the first two months, it is assumed Henry continued to California with the main command until their discharge in July 1847. Henry then enlisted in the Mormon Volunteers, spelling his name as Bowing on military records and noting his age of 18. He was detached with a group of soldiers on August 10 and stationed at San Luis Rey until February when they returned to San Diego and discharged in March 1848.

There is no record of marriage. A bounty land application was submitted in his name in Salt Lake in 1857 by agent Suter Lea who was submitting applications for Mormon Volunteers who they believed had not submitted an application. However, he provided a bounty land witness statement for another Battalion veteran in November 1858 in Mariposa California and applied for his bounty land from the same location the day after. He later claimed the 1857 application was fraud and that he had lived in California since his discharge. His name appeared on California voter registrations listing his occupation as a beekeeper and farmer. By the 1900 census, he was living in a home for disabled soldiers. His single marital status and military service were noted in the nursing home document with admittance, death and burial information in 1901. This document also listed a pension #, but the pension application has not been found yet.

Sources:

Military records, bounty land and witness statement
Government records (census, voter registrations)
U.S. National Homes for Disabled Veterans
Juanita Brooks description/Family Search

William Francis Boring (alternate spellings) was born in 1830 in Canada, one of two children according to Family Search. His father likely died when he was a toddler and his mother remarried in 1832 and gave birth to five additional children, the last two in Hancock Illinois. In a document written by Juanita Brooks, William's mother and stepfather were Jewish and were baptized in 1837. They made their way to Salt Lake with the Saints in 1852.

William's name appeared on a list of volunteers at Mt Pisgah in a pioneer company on June 22-23, 1846 before Captain Allen from the U.S. Army appeared with his circular to recruit men for a military unit. His name also appeared in a journal at Mt Pisgah on July 1, organizing to go west. At age 16, William traveled to Council Bluffs and accompanied the Mormon Battalion as an officer servant for Lt Lorenzo Clark in Company A, his last name spelled Boran on a pay document dated July 1846. His older brother Henry was also an officer servant for Lt George Oman. It appears William likely traveled with the Brown detachment to Pueblo while Henry continued to California with the main command and reenlisted after discharge in July 1847. William was listed as an officer servant to Lt Willis at the bottom of the last payroll request for the detachments carried by Captain Brown to Monterey. It is unknown when he became Willis' officer servant. Arriving in Salt Lake with the detachments in July 1847, it is unknown when and how he made his way to California but he is found on a census record in 1850 in El Dorado. A document showing the name of William Boran indicated he became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. in 1862 in Ohio if it is him, suggesting he went east at some point. He returned to California by 1864 where he married Nancy Gibbons. She gave birth to fourteen children. William's name began to appear on the California Great Registers for voting registration in 1879 and as late as 1892. He died two years later in 1894 in Madera California although no primary death record is attached on Family Search.

Sources:

Military pay records
U.S. records (census, voter registration, naturalization)
Juanita Brooks, History of the Jews in Utah and Idaho, 1873

Edmund Lee Brown, Jr was born about 1834 in Virginia, one of two or possibly three children. He was named after his father. It appears his mother died and his father remarried a widow, Mary Clark Steele, about 1842 and resided in Nauvoo. She had two sons from a previous marriage. Edmund Jr and his stepbrother were noted in school records in Nauvoo. His family traveled to Council Bluffs in 1846 with the exiled Saints where his father, older brother, two stepbrothers, two cousins and an uncle enlisted in July. Everyone except his father and uncle served in Company A. Both his father who was selected as a 1st Sergeant and his uncle served in Company E possibly wanting to join the boys who enlisted in Company A. His stepmother accompanied the family. The Brigham Young return (Church roster) for Company E was not completed until Fort Leavenworth since it was the last company to organize so it is difficult to tell if they joined late but reflected that his father left no family behind since all immediate family members were with him. His stepmother went by Agnes according to Daniel Tyler likely to distinguish her from the other Mary Brown, wife of Captain Brown. At age 12, Edmund was recorded on a pay document as an officer servant for Lt Samuel Thompson in Company C from October 1 to December 31, 1846.

The entire family arrived with the main command in California where they were all stationed at Los Angeles for the last four months of the Battalion's enlistment. After discharge in July 1847, all of his relatives reenlisted in the Mormon Volunteers except his uncle and a cousin, both named Joseph Clark. It is unknown if Edmund Jr served in any capacity as an officer servant during the time the Mormon Volunteers were enlisted. The company was assigned to San Diego. After their discharge in March 1848, he and some of his family were living in Sacramento as noted in the 1850 census. Family members included his parents with his older brother and one stepbrother, Isaiah Steele. Battalion veteran, Thomas Morris, was returning from a mission when he referenced Edmund's father on April 10, 1850. He wrote "*Landed in Sacramento...A Mr. Brown that was Orderly sergeant in the Battalion supplied us. He keeps a store in Jay Street."*

In the 1852 census, Edmund Jr was listed as a schoolteacher and living by his parents, brother, and two stepbrothers. In 1858, Edmund Jr traveled with his father to Utah, leaving his brother William behind with their stepmother. They traveled with a missionary returning from a mission to the Sandwich Islands. Elder Frederick A H F Mitchell, wrote, "*Bro E. L. Brown and his son E. L. Brown Jun came to this country in the year 1847 having served in the Mormon Battalion. Bro Mitchell went to visit the family on Putah Creek, Yolo County California where he organized a Branch then bro Brown and family came forward and renewed their covenants and now he is on his way to Utah having left his property behind in the hands of his Son William because he could not dispose of the same in time also left his wife because she was not willing or ready to go with him. His son Edmond has been Baptized for the first time and is desirous of gathering with the Saints in the Vallies of the Mountains. he manifests a willing disposition and is anxious to learn and to do that which is right."* It is likely they were answering the call by Brigham Young to gather in Salt Lake during the Utah War. Both Edmund and his father returned to California by the 1860 census where his parents, his older brother and one stepbrother resided in Yolo, California. He was listed as a saloon keeper in the 1870 census still residing in Yolo. His father died in 1872 followed by his stepmother in 1873 who had gone to Utah to visit a son where she died. Edmund Jr never married and died in 1874.

Sources:

Military and Church records
Missionary journals: Thomas Morris, Frederick Mitchell
U. S. Census records

Charles Edwin Colton (referred to as Edwin on military records) was born 20 October 1834 in Michigan, the oldest of eleven children. His parents joined the church in 1838 and joined the Saints with two children in Illinois where four more children were born, the next to last dying as an infant. Traveling with the Saints to Council Bluffs in 1846, his father and a number of other relatives enlisted in the Mormon Battalion including multiple uncles and a 16-year-old cousin. The Brigham Young return (Church roster) indicated his father left behind his wife Polly with five living children ages one to eleven and one wagon, four horses, two cows, and six sheep. Although only age 11, Charles Edwin ran away leaving his mother with four living children between ages 1 and 10. In a letter written by Philander to his wife Polly on November 10, 1847, he noted Edwin was well and hearty. Edwin served as an officer servant for his uncle Philemon Merrill. Philemon requested pay for his servant, naming Edwin, with a start date of July 16, 1846. It is unclear when Edwin caught up to the Battalion, some suggesting a number of days after. In 1893, the bounty land office noted "*Pay vouchers of Leiut P. C. Merrill, Mormon Battalion, give E. Colton as servant from July 17th to Sept. 30 1846 and Edwin Colton as servant from Oct. 1st to Oct. 31st 1846. For the remainder of his service Lt. Merrill was paid on a Company roll, and the name of his servant does not appear."* However as a bounty land witness for Edwin, Philemon noted "*that the said Edwin Charles Colton served as my servant until the 16th of July 1847 when the Battalion was discharged*." Other inconsistencies appear in various documents. In an 1860 bounty land application Edwin noted he was a servant for Lt Luddington but stated *"I enlisted at Fort Leavenworth on or about the 14th day of July."* Since he was so young, later memories of dates and names were sometimes wrong. Submitting a bounty land request in his later years, Edwin provided this version. "*At Leavenworth, Kansas, he joined the Battalion as servant boy for Lieut. Luddington, and then with Lieut. George Stoneman went to Sante Fe. N.M., where he was enrolled as servant boy for Lieut. P.C. Merrill, who was afterwards promoted to Adjutant of the Battalion."* In 1896, the commissioner of pension replied in a letter "*Referring to your claim for Bounty Land above cited, you are advised that it is this day rejected on the grounds that you were not an enlisted man in the service of The United States."* It also stated Edwin Colton *was servant to Lt. P. C. Merrill Co. B. Mormon Battn Mexican War. but he was not a soldier. There is no record of any servant to Lt George Stoneman 1" Dragoons, U. S. A. named " Colton during the Mexican War."* Charles began using his first name of Charles Edwin in later documents and was intent on getting pension and bounty land benefits. In a letter stamped in 1902 and getting details still mixed up, he wrote without punctuation. "*My case is simply this I ran away from home and was determined to go the war the Mormon Batalion was recruiting at Kansas City the Captain would not enlist me because I was too young but I would go so when we was on the road to sante fee 2 days the captain took me on as his cook after we got to santa Fee I was quite a big boy* [the pay document stated he was 4' tall] *so the captain gave a musket and a team to drive and in 8 months from leaving Santifee we arrived in Los angeles just 17 months out from Kansas City there we received a verbal discharge during our march from Santafe to Los Angeles I have my team and stood guard over our stock and participated in repelling the frequent attacks of Indians so I think I am entitled to a pension as well as those whos names are on the rolls at the war office."* His obituary stated he was sent with another soldier to cut a flag pole and unfurled the U.S. flag at Fort Moore. This is a common claim by other soldiers. His 1897 Pioneer Jubilee document combined with his Uncle Philemon's record provided the clues of who he traveled with to Salt Lake. Philemon stated he traveled with 7 others which we know Hunt's small group was comprised of. Charles Edwin stated he traveled with the Hunt Company with the assumption his father was with him. Since his Uncle Merrill was with them, it is also assumed his young cousin Ferdinand Merrill was with the group along with several other officers. Arriving in Salt Lake in October 1847, Charles Edwin and likely Ferdinand were left with their grandfather who had arrived in an early company with another cousin. According to a family account, he took a cousin to meet his family as they made their way to Salt Lake two years later. Living with his family, his name of Charles E appeared in the 1850 census (taken in 1851). His pension noted he was teamster to California from 1852-53 before his marriage in Provo in 1854. Nine children were born in various locations including Provo, San Bernardino, Beaver, and Monroe. According to his pension, he traveled to multiple locations over his lifetime. He died in Los Angeles in 1916.

Mormon Battalion Historic Site in San Diego features a 30-minute video based on the story of the Mormon Battalion that includes Charles Edwin, describing him as a 9-year-old boy named Charlie. The entertaining and interactive experience uses composite stories of individuals to provide a faith promoting message.

Sources:
Military and Church records, Pension and Bounty land applications with narratives
Obituary, U.S. Census records, Family Search

Nelson Daniel Higgins was born 9 October 1835 in New York. He was the fifth of ten children and was named after his father. His parents were early converts to the Church and experienced the persecutions of Ohio and Missouri before arriving in Nauvoo with five children. Three additional children were born. Two siblings died before his family traveled to Council Bluffs in 1846 where his father enlisted in the Mormon Battalion as Captain of Company D. Nelson was just ten years old. An older brother who was only fourteen, enlisted but likely started as an officer servant before becoming a soldier at Fort Leavenworth as they attempted to reach the number of 500 soldiers. Originally leaving his wife and five other living children behind at Council Bluffs, his father returned to retrieve his family along with other families three days later when Captain Allen indicated families could join them as recorded by multiple journals. Per order of Captain Allen, military records noted Captain Nelson was on furlough since July 24. The family arrived at Fort Leavenworth on August 7 with other families. After leaving Fort Leavenworth, the Battalion, with a large number of women and children, traveled along the trail originally bound for Bents Fort. Arriving at the Arkansas River, Lt Smith sent nine women and nearly all large families to Pueblo accompanied by soldier spouses and a few other escorts under the direction of his father. The only military document found to date of Nelson's service to his father comes from a pay record for the month of April in Pueblo, making him the youngest officer servant accompanying the Battalion. His mother gave birth to her ninth child just a few weeks before the family traveled to the Salt Lake Valley with the detachments.

A few years after arriving in the Great Basin, Nelson and his family moved to Sanpete County. The name N. D. Higgins first appeared on Utah Militia muster rolls in 1850 through 1865. The name of Nelson Higgins appears on additional rolls, but it is unclear if it is him or his father. He married in Manti in 1855 and moved to Richfield, then Salem Utah. According to a family biography, he was referred to as Daniel and was president of the Salem Canal Company and helped construct the Salem Ditch, changing the head of the ditch to a more advantageous position. He was a farmer and was very proficient at cradling wheat. His family was living in Pondtown, Payson Utah, also known as Salem, in the 1870 census. His wife gave birth to eight children, her fourth dying at birth. She died a few weeks after the birth of her last child in 1874, the child dying about nine months later. Never remarrying, family members cared for some of his children. Another family story by a granddaughter indicated he gathered up his children who had not married and went to work in Green River, Utah where they were building a new terminal for the new railroad. His granddaughter recorded "*I well remember his tragic ending in 1890. He and his sons had been to our house and were returning to where they lived on the other side of the railroad track. A string of freight cars was on the track. 2 of them uncoupled leaving just room enough for the younger men to put their hands on the couplings and spring through the small gap. Grandpa remarked that he wasn't as young as you young fellows as he climbed up and let his leg hang down between the couplings. Just then, a switching engine bumped the cars knocking the cars together with his leg between. One of the boys had to run up to the engine, as the engineer did not know what had happened. They had to get him to pull on the cars and pull them apart. You can imagine how much was left of his leg. There was a lot of pain and suffering that night. I could hardly comprehend the sorrow and agony of it all. They got him on the passenger train as soon as possible and sent him to Holy Cross Hospital in Salt Lake. They amputated his leg. But blood poisoning set in and they had to take his leg off further up again. It was too late. The infection killed him*." He died in the Holy Cross hospital in Salt Lake in 1890 but was buried in the Salem Cemetery.

Sources:

Military and Church records
Memories of Nelson Daniel Higgins by Annetta Cunha Boulden
Government Census records
Family Search

Clark Allen Huntington was born 6 December 1831 in New York, the oldest of nine children and used the name of Allen. His parents joined the Church in 1836, leaving affluent circumstances in New York to join the Saints in Kirkland, Ohio and eventually Nauvoo. Two of his younger siblings died before leaving Nauvoo in 1846. Camped at Mt Pisgah, his mother was about six months pregnant. At the time, Allen's family consisted of his parents, a younger brother and a two-year-old sister. The family did not originally plan to accompany their father who described their initial separation in the 1855 reunion "*I feel to say everyone will have as hard a time of trial as any of these my brethren had when we shook hands with our wives and bid farewell. I and my wife never saw a darker day; she said to me, Dimick, I fear I shall never see you again. I laid my hands on her head and blessed her in the name of the Lord, and told her we would live to see each other again, and spend many happy years together*." But those plans changed when Lt Colonel Allen indicated families could join them. Dimick recorded: *"Arrived at Pisgah about 10 of June plowed and put in 2 acres of corn...sold out for a cow & started about the 1st of July for Council Bluffs arrived 10 of July, 15 enlisted for one year...arrived at Fort Levinsworth in August 2...my family came to me at the Fort."* Although his family traveled with Company D, Allen, as he was named on a military pay document, served Lt Thompson in Company C at age 15. His 12-year-old brother, Lot became an officer servant to Lt William Willis in Company A. The document stated Thompson was collecting money for his officer servant starting August 14 as they were leaving Fort Leavenworth. Allen's family was detached with the Higgins detachment one month later and spent the winter in Pueblo. His mother gave birth to a child soon after arriving in Pueblo but the baby girl died a few weeks later. Allen traveled with his family to Salt Lake with the detachments, arriving five days after the Brigham Young Vanguard Company arrived.

The family then lived in Old Fort. Soon after, they were sent to help settle Provo. His name appeared as Clark A or C A Huntington on multiple Utah Militia muster rolls between 1850 and 1854. He served a short mission to Elk Mountain near the Colorado River in May 1855. The mission was to be located at the present site of Moab, Utah on the Colorado River. The missionaries erected a fort and planted crops which they hoped would provide the food needed for the first year however some of the local natives became dissatisfied and staged an uprising. The men abandoned the mission after three months. He traveled with a small group who got lost on their return recorded in an account on November 17, 1855. In 1856 he participated in the Willie and Martin Handcart Company rescue. A number of Utah Militia rolls also listed the first name of Allen which is likely him, two of them in 1857, but unsure why the names are recorded differently. He married two plural wives in 1857, the first giving birth to eight children in Salt Lake and Summit. The second marriage ended quickly and she married another person in 1859. Because of his extensive experience living in the West, Clark Allen worked as a pony express rider and an Indian interpreter, becoming very familiar with the country in Southern Utah and Northern Arizona. He was a scout for many trips and hunting expeditions. A family history suggested he was involved in the Black Hawk War and was asked by Brigham Young to go on the reservation as a peace mission in 1865. In June 1865, he along with his father, Dimick B. Huntington, served as interpreters, and were signers of the document. Sometime after this military conflict, he left for California. He is shown on the 1870 census and at least one child was born in Amador California. His name appeared on California voting registrations through the 1870s. Their son, Alexander Wiley said they moved a lot and that Clark Allen wanted to go back to Utah, "to be with the saints." His wife wouldn't go, so he left her and the children in California and was back in Utah alone by the 1880 census. He eventually went to Lee's Ferry in Arizona. There he found employment with the Warren Johnson family, helping run the ferry. Alexander Wiley was with his father much of the time during the last three years of his father's life. He said his father contracted a cough when he had helped the people at the Sweetwater and that it stayed with him all the rest of his life, eventually causing his death. He passed away at the home of Warren Johnson and was interred in the cemetery in Kanab, Utah on November 16, 1896.

Sources:

Military and Church records
Family Histories/Family Search
U.S. Government records (Census, Voter Registrations)
1855 Reunion, Daniel Tyler, A Concise History of the Mormon Battalion
Dimick Huntington autobiography
Mormon Indian Missions, Master Thesis, Wesley R. Law
Deseret News, November 17, 1855, By William Wilson Sterrett

Lot Elisha Huntington was born 29 April 1834 in New York, the second oldest of nine children. His parents joined the Church in 1836, leaving affluent circumstances in New York to join the Saints in Kirkland, Ohio and eventually Nauvoo. Two of his younger siblings died before leaving Nauvoo in 1846. Camped at Mt Pisgah, his mother was about six months pregnant. At the time, the family consisted of his parents, an older brother, Clark Allen, and a two-year-old sister. The family did not originally plan to accompany their father, Dimick Huntington, who described their initial separation in the 1855 reunion "*I feel to say everyone will have as hard a time of trial as any of these my brethren had when we shook hands with our wives and bid farewell. I and my wife never saw a darker day; she said to me, Dimick, I fear I shall never see you again. I laid my hands on her head and blessed her in the name of the Lord, and told her we would live to see each other again, and spend many happy years together*." But those plans changed when Lt Colonel Allen indicated families could join them. Dimick recorded: *"Arrived at Pisgah about 10 of June plowed and put in 2 acres of corn...sold out for a cow & started about the 1st of July for Council Bluffs arrived 10 of July, 15 enlisted for one year...arrived at Fort Levinsworth in August 2....my family came to me at the Fort."*

Although his family traveled with Company D, Lot became an officer servant to William Willis in Company A at age 12. His older brother, Clark Allen, became an officer servant to Lt Thompson in Company C. Thompson indicated Allen as he was called on military records began his service on August 14, but Willis likely backdated Lot's service to July 17, suggesting Willis wanted to collect funds for his officer servant from the start of his appointment as a commissioned officer.

Lot's family was detached with the Higgins detachment in September and spent the winter in Pueblo. His mother gave birth to a child soon after arriving in Pueblo but the baby girl died a few weeks later. The family then traveled to Salt Lake with the detachments, arriving five days after the Brigham Young Vanguard Company arrived. The family then lived in Old Fort where another sibling was born in April of 1848. Soon after, they were sent to help settle Provo. They were living in Sanpete County by the 1850 census and were residing in Salt Lake for the 1860 Census.

Lot married Manomas Lovina Gibson in 1861 and one child was born before his death in 1862, although that child died the year after. A newspaper article in 1969 described a version of Lot's death, stating he was an outlaw and was killed by Orrin Porter Rockwell, although family members claim the account doesn't tell the whole story. Another family account suggested Lot was a scapegoat who may have been one who resented the Republican administration's imposition of the arrogant Governor Cummings. In any case, after a reported threat on the Governor's life, Lot left on horseback and headed into Wyoming. He was pursued, captured and summarily executed by Rockwell. His wife remarried in 1863, giving birth to eleven children and settling in St George where she died in 1940.

Sources:

Military and Church records
1855 reunion, Daniel Tyler: A Concise History of the Mormon Battalion
Dimick Huntington autobiography
Magna Times, January 12, 1969
Family stories/Family Search

Milton Kelley was born 12 Nov 1807 in Kentucky. He was the oldest of nine children. His family moved to Illinois where they were introduced to the church by Jefferson Hunt. Milton married his cousin Malinda Allison Kelly in 1836 – their mothers were sisters of Jefferson Hunt. They joined the Church in 1842 in the same year their firstborn daughter died. They experienced the trials in Nauvoo and traveled to Council Bluffs with the Saints in 1846.

In the Brigham Young return (church roster), Jefferson Hunt was shown as leaving 12 family members with Milton Kelley, age 38, assigned $20/month from Jefferson's pay for the benefit of the Hunt family while he was gone. But this changed soon after when a few soldiers returned three days after leaving Council Bluffs with a message that Lt Col Allen suggested families could accompany the Battalion. In a letter to George Albert Smith in 1860, Malinda wrote: *We moved out of Nauvoo at the time of the Church come as for as Council Bluffs and was one of the familys called on to go with the Mormon Battalion*." A large Hunt group including Jefferson's two wives and their children, an elderly couple named John and Jane Bosco, and Milton and his brother Nicholas with their wives arrived at Fort Leavenworth on August 7. Nicholas was added to the muster rolls on Aug 30 while Milton was shown as an officer's servant on a pay voucher for Captain Hunt and likely drove a wagon for Celia and her children. Like others, Captain Hunt backdated the pay for Milton to July 16 and even through September 30, 1846 after Milton had left with the Higgins detachment in mid-September.

Malinda was about two months pregnant as they left on the trail. Encumbered by the large number of women and children with the Battalion, Lt Smith sent most of the large families to winter with a group of Mississippi Saints at Pueblo. Milton and Melissa were part of the Higgins "family" detachment, leaving the main command in September and arriving in Pueblo in October with a number of Hunt family members. Malinda wrote: "*...traveled with them to Purbalo {Pueblo} New Mexico and not being very strong constituted was stayed With the sick and weak and was the Winter shortly after we arrived ... with some others, went out on the long expedition to get meat to supply those familys. While out camping on the wet ground he took cold and was brought in sick and died.*" He died November 4, 1846 at Pueblo.

Now a widow, Malinda gave birth to her second baby girl on 7 February 1847. Malinda and her baby daughter traveled to Salt Lake with the detachments, living with Celia and Matilda Hunt, cousin Gilbert Hunt, and her husband's brother Nicholas and his family. She married Robert Covington in 1848, becoming a mother to his three living children. She gave birth to a daughter in late 1849 before the family was sent to the Dixie Mission in Washington County where she raised her family.

Sources:

Military and Church records
Brigham Young return (church roster)
Church history document, Malinda Kelley letter to George Albert Smith

James Lawson was born 27 December 1833 in New York, the third of eight children. His father joined the Church in New York and his family was in Ohio by 1838 and Illinois by 1839 with his last sibling born in Hancock County in November 1846. In his mother's pension application, she indicated she never joined the Church and she refused to travel with the Saints. She remained behind when her husband and apparently James left with the Saints in the spring of 1846.

His father was one of the early volunteers at Mt Pisgah on July 7 and enlisted in the Mormon Battalion Company B at Council Bluffs, taking his son with him. At age 13, James was a servant for Lt Ruel Barrus in Company B documented by Ruel's pay record for July 16 through September 30, 1846 and received at Santa Fe on October 18.

Arriving in California in late January 1847, James was with Company B which served the last four months of enlistment at San Diego where he likely assisted his father who was a blacksmith. After the Battalion was discharged in July 1847, James likely traveled with his father arriving in the Great Basin in the fall of 1847 with part of the Hancock Company that continued to Salt Lake. One journal account of 1849 suggested his father may have gone back to assist families, returning in 1849 with the Isaac Clark Company before a marriage to Margaret Vance in the fall of 1849. James appeared in an 1850 Census (taken in 1851) in Sanpete County, Utah with his father, stepmother and a baby half-sister.

Both James and his father's names appeared on an 1851 Utah Militia muster roll, noting their original service began in May 1849 although there is some confusion if his father was really there since he was mentioned in the company coming from Iowa at the same time. James' service in the Utah Militia continued through 1853, most in Manti but a few in Cottonwood in 1851. A person shown as J Lawson also appeared multiple times starting in 1850 in Manti and Salt Lake in 1852 which makes it difficult to tell if it is him or his father John. After 1853, James has not been found in any census records for 1860. A J. F. Lawson purchased land in San Bernardino for pennies on the dollar on 4 Dec 1857 when folks were leaving to join the Saints during the Utah War. This may be James. It is also quite possible he returned east and resided with his mother and other siblings. When his mother submitted a pension application after James' father's death, she provided a list of her children's birth dates including James' death date of 1865. It is unknown if she knew his death date because he was living by her or she may have received that death information from her husband John through a letter she received from him about 1871 when he returned east for a while after he joined the RLDS Church in Salt Lake about 1870.

Sources:

Military and Church records
Mother's widow pension application, Sarah Leal
San Bernardino property records, Book B page 180
U.S. Census records

John Mayfield was born 29 September 1831, in Kentucky, one of five children. His father died when he was four and his mother married Sebert Crutcher Shelton in 1839. Sebert was a widower with two children. Together his mother and Sebert had three additional children as they joined the Church and eventually resided in Hancock, Illinois. Leaving with the Saints, their blended family of nine children all gathered at Council Bluffs in 1846. When the call came for men to join the Battalion, John's older brother Benjamin enlisted along with his stepfather who was originally in Company A and appointed as Quartermaster Sergeant. Based on the Brigham Young Return (church roster of Battalion), his mother Elizabeth and seven other family members planned to stay behind "to go on" and travel with Brigham Young the following year which suggests two children were with Sebert, Benjamin and John. It is likely John's 18-year-old brother Andrew was staying behind to take care of his mother and siblings. Based on a memoir of Sarah Jane Brown, Col Allen suggested families could join the battalion a few days after the battalion left if they were equipped to travel. John's family traveled together with the Brown family to Fort Leavenworth where they met the Battalion members.

No official document confirms John was an officer servant. However, one family document suggested he was a servant to an "acting" commander. When Captain Hunt turned in an officer pay request for July 16 through September 30 that included his servant, he only listed Milton Kelley with the start date of July 16 but Milton didn't arrive at Fort Leavenworth until August 7, suggesting John possibly served Captain Hunt. However Hunt was not an acting commander until leaving Fort Leavenworth without Lt Colonel Allen who was sick. All but Elizabeth's son, Benjamin, became part of the Higgins detachment and his stepfather was reassigned to Company D. John and his family were sent to Pueblo in mid-September at the Arkansas River which consisted mostly of large families in Company D and most of Hunt's large family from Company A. It is possible he became an officer servant to Captain Higgins who was in charge of the Higgins detachment although two documents show Higgins' son was his servant at least part of the time in Pueblo. Family records note the children attended school at Pueblo and the family enjoyed the friendship of the camp. Benjamin continued to California where he reenlisted in the Mormon Volunteers and served for another eight months. He was discharged in March 1848.

John and his family arrived in the Salt Lake Valley with the detachments on July 29, 1847 right behind the Brigham Young Vanguard Company. On August 8, his name appeared on a list of those attending a sacrament meeting where assignments were given to prepare the area for the incoming companies. The family moved to Ogden for one year before John and his brother Andrew made their way to California in 1848 possibly with the Good Year Company to join their brother Benjamin who had been discharged in March. In November 1849, his mother wrote her sons a letter from Salt Lake indicating she had received some things from John via Nathan Swarthout who had left on a California mission in April 1849 and must have returned in the fall of 1849. She also noted "*I received a letter by Gilbert Hunt from [Andrew] Jackson & [Benjamin] Franklin in which I was informed of your success in business of which I am very glad to hear but we very sorry to hear of the misfortune of Jacksons wife. I hope she has recovered I will mention that I received the amount of money that was stated in the letter and I feel that I have great reason to rejoice that I have sons that are so thoughtfull and kind to me.*" Gilbert Hunt traveled to California from Utah in late 1847 with his father returning in May 1848 which may have been related to the letter his mother received from Gilbert.

By the 1850 census, his sister Sarah and his three youngest half-siblings and their parents had joined Benjamin, Andrew, and John in the gold country of El Dorado. Becoming part of the San Bernardino community established by Church members and former Battalion Captain Jefferson Hunt, John married Jefferson's daughter, Harriett, in 1859 in San Bernardino where three of their four children were born. He was listed as a farmer in the 1860 and 1880 census records. John died in 1889 in San Bernardino, California.

Sources

Military and Church records
Sarah Jane Brown memoir
U.S. census records
Elizabeth Shelton letter to sons from Salt Lake, Nov 1849

James Allen Mowery was born 26 November 1829 in Springfield, Illinois. His family joined the Church and gathered with the Saints in Nauvoo where his father died in 1842 and his mother became a plural wife. The family traveled to Council Bluffs in 1846 where his brother John enlisted in the Mormon Battalion in Company C at age 17 after the initial muster. At age 16, James became an officer servant to Company C 1st Lt George Rosecrans. Only one pay record has been found giving the dates of July 16 - September 30 but James likely continued in that position to the west coast. Arriving in California in late January 1847, Company C was assigned to Los Angeles and building Fort Moore.

After discharge, both he and his brother enlisted in the Mormon Volunteers on July 20, 1847 where the rolls reflected John was age 19 and James 18, suggesting they may have adjusted their ages to satisfy more stringent military age requirements, or it was the age they would be turning that year. As they were discharged in March 1848 James V Williams recorded in his journal, "*The same day John Mower, James Mower, Philo J. Carter and myself left San Diego and traveled north hunting work. We all got work for a couple of brothers*." They worked for several months before heading to the mines and making their way to Salt Lake likely in 1849.

James then made his way east to Iowa where he married a young 15- year-old girl in 1850. They were found in an 1850 census with James' mother who had married a third time after her second spouse traveled to Salt Lake with another wife and died in 1849. His mother remarried again in October 1849 within a year from when James arrived in Council Bluffs.

It is unclear what happened to his wife or what year he traveled to Salt Lake. He applied for a bounty land application from Salt Lake in 1854. In a follow-up letter in 1855, it stated he was 24 which would have made him even younger. The narrative was confusing, indicating he submitted an application in 1850 but disposed of it. He was asking for an additional 40 acres which likely meant he was reapplying for the 40 acres he was eligible for from his eight months service in the Mormon Volunteers. No application from 1850 has been found. A land warrant was issued and redeemed in Council Bluffs in 1857 by Almon Babbit although strangely Babbit died in September 1856.

James married in Payson Utah in 1856 but his wife married someone else two years later. He was listed on a Utah Militia muster roll in Washington County in 1857 before he returned to Council Bluffs to join his siblings including his brother John who had returned after his service. His mother had died in 1856. In 1860, James married another 15-year-old daughter of his mother's third husband who had children from a previous marriage. She gave birth to six children. Another bounty land application was submitted in 1874 in Iowa, stating he was age 44 and the application was signed by mark. It is unclear if he forgot he had already submitted an application. He died in Council Bluffs in 1879 leaving behind a wife and six children from ages 1-15.

Sources:

Military and Church records
Journal: James V Williams
Bounty land application

William Byram Pace was born 9 February 1832 in Tennessee, the oldest of eight children. In his autobiography, William noted his mother was well educated and provided her children with early training in music, arithmetic and grammar. His parents joined the Church about 1838 and traveled to Nauvoo where William was baptized in 1840. At age 10, he was elected captain of a company of 50 young boys age 8 and up in the Nauvoo Legion in Illinois. He wrote "*In about one year I was taken out of the company and sent to Edward P. Desettes drumming school where I found Jesse Earl, H. P. Richard, N. A. Empy and others learning to drum. In a few weeks we were assigned to the Nauvoo Legion Marshall Band and did service there during the remaining days of Nauvoo. Much drill and guard duty was required of the Band such as field playing nearly every day or staying at Headquarters and beating the alarm at night if needed. Being a boy with no particular family cares, I came in for much of the later; hence, my associates almost from this time became men and not boys*." Leaving Nauvoo, his family crossed the Mississippi River on February 6, 1846. The family traveled with the exiled Saints, stopping at Mt Pisgah to farm where his father, James Pace, was one of the early volunteers recruited by Church leaders on July 7, 1846. His father traveled to Council Bluffs and enlisted in the Mormon Battalion Company E at age 35 and selected as 1st Lt in Company E. The Brigham Young return (Church roster) indicated James left seven people behind including his wife and six living children who were still located at Mt Pisgah with one cow. Soon after leaving Council Bluffs, James took leave to return to Mt Pisgah to recruit his oldest son, William, and nephew Wilson as officer servants who accompanied the Battalion. This left James' wife with five children ages 2-10. William served as his father's officer servant at age 14 and his cousin Wilson who turned 15 on July 27 served as officer servant for 2nd Lt Andrew Lytle. William indicated they caught up with the Battalion at St Joe Missouri. He noted that Captain Allen wanted to show off his Mormon boys to the Missourians so he selected Levi Hancock, Elisha Averett as fifers and Jesse Earl and William as drummers at the head of the command. "*Being two of the smallest boys in the Battalion, (about 14 1/2 years old) we were very conspicuous."*

William provided a detailed account of the Battalion's experience in California where they arrived in late January 1847. He wrote "*At San Louis Rey we had our first view of the Pacific Ocean. The country was green with wild oats and mustard. The hills were covered with fat cattle which proved our salvation, as there was no flour in the land until Commodore Stockton brought it from the Sandwich Islands some three months later. Hence, our beef rations grew to seven pounds per day before we got any bread, coffee and accompaniments. When we reached San Diego, on the coast, Gen.. Kearny was gone to Monterey, leaving orders for the Battalion to retrace their steps to San Louis Rey Mission and take up Quarters. After a days rest, spent mostly on the beach, we took up the line of march for San Louis Rey where we were quartered for several months with nothing to do except eat beef and drill two hours forenoon and two hours afternoon. Here, though not required to do any military duty I found it a pleasure to borrow a gun from a sick man, and join in the 'drill' from which I obtained a fair knowledge of infantry tactics that became very useful to me in after years."* He then described their time spent in Los Angeles, the travels to Salt Lake and then back to Iowa, noting he "*arrived a day or two before Christmas 1847. Here we found all our folks disbanded and settled into quiet life*."

He assisted Brigham Young's Company on their way to the Great Basin in 1848 but returned back to Iowa after getting the company across the Sweetwater. He noted he spent some time in school and got a job until the family was ready to travel to Salt Lake in 1850. Arriving in Salt Lake, his family was sent to settle an area that became known as Payson. William married in Provo in 1852 just before he left for California where he was involved in mining activities. Upon his return in 1853, he was happy to find his wife had given birth to their first child which was followed by an additional fourteen children as he traveled around in various assignments. In 1855, he served on a Mormon Battalion reunion planning committee representing Utah County with Levi Hancock and James Stewart. William became extensively involved with the Utah Militia beginning in 1851, using his skills learned from his service with the Mormon Battalion. He served as a Colonel during the Utah War in 1857 and as Brigadier General during the Black Hawk War in 1865-66. He married a plural wife in 1877 who gave birth to four additional children. He was pictured in a photo for the 1897 Pioneer Jubilee and died in 1907 in Orem, Utah.

Sources:

Military and Church records
Autobiography, William Byram Pace

Wilson Daniel Pace was born 27 July 1831 in Tennessee. He was the second of ten children, but the first died as a young child. Three other siblings died as infants. The family experienced persecution in their community after joining the Church and moved to Nauvoo where he was baptized in 1841 according to Family Search ordinances. Leaving their home again due to persecution, his family traveled to Mt Pisgah when a call came for men to enlist in the Mormon Battalion. Wilson's uncle James Pace answered that call and was mustered on July 16, 1846 at Council Bluffs where he was appointed as 1st Lieutenant in Company E. Each commissioned officer was allowed one officer servant under military regulations. Soon after leaving Council Bluffs, his uncle took leave to return to Mt Pisgah where his family was located to recruit his oldest son, William, and his nephew Wilson as officer servants. Wilson served as the officer servant for 2nd Lt Lytle while his cousin served as an officer servant for his father. Wilson's obituary described his service as a "waiter" but inaccurately noted he was the youngest member in his company. Two traveling with Company E were younger - one a soldier and one an officer servant. His cousin William serving as an officer servant was six months younger. The youngest soldier/musician in the entire Mormon Battalion, Justis (Jesse) Earl was four months younger than Wilson. Wilson turned 15 possibly before his uncle even arrived at Mt Pisgah to retrieve the two boys. And one five-year-old child was also with the company. Wilson traveled with the main command to California, arriving in late January 1847, and spent the last four months with the companies assigned to Los Angeles. After the Battalion was discharged in July 1847, he traveled to Salt Lake with his cousin and uncle who was in charge of a company within the large Hancock Company.

According to family histories, Wilson continued with his uncle and cousin to Iowa although he is not listed in the company in the Church History Biographical Database with his family who traveled to the Great Basin in 1848 with the Brigham Young Company. Staying one year in the Cottonwood area of Salt Lake, his family became one of the first settlers of Provo in 1849 helping to build a fort before moving to Spanish Fork in 1850. His name began to appear on Utah Militia rolls in 1850 in various locations in Salt Lake and Utah County and continued in 1866-68 in Kane and Washington County. Although the application itself has not been located, bounty land was awarded in April 1880 likely related to some component of his Utah Militia service. He was also involved with the Willie and Martin Handcart Rescue efforts in 1856.

A farmer by trade, Wilson married Anna Moriah Redd in 1853 in Spanish Fork where five children were born before moving to New Harmony, Washington County by 1863 where an additional seven children were born. He married a plural wife Elisabeth Lee in 1868 and she gave birth to twelve children, the last three born in Arizona between 1888 and 1892. Wilson served as Bishop for twenty years in New Harmony according to his obituary.

A newspaper article in May 1892 indicated he was charged with unlawful cohabitation and served six months in the Utah Territorial Penitentiary. He submitted a form for the 1897 Pioneer Jubilee, listing his residence as Arizona. He was not listed among those marching in the Battalion parade entry, suggesting he may not have been present two years before his death in 1899 in Thatcher Arizona.

Sources:

Military and Church records
Bounty land record
Autobiography, William Byram Pace
Salt Lake Herald Newspaper, 10 May 1892
Obituary
Family histories/Family Search

Zemira Palmer was born 9 August 1831 in Ontario Canada. He was the sixth of seven children. His mother, Phebe, joined the Church in 1833 and his father died in 1834, just before his mother gave birth to her last child. His mother with four of her children and her brother William and his family moved to Kirtland, Ohio, then Missouri and Illinois. As they left Missouri, Ebenezer Brown invited William and Phebe with their families to live with his family in Pleasantville, Illinois. When Ebenezer's wife became ill, Phebe cared for her and took care of his children after Ann died in June 1842. Two months later, Phebe and Ebenezer were married and moved to Nauvoo. Some family accounts suggest Zemira lived with his Uncle Zemira Palmer at times. Combining their families of five unmarried children, Ebenezer and Phebe made their way to Council Bluffs in 1846 with the exiled Saints where Zemira's stepfather mustered in the Mormon Battalion in Company A. The Brigham Young return (church roster) dated July 21 indicated Ebenezer was leaving behind five people which included his wife and four children. The oldest unmarried child was living elsewhere. But several days after July 21, some families received word that Lt Colonel Allen would allow families to come along. A number of families joined the Battalion at Fort Leavenworth and likely included Phebe and her youngest son Zemira, leaving the others in the care of Ebenezer and Phebe's married children. Zemira turned 15 at Fort Leavenworth. Zemira's widow's pension application and two witnesses, veterans Walter Barney and James V Williams, suggested he initially "enlisted" but was reduced in ranks to become Captain Allen's servant. But these witnesses likely had no idea about the situation and just were trying to help his wife. His obituary states "*his age and feeble appearance barred his enlistment...he found employment as Captain Allen's servant.*" Daniel Tyler's battalion history also suggests that situation, but he may have been told that by Zemira's family after Zemira's death in 1880. The conflicting information of the Brigham Young return and the fact that Captain Allen already had his own servant makes the story improbable. It is possible that Zemira assisted Captain Allen in some capacity since his father was an officer in Company A and could have interacted with Allen at Fort Leavenworth, providing some explanation to that story. The only military record that has been found to date reflected Zemira served as an officer servant to Lt Lorenzo Clark for the month of October 1846. The document stated he was 5'4" tall with blue eyes, light hair and light complexion. Arriving in Santa Fe, Lt Colonel Cooke initially ordered all women and children to Pueblo, but was convinced to allow five wives of two captains and three sergeants and one five-year-old child with several other young officer servants to continue to California. Zemira's mother was one of those wives and the family arrived with the main command on the west coast in late January 1847, spending six weeks at Mission San Luis Rey. When four of the companies were assigned to Los Angeles in mid-march, his stepfather was assigned to remain another three weeks with Lt Oman and 30 privates, most of whom were sick before rejoining their company in Los Angeles. While his mother likely remained with her husband, it is unknown if Zemira stayed or went with the main command as Lt Clark's officer servant. After discharge on July 16, 1847, Zemira and his family left Los Angeles with Captain Hunt and arrived in Monterey where he remained with other men for the winter. In early summer of 1848, an organized company under the command of his father and Samuel Thompson, both officers with the Battalion, made their way from Monterey to Mormon Island starting on June 5 and arriving on June 29. It is assumed Zemira was with them as his stepfather did some mining before traveling to Pleasant Valley for the trip to Salt Lake. Thompson then joined with Jonathan Holmes to lead the first group to Salt Lake in 1848, followed soon by another company under the direction of Zemira's stepfather, most of whom arrived in Salt Lake in October 1848. Zemira's siblings and half-siblings arrived in Salt Lake from Council Bluffs in 1848 and 1849. His name first appeared on Utah Militia muster rolls in 1849 and continued through 1861. According to the Journal of Church History on June 12, 1849, Zemira was with a group of nine men under Captain Lamoreaux who "*left the valley for Green River to trade and to ferry the California and Oregon emigration over that river. The company took wagon makers and blacksmith tools with them*." Zemira married Sally Knight in 1851 who gave birth to twelve children in Provo, Heber City, Nevada and Santa Clara, Utah. He married a plural wife in 1857. Caroline Jacques gave birth to eight children, the last in Orderville in 1877. He assisted with the Willie and Martin handcart rescue. His obituary noted "*On the 11th of April 1874, was called by President Young to take charge of the United Order at Springdale, on the Rio Virgin. Upon the breaking up of the organization he removed to Orderville, and labored with great zeal under the direction of the authorities to the day of his death. He was laboring as a carpenter, when he was taken with a pain in his stomach, and died at 4 p.m. the following day."* He died in Orderville, Utah in 1880.

Sources:

Military and Church records, Edward Tullidge's Histories Vol. 2; Journal of Church History, June 12, 1849, image 583, Obituary, Widow's pension application; Daniel Tyler, The Mormon Battalion

John Reese is highly likely John Reese Clawson. Only one document exists for John Reese. The pay document shows John Reese as an officer servant for Lt Cyrus Canfield in Company D from July 16 - September 30, 1846. The document states he was 5'3" tall but the last name may have been accidently or purposely left off to conceal he was also a soldier which was not encouraged by the military. John Reese Clawson was age 17 and served as a private in Company D. Soldier Almon Whiting was also an officer servant for the same pay period for Lt Sylvester Hulett who was also in Company D. It is possible Company D was having difficulty finding officer servants.

John Reese Clawson arrived in California with the main command in late January 1847 and after discharge reenlisted in the Mormon Volunteers. After discharge in March 1848, he then traveled to Salt Lake in 1849 and died in 1879. Until we find other sources or additional pay documents for the officers, it is impossible to verify if John Reese and John Reese Clawson are the same.

Sources:

Military pay document
See John Reese Clawson life sketch, Family Search PID# KWJH-86Y

Alroy Root was born about 1831 in Ohio, the oldest of nine children. His family was living in Nauvoo before leaving with the Saints. Arriving in Council Bluffs, Alroy accompanied the Mormon Battalion at the estimated age of 15. He had multiple uncles who served in the Mormon Battalion including Eleazer and Sterling Davis, Henry Fairbanks, and William Wellington Spencer. A pay document reflected A Root was an officer servant for Captain James Brown in Company C from July 16 to September 30, 1846. Alroy's height was listed as 4'9" with black eyes and a light complexion. Arriving at Santa Fe, he was detached with Captain Brown and the large detachment comprised of sick and feeble men, twenty women and their soldier husbands with some children who spent the winter of 1846-47 in Pueblo with two other detachments and the Mississippi Saints.

On March 7 at Pueblo. John Steele recorded, "*There has been Letters as we sopose sent to us from the Bluffs for one of Bents Fort Men said that there was a paccage rowled up for us & he forgot to bring them but a we soposed our offisers would as the ware there at that time trying to get us a fit out [?outfit] for Bear Valey and that he would bring them up to us But to our Grait astonishment there was But three one for Captain B and one for Elroy Root the Capt = Servant and one for some other one orders has now arived that we must get an out fit and go to California soon.*"

Following orders, Captain Brown started leading the detachments to California in May before messengers from the Brigham Young vanguard arrived to encourage them to follow the Vanguard Company into the Great Basin. Alroy's name was left off the Thomas Bullock roster as the detachments arrived in Salt Lake. However, a Davis Alroid Root was shown on a rebaptism record on August 8, 1847 which must be him since no one else by that name was in the Vanguard Company. His family emigrated to the Great Basin in 1848. His name also appeared as Captain Brown's officer servant at the bottom of the muster pay roll Brown carried to Monterey to collect the final pay for the detachments.

According to a local community history of California coastal towns, Alroy and his family traveled to California in 1849 via Placerville and went to Greenwood valley where they built the first hotel and appeared on an 1850 Sacramento census. It appears that some records used the name of Alex. In 1851 the entire family returned to Iowa where his mother died. After his father remarried, the family returned to California. His name appeared on the voting registrations in 1867. He married in the late 1860s and two children were listed on the 1870 census for Alameda California. Their last child was born in 1872. Family Search estimates his death date as 1875 and his wife was listed as a widow in the 1880 census.

Sources:

Military and Church records
John Steele journal
U.S. Census Records
A Memorial and Biographical History of the Coast Counties of Central California

A San Diego was apparently an officer servant for 2nd Lt Sylvester Hulett for one month from March 10 to April 10, 1847 until Sylvester's resignation from the Mormon Battalion on March 27 took affect on April 10. Since we haven't found the pay documents for officers during the preceding months in California, he may have served longer. The military pay document indicated the servant was 5'9", dark complexion with black eyes and dark hair suggesting he was a local native. Nothing else is known about him.

Source:

Military record

Elisha Smith was born 15 July 1798 in Ohio. Little is known of his early life. By 1846, Elisha and his wife, Rebecca, were living in Nauvoo where their names were listed together in Nauvoo Temple records on 2 February 1846. Rebecca should not be confused with another woman named Rebecca Smith recorded on the same day with William Smith and associated name of Mary Grimshaw.

Traveling to Council Bluffs in 1848, at age 48, Elisha was listed on Daniel Tyler's roster for Company E although his name does not appear on any official military rolls so Tyler's account appears to be a mistake. According to James V Williams autobiography, Elisha became the teamster for Captain Davis. Referring to Captain Davis, James wrote *"on the 21st, he and his wife and his son, not hers, came rolling into camp with Elisha Smith as his teamster and Smith's wife also.*" While his wife was sent with the Brown detachment, he continued with the main command after the Willis sick detachment left and started to retrace their steps to Santa Fe and on to Pueblo. But three weeks later, Elisha died on December 8, 1846 in Arizona in a place called "Ash Creek." Although he was an officer servant - not a soldier - Elisha was the last man to die along the trail to California with the main command. On December 9th Lt Colonel Cooke recorded his death. *"I should have mentioned that a man servant of Captain Davis died very suddenly yesterday morning."* Daniel Tyler's history recorded his burial. "*Large wolves, probably scenting the corpse, made the night hideous with their howls. Their grim voices almost rent the air only a few feet from our camp. He was buried in the wilderness, alone, and , like the others, without a coffin, or a slab, to mark his last resting place. Brush and billets of wood were piled upon his grave, and there burned to conceal his remains from the Indians and wolves."* In a letter to the Deseret News in 1902 to challenge the statement that Lot Smith was the youngest member of the Battalion, James Williams noted that Lot was given Elisha's *"tolerably good pair of trousers*."

It is uncertain how and when Elisha's wife learned of his death. Although no document has been found to verify a marriage, some accounts suggest she married Private Thomas Burns in Pueblo sometime after he arrived with the Willis detachment who left the main command in November before Elisha's death in December. Thomas and Rebecca did not travel with the detachments to Salt Lake. His name appeared as a "deserter" on the Thomas Bullock roster documenting the detachments who arrived in the Great Basin. They returned directly to Iowa from Pueblo, then had a child in 1847 with conflicting birth locations in Texas, Utah or Wyoming per three different census records, before traveling to California about 1849 where they appeared on the 1850 Census.

Sources:

Military and Church records
Daniel Tyler, A Concise History of the Mormon Battalion
James V Williams Journal
Deseret News, 9 April 1902, Letter submitted by James V Williams
Lt Col Cooke Journal

John Thomas is a mystery with no confirmed identification. The only record we have for John is a pay document for Lt Robert Clift from Company C, naming John Thomas as his officer servant from July 16 - September 30, 1846. His height was listed as 5 feet with blue eyes, brown hair, and a dark complexion. Until we find other sources or additional pay documents for the officers, it is impossible to verify if he served beyond that time.

There is no John Thomas listed in the detachments coming into Salt Lake from Pueblo in July 1847, so whoever this was, either continued to California and/or returned back to Iowa. Typically officer servants were among the Saints with relationships to the Mormon Battalion.

Even though five feet tall seems a little short for an adult man, here are three possible identities for John Thomas:

John Pledger Thomas was the brother of soldier Nathan Thomas who was in Company C. John was born in 1822 and married in Nauvoo in January 1846 so he would have been 24 years old. John and Nathan's sister arrived in Salt Lake from Iowa in the fall of 1847 where their sister Elizabeth died a few months later. Elizabeth's spouse, Robert Dockery Covington, then married Malinda Allison Kelley, the wife of officer servant Milton Kelley. John's first child was born in 1849.

John Henry Thomas is the brother of soldier Elijah Thomas who was in Company C. John married in 1843 in Mississippi where their first child was born in 1845. He owned land in Nauvoo. He would have been 31 on July 16, 1846. Their second child was born 1 May 1847 in Council Bluffs and their third child born 24 January 1849, leaving a few windows of time for him to move about. There are several scenarios to explain this situation if in fact, it is him. It is possible John Henry was initially willing to serve with his brother assisting Lt Clift at Council Bluffs but returned to his wife after arriving at Fort Leavenworth. He could have left his wife and joined the Battalion late at Fort Leavenworth, but returned anywhere along the trail before Santa Fe. He could have even gone all the way to California and returned after the Battalion was discharged, making his way to Iowa by 1848. Family Search indicated John Henry and his family lived the rest of their lives in Iowa with a few children born in Missouri in the early 1850s. A number of his siblings came to Utah including his father.

John P Thomas was born about 1828 in Prussia. He would be about 18. He had property in Nauvoo and later married in Hancock County in 1851 where he was on census records through the 1880s. If this was him, he traveled to Council Bluffs, traveled with the Battalion until about September and left the group, returning to Nauvoo.

Source:

Military pay document

John Harvey Tippets was born 5 September 1810 in New Hampshire, one of eight children. His family were early converts and John was baptized in 1832. He served a mission to Illinois and Indiana before marrying in New York in 1834. They joined the Saints in Missouri where two children were born. Both of John's parents died in Missouri and likely one of their children. Located in Quincy Illinois in 1840, his wife, Abigail, died a week after her third child was born who also died. John married a widow with two children that year and his wife, Caroline, gave birth to their second child in May 1846 before leaving Nauvoo.

Arriving with the Saints in Council Bluffs in 1846, John enlisted in the Mormon Battalion Company D at age 35. He also served as an officer servant to Captain Higgins for about two months until Higgins was detached to Pueblo. He left his wife and four living children and stepchildren behind, the youngest just two months old. In an 1855 reunion, he stated *"I never expect to see a day when I shall feel worse than when I left my family at Winter Quarters*." He sent $30 from his clothing allowance he received at Fort Leavenworth to his wife who was with the Amasa Lyman Company. She spent $28.65 on December 17 for food and supplies according to the Winter Quarters store ledger. She also received $1.35 on December 6. Continuing several weeks past Santa Fe, John was detached to Pueblo with the Willis detachment. He provided a vivid description of the challenges the Willis detachment experienced, first arriving back at Santa Fe and told to continue to Pueblo with a number of sick men traveling through severe weather and deep snow. Tippets was then assigned to travel with Thomas Woolsey to Council Bluffs to carry money and mail and to report the location and condition of the Battalion. "*After much anxiety and several days in returning we got leave of lietendant Willis to make the adventures from Fort Puebelow to Counsel Bluff where the main body of our breathering ware...on the 29 December 1846 we left Puebelow.*" Wilford Woodruff recorded their arrival in Council Bluffs. "*While at the table Brother Thomas Wolsay & John H. Tippets entered the house they came direct from the Mormon Battalion 280 miles south of Santa fe on the River Riogrand on the 10th of Nov 1847. They piloted 56 sick men to Fort Purbolo whare Capt Brown establishment were stationed from there came in on Pack Mules were 50 days on the way. were taken prisoners twice by the Indians, once was sentenceed to death by the Pawnees were 30 days without bread & 5 days without much of any thing to eat. Brought a package of 137 letters brought good account from fort Purbulow but rather unfavorable from the Battalion their faces were covered with hair & there persons resembled a mountaineer. it was a miracle that the lives of the men were saved from the Indians & cold. They were seated to the table in the guarbd they arived in. their arival produced no small stir through the camp. men & women came in all directions to enquire after there friends in the Armey. After the men were refreshed we went into council with them & they rehearsed the situation of the Battallion that they had been on half rations for three weeks when they left them."* On January 22, John received $40 that included his pay at Santa Fe and for his expenses related to his return trip to Council Bluffs. In the spring of 1847, John then traveled with the Vanguard Company until Brigham Young sent him with Amasa Lyman, and battalion members Thomas Woolsey, and Roswell Stephens on June 3 to intercept the detachments which they did. He arrived in the valley with the detachments on July 29, 1847 and then returned to Iowa to get his family. The following year, he brought his family to the Salt Lake Valley on September 24, 1848. John wrote, "*When I got into the Valley, I had one ox, two cows. I had to start for a living, and but little to help myself with, with a wife and four children. I lived through the winter in a place dug in the ground ten feet one way, and nine feet the other and covered with dirt."* He paid for a certificate of service in October which was likely carried to Iowa in case it was needed for a bounty land application which was filed in his name in December 1848. In the spring, the family moved onto a lot in Salt Lake. He married a plural wife in 1848 that quickly ended in divorce. In the 1850 census, his family was comprised of his wife, his oldest son from his first marriage, his wife's children from her first marriage, and their five-year-old son. Their last child was born in 1851, shortly after the census was taken. His name appeared on Utah Militia rolls in 1852 and 1855. He attended the 1855 Battalion Festival and then he served a mission to England in 1856-57, returning early in 1858 as the Saints were returning to their homes from the Utah War. In 1863, he married another plural wife with one child and his family moved to Farmington where she gave birth to six additional children. He resided there the rest of his life until his death in 1890. Battalion veteran and stake president, John Hess, spoke at his funeral.

Sources:
Military and Church records
Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia, Joseph Smith Papers
Journals/Autobiography: John Tippets, Wilford Woodruff
Pension and Bounty land applications, 1855 Battalion Festival publication

Nathan Young was born 5 October 1827 in Rhode Island although the Brigham Young return (Church roster) showed birth year as 1824. One of five children, his two older siblings died, leaving him the oldest of three living children. He was a nephew of one of Brigham Young's wives. According to a newspaper article near the end of his life, "*Nathan was converted to the Mormon faith when a lad. He was then suffering from a complaint which the doctors pronounced incurable, but which disappeared after his baptism in the Mississippi River by Brigham Young. Nathan was energetic and zealous, and joined the historic Nauvoo Legion when between 15 and 16 years of age. He was just 17 when Joseph Smith, the Mormon Prophet, was murdered in Carthage jail, and was on duty that morning at Nauvoo as part of the town guard, the mob of fanatics who committed the murder being expected to come on and attack the town."*

Traveling with the Saints to Council Bluffs in 1846, his name appeared on the original Mormon Battalion muster rolls and the Brigham Young return (Church roster) dated July 22, 1846 indicated he originally volunteered as a soldier in Company B. In his autobiography, Elijah Allen wrote *"President Young wished his boys to enlist so I, Nathan Young, Albert Dunham, we threw down the whip & left his teams & cattle to be took care of as best they could in that wild unsettled country and put our names down in Co B."* But soon after, his name was crossed off the original muster rolls and Nathan became an officer's servant for Captain Hunter of Company B at age 18. The military officer pay document covering July 16 through September 30 indicated he was 5'6" tall with fair complexion, blue eyes and fair hair. As an officer servant, Nathan arrived in California in late January 1847 and was stationed at San Diego with Captain Hunter. On May 30, historian Norma Ricketts noted *"Richard Bush, John Borrowman, and Nathan Young borrowed a boat from Captain Henry Fitch, the alcalde, and went to an island in the bay. They saw a deer and two hares."* Interestingly, in a letter to the pension office in 1898, he stated he enlisted in the Mormon Battalion but never mentioned he was an officer servant. He then stated he enrolled again for eight months without naming the unit but documented his service in the Mormon Volunteers.

In an attempt to prove his identify in 1899, he listed ten names of soldiers he thought were from his first "enlistment" even though he was actually an officer servant. However, most of the names were from his service in the Mormon Volunteers, confusing the pension office who questioned its validity. He also provided a narrative describing several events that stood out in his mind. "*The first incident I mention after leaving Fort Leavenworth, while camped on a hill on the prairie a heavy storm of wind & rain occurred wrecking the hospital waggon which was filled with sick no deaths occurred and the sick men soon recovered. Another incident I relate During the time the battalion was at Santa Fee New Mexico the Doctors had an inspection of the men and members were draughted out and sent back until their recovery and to await recall when in health."* This memory related to the Brown detachment who was sent to Pueblo. He also described when Lt Cooke changed the destination from Mexico to the California coast, passing by the friendly Pima Indians, wild mules procured at Warner's Ranch, and movement from San Luis Rey to San Diego where his company was stationed for the last four months. His account stated "*During this time we shipped a quantity of copper cannon balls found there on board of a Congress U.S. Man of War."*

Eventually the pension office was able to document he served as an officer servant for the Mormon Battalion where the unit was discharged in Los Angeles in July 1847 and he then enlisted in the Mormon Volunteers and discharged in San Diego in March 1848. "*He returned to Los Angeles for 4 months then in California gold fields from 1848 to 1854. Sailed from San Francisco and landed at Sydney [Australia] then on the gold fields of Victoria for 5 years. Then the new South Wales gold fields for 15 years. Worked for various employees."* His account noted he lived in an asylum for two years where he provided the statement indicating he was "*unable to read-write (except my signature) the above statement is from memory."*

Reported in a Salt Lake newspaper article in August 1900, he returned from Australia to Salt Lake with a returning missionary to obtain his pension. "*Mr. Young will make his home at Coalville with his sister, Mrs. Rachel Frazier, and his brother, James V. Young. His joy at being back here to spend his last days with his relatives is great indeed and no less the gratification of his brother and sister who have been separated from him for half a century."* He died a few months after the article was published, having never married.

Sources:
Military and Church documents, Pension Application
Deseret News August 3, 1900, Norma Ricketts, *The Mormon Battalion*

Other Followers

John Bosco (Burscough) born 1795 **and Jane Harrison Bosco (Burscough)** born 1790 were English natives. John was one of at least three children and Jane was one of seven children. They married in England, but it is unknown if they had any posterity. They are shown on a New Orleans Passenger List 1820-1945, with arrival on 13 March 1841 on the ship Sheffield with 255 Saints under the leadership of Hiram Clark. They were traveling steerage class indicating poverty or at least trying to preserve their resources. They were listed in the 1842 Nauvoo Census record with the last name spelled Burscough. Some family records speculate that Jane and John might have been friends or relatives of Matilda Nease's parents. The Boscos accompanied Matilda who was a polygamist wife of Jefferson Hunt as they left Nauvoo in 1846. Their association with the Hunt family continued as they, along with a large family group, met Jefferson and the Mormon Battalion at Fort Leavenworth and started the trek across the state of Iowa into Kansas, arriving at Council Grove. Some have suggested John was possibly driving the team for Matilda and her two younger siblings. John age 51 and Jane age 55, died within days of each other with accounts providing slightly different death dates.

Daniel Tyler in his history for the Church wrote, On August 28, 1846, "*An aged English lady by the name of Jane Bosco, who was traveling in company with Captain Hunt, died, and her husband, John Bosco – not a soldier – died before daylight the next morning. Thus they gained an oft-repeated wish, that neither should be left to mourn the loss of the other ... They were buried in one grave, and a dry substantial stone wall was built around and over the tomb, under the supervision of Elisha Averett, to mark their last resting place and to shield their bodies from the wolves."*

Robert Bliss recorded "*Sunday 30th 1846 we buried the Husband of the Lady that died on the 27th John and Jane Boscough they were bured side by side on the west bank of the creek near our encampment we carryed Rock from the Bluff built a wall 7 by 10 ft. around their Graves and covered the graves over with stone level with the wall and left them to sleep till the Resurrection."*

Sources:

Emigration records
Nauvoo records
Journals: Robert Bliss
Daniele Tyler, The Mormon Battalion

John Edmunds was born about 1817 based on a few church related documents. A Nauvoo Court Docket book included a compiled list of companies traveling to Salt Lake in 1847. The list included John's name and age 30 with notes indicating he was black and was involved in the Mormon Battalion. This information likely came from the Thomas Bullock roster documenting those in the Mormon Battalion detachments, most who entered the Salt Lake Valley in July 1847. The roster noted his age of 30, that he was black and his name appeared directly below the Merrill/Williams family. Thomas Williams used slaves for his business but the name John Edmunds does not appear in any documents related to his slaves. The Church History Biographical Database describes him as a black American. It is unclear if he was baptized but the name of John Edmerson (which is likely him) was either baptized or rebaptized in Salt Lake on August 8, 1847 by Nelson Higgins, the leader of the Higgins detachment. No other information for him has been found. It is uncertain what role he had with the Mormon Battalion, but likely some kind of a teamster.

Sources:

Military and Church records
Amy Tanner Thiriot, Slavery in Zion

Andrew Jackson Mayfield was born about 1828 in Tennessee. One of five children, his father died when he was about seven. His mother moved to Illinois in 1839 where she married a widower who had two children and together they had three children. They joined the Church about 1844. His oldest married sibling died in February 1846 just prior to the family leaving Illinois for Council Bluffs.

When the call came for volunteers for the Mormon Battalion, his stepfather, Sebert Crutcher Shelton, enlisted in Company A along with his older brother Benjamin in July 1846. A younger brother John also volunteered as an officer servant. The Brigham Young return (Church roster) indicated his stepfather was leaving behind eight people includng his wife and seven children to "go on" the following year with the early pioneer companies. At age 18, Andrew remained behind with his mother to help care for the family. Three days after the Battalion left Council Bluffs, Captain Higgins returned with the news that Lt Col Allen would allow families to accompany the Battalion if they were sufficiently provisioned. The Brigham Young return indicated the Shelton/Mayfield family was well provisioned and Andrew helped his family travel to Fort Leavenworth, arriving on August 7, 1846, likely serving as the family teamster.

About a month after leaving Fort Leavenworth, his father was changed to Company D and all but his older brother, Benjamin, left with the Higgins detachment and spent the winter of 1846-47 in Pueblo. The family then traveled with three combined detachments to the Great Basin under the direction of Captain James Brown, arriving five days after the Brigham Young Vanguard Company on July 29, 1847. The family moved to Ogden for one year before Andrew and his brother John made their way to California in 1848 possibly with the Goodyear Company to join their brother Benjamin who had arrived with the main command in 1847. Benjamin reenlisted for another eight months in the Mormon Volunteers and remained in California after discharge in March 1848. In November 1849, his mother wrote her sons a letter from Salt Lake indicating she had received some things from John via Nathan Swarthout who was called on a California mission in 1848 and apparently returned before November 1849. She also noted "*I received a letter by Gilbert Hunt from [Andrew] Jackson & [Benjamin] Franklin in which I was informed of your success in business of which I am very glad to hear but we very sorry to hear of the misfortune of Jacksons wife. I hope she has recovered I will mention that I received the amount of money that was stated in the letter and I feel that I have great reason to rejoice that I have sons that are so thoughtfull and kind to me.*" It is unclear when Gilbert Hunt traveled to California and returned to Salt Lake prior to November 1849.

By the 1850 census, his sister Sarah and his three youngest half-siblings and their parents had joined Benjamin, Andrew, and John in the gold country of El Dorado. Andrew married about 1851 and was father to eight children with a set of twins dying at birth. It is unclear if the marriage date of 1851 is accurate since the letter written in November 1849 previously mentioned referred to a misfortune that happened to his wife. His occupation in the 1860 Sonoma California Census was shown as a trader. His name appeared on the California Great Registers for voting from 1866-1879. His wife died in 1878 and he was with his two youngest daughters in the 1880 census. In the 1910 census, he was still living with his youngest daughter who was still single at age 37. Andrew died in 1912 in Solana California.

Sources:

Military and Church records
Government records: Census, voting registers
California Death index
Elisabeth Shelton letter to sons, November 1849

William Ludlow McIntyre was born 27 August 1811 in New York. One of five children, his father served in the War of 1812. According to his autobiography, he lived with his mother's father until he was six and then lived with his father's father until his grandfather died. He noted his father died when he was 14. William attended school regularly in summer and winter for four years when they moved and he started working more on the farm, taking care of his family until he was 20. He then worked in a variety of jobs and eventually attended medical college. He married Rosanna in about 1830 and two children were born. Becoming a doctor, he was shunned by the community when he joined the church in 1844. He owned land in Nauvoo before traveling with the Saints to Council Bluff. On July 16, 1846, Lt Colonel Allen issued an order #3, appointing Dr. McIntyre as assistant Surgeon of the Battalion. Noting he will "*be obeyed and respected accordingly and will be entitled to the pay and endowments as an Asst Surgeon in the regular army*." In his autobiography, William noted he examined two or three men after leaving Council Bluffs but found them unfit and "discharged" them. It is unknown who they were and if their names were ones who were crossed off on the muster rolls. In a Battalion report William Willis submitted to George A Smith from Beaver Utah, he noted Dr. McIntyre attended to Samuel Boley who died a few days after the Mormon Battalion left Council Bluffs. Arriving at Fort Leavenworth, a letter was sent to military headquarters noting "I have the honor to enclose my orders, No 3 appointing W.L. McIntyre to be assistant Surgeon, and No.4 appointing Geo. B. Sanderson A Surgeon in the "*Mormon Battalion of Volunteers under my Command. I consider both of these officers necessary in the Service of my Battalion ---Doctor McIntyre is a Mormon and I thought it my duty to appoint him in as much as he was recommended for the place by the Elders of the Mormon Church, But thought a regular graduate of a Medical School I do not deem him qualified to preform all the duties of his profession that are not and will be required in the Battalion. Doctor Sanderson is known to me as a gentleman of the first respectability, and of accomplished shall and attainments in his profession...Only one medical officer per Battalion & his rank and pay will be that of and Asst Surgeon WLM..will be entitled to the pay and endowments as an Asst Surgeon in the regular army."* At Fort Leavenworth, William received a clothing allowance and sent $20 to his wife Rosanna through Isaac Morley (hard to read) who was located in the Brigham Young Camp. She received $1.50 on September 3 at Cutler Park and spent $18.50 on January 23 as recorded in the Winter Quarters store ledger. On the trail to Santa Fe, he noted the number of sick men were increasing. At Santa Fe, military communication indicated his appointment was not officially accepted, noting he was on the original return but his name was dropped from subsequent returns. It appears he was never paid. He wrote *"I was discontinued as an assistant Surgeon and hired as a physician to take the sick and laundresses and march to Pueblo in New Mexico to remain for the winter under the command of Cpt James Brown and then in the spring take up march to California*." Arriving at Pueblo, he noted those who came with the Willis detachment *"was put under my charge this made busy times for me but I have good success lost only two of the men out of the two companies and only one of the waggon masters."* Two men did die at Pueblo from the Willis detachment but five died from the Brown detachment. It is unclear who the wagon master was.

After arriving in Salt Lake with the detachments in July 1847, he attended a sacrament meeting on August 8. He was also noted as clerk on August 22 during a meeting of the brethren. His account stated "*at the expiration of about two months I left the lake to return back and meet my family which was on the road from Council Bluffs to the Lake...We met the company on the river called Big Sandy. I there met my wife and little sons*." They arrived back in Salt Lake on September 21. He moved his family to Fort Hall the following spring and returned to Ogden the fall of 1848. His name appeared on several Utah Militia muster rolls in Salt Lake in 1850 before traveling to Sacramento and then San Bernardino. His journal provided a detailed account of his activities in California. In 1855, he applied for bounty land benefits which was rejected because he wasn't a soldier. About 1860 William moved back to Utah. He was divorced from his first wife who stayed in California and married Mary Roscoe in 1864 in Ogden, Utah. They had five children. Continuing his career as a doctor, his name again appeared on a muster roll as a surgeon in 1866. His name also appeared as a witness statement on several pension invalid applications confirming he had attended to their illnesses or injuries while the men were enlisted. Dr. William McIntyre died in Ogden, Weber, Utah on October 23, 1887 and was buried in the Ogden City Cemetery.

Sources:

Military and Church records
Pension applications
Autobiography/Journal

Peter Muir Fife was born 5 April 1806 in Scotland, one of four children. According to family histories he was primarily a farmer, but for some time before he immigrated to America he was a grocer on William Street in Edinburgh. He married Margaret Turner in 1830 who gave birth to five children. According to a Seventies Record, he was baptized in 1841 and his brother was baptized in 1844 before they traveled to Nauvoo although Family Search ordinance records indicated they were both baptized in 1840. Family stories suggest his wife refused to accompany him. All of Peter and Margaret's children stayed in Scotland with their mother. Peter and his brother James arrived in Nauvoo in late 1841 or early 1842. Tax records of August 1842 show that James owned property and Peter later purchased a farm outside of Nauvoo. His obituary noted he served a short mission to Virginia with George D Watts.

Traveling to Council Bluffs with the Saints in 1846, some records inferred Peter enlisted as a soldier. Never shown on military rolls, several documents created significant confusion. His obituary in 1873 stated he was a member of the Mormon Battalion and his name appeared in Daniel Tyler's official publication in 1881 reflecting he was in Company B. In 1850, a 3-month extra pay document was submitted in Missouri, noting Peter was in Company C. Peter's nephew, John Fife, applied for bounty land the same day with the same witnesses which seems to imply the two applications were related. John's agent submitted a number of applications where men were not present and could have fraudulently facilitated the power of attorney. In 1954, a letter from the Office of Adjutant General in Utah was sent to Peter's family suggesting he was a veteran in the Indian War and the Mormon Battalion, likely based on the earlier documents and offering a military headstone. The letter stated the service in the battalion was "unofficial" which suggested they questioned his service in the Battalion but offered a military headstone.

Two journal accounts and his obituary provide a few clues that suggest Peter was with the Battalion in some capacity. There is a strong possibility Peter was with the group as a teamster. George Q Cannon's journal dated October 19, 1849, indicated Peter Fife was with the group traveling to California on a short gold mission assignment via the southern route and made a comment that he had been this way before. This assignment was verified in his obituary. Tullidge's History by EW Tullidge, documenting men on the gold mission in 1849, included a statement from Henry B Gibson's journal that *"soldiers Henry Bigler and Peter Fife had barracked at Los Angelos and knew Colonel Williams.*" Henry Bigler was in Company B which matches Tyler's inclusion of Peter Fife in Company B. Company B was stationed in San Diego, so it is uncertain when Fife and Bigler would have barracked together in Los Angeles where the Battalion interfaced with Colonel Williams who owned a ranch. After discharge, Henry headed north and spent the winter of 1847-48 at Sutter's Fort. If Peter went with him, he returned south and traveled with one of the groups back to Salt Lake in the spring of 1848. Only two groups traveled to Salt Lake via the southern route in 1848. Jefferson Hunt led a "rescue" group to California shortly after arriving in Salt Lake in 1847 to bring needed supplies to the Saints and returned to the Great Basin in May 1848. The Boyle Company traveled the southern route with a number of men who had reenlisted in the Mormon Volunteers. They were discharged in March 1848 and arrived in Salt Lake in June 1848. Peter was assigned property in the Salt Lake Valley in September 1848. His name began to appear on Utah Militia muster rolls in 1851, appearing as Captain in various units through the Utah War in 1857. He was listed as a private with a unit in 1869 in both Parowan and Cedar City.

In the fall of 1849, Peter married Hannah Barrow who had one child from a previous marriage. Family Search records suggest Peter and Hannah had one child before their marriage unless she was pregnant before leaving her first husband. They moved to Parowan in about 1851 and then Cedar City and Hamilton Fort where their last four children were born. Hannah left him and married someone else in 1860. In 1862, Peter married Mary Hunter who had left her husband in Scotland and emigrated to the U.S. with some of her children. She gave birth to two additional children. Peter died in 1873 at Hamilton Fort, Utah.

Sources:

Military and Church records
George Q Cannon Journal, October 19, 1849
Henry B Gibson Journal, Tullidge History by EW Tullidge
Obituary