

Winter Quarters

October, 1846 - May, 1848

October, 1846 – Entering Winter Quarters

PWC Journal: “We all went on to the bluffs & crossed the Missouri river the first day of October... we camped in company with Seth Taft Chancy Webb and Morace Snedaker to cut hay for the winter... the 9th day of October Eliza was born(.) it was 6 miles south of the main camp...”



Winter Quarters by C.C.A. Christensen. Courtesy of Jeannette Taggart Holmes

“A ferry was made across the Missouri River, at a point nearly opposite Point aux Poules, where they gained a favorable crossing by making a deep cut for the road through the steep right bank. And flat-bottom scows were built. They then passed up the river to a point six miles north of the city of Omaha, where they set a stake and built dwellings for the winter. This place,

which they called Winter Quarters, is now called Florence.

“Says Colonel Kane, ‘On a pretty plateau overlooking the river, they built more than 700 houses in a single town, neatly laid out and fortified with breast-work, stockade and blockhouses.’ It had, too, its ‘Tabernacle of the Congregation’ and various workshops and mills and factories run with water power.

“The printing press was set up and *The Millennial Star* was regularly issued. Preparations were made for the pioneer road making expedition, that was to start early in the spring. Winter Quarters became the Mormon rendezvous and was not abandoned until 1853 (although the Mormons left in 1848.) To this place the pioneer expedition returned in October, 1847. Here that brilliant coup de etat was executed, by which the Mormon government was reorganized, and Brigham Young became its supreme head.”¹

PWC Journal as they camped near the Missouri River: *We returned from meeting and found the women much frightened by the Indians(.) they was vary mad because sister Taft would not give them one hind quarter of beef(.) she offerd to give them about 15 or 20 Ibs a piece, but they said it was their cow for they had examined the hide and found whare they had shot the arrow and by that they claimed it(.) they pointed to the hay and said this is our land and we will burn it all over and then your cattle will all die.*

¹ Hiram F. White, “The Mormon Road,” p. 246, <http://files.lib.byu.edu/mormonmigration/articles/MormonRoad.pdf>

“The Indians had been as good as their word(.) they burned our hay and all the rest in the vicinity in all about 100 tons and our cattle had to be taken in herds up the rivers on to the rush bottoms to winter(.)”



Omaha Tipi. The Omaha Tribe lived much of the year in earth lodges, but used tipis on their summer hunts on the open plains.

Although the Indians had been given the state of Nebraska by the US government, they agreed in writing to allow the Mormons to live next to the Missouri River for a short time. However, a written document was of little use to them, and their new mode of survival became stealing from the Mormons. To them, cattle in the river bottoms was the same as deer on the prairie, and they simply took what they wanted. Many of them didn't understand the agreement with Brigham Young, and did what they could to drive off the settlers from their lands.

“Situated as they were in Indian country, the Mormons were faced with a considerable problem. Omahas, Sioux, and Iowas by the hundreds scavenged the countryside in pursuit of game and enemies. A war might have been easily provoked if the Saints had been a little less disposed to friendship. But President Young went to great lengths to instruct the people in just and proper treatment toward the red-man. He no doubt formulated his Indian policy here which he so successfully effected later in Utah. ‘It is cheaper to feed the Indians than to fight them.’”²

“Eight or ten men were appointed by President Young to go and raise a crop for the Omahas (who had been decimated by disease and war). This was done not only for the purpose of aiding the Indians but also to keep them away from the town where thieving had occupied most of their time. Arrangements were also made to help them gather their crop of maize, to assist them in building houses, to enclose their fields, and to teach them husbandry. Some blacksmithing was done for them also.”³

² Brigham H. Roberts, *A Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, Salt Lake City, Utah, Deseret News Press, 1930, III p. 15, reprinted in Ernest Widtsoe Shumway, “History of Winter Quarters, Nebraska, 1846-1848,” Thesis, Dept. of History, BYU, June, 1953, 43, <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=6105&context=etd>

³ Hosea Stout, *Diary of Hosea Stout*, mss, copied by BYU, 9 Volumes, 1941-43, 91, reprinted in Ernest Widtsoe Shumway, “History of Winter Quarters, Nebraska, 1846-1848,” Thesis, Dept. of History, BYU, June, 1953, 43, <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=6105&context=etd>

“All this was done to insure friendship between the two peoples and to make payment to the Indians for the use or their lands. The Omahas reciprocated by granting privileges to the Mormons. The whites had been given written permission to remain on the lands for two or more years and to use all the wood and timber they might require. Furthermore, the Indians agreed, 'that we will not molest or take from them (the Mormons) their cattle, horses, sheep or any other property.'”⁴

“But it was soon evident that the thieving propensities of the more adventuresome Omahas were not to be deterred by a mere scrap of paper. The fat cattle in the rush bottoms were too great a temptation. All precautions were taken to prevent such depredations, for, at times, two or three oxen a day disappeared or were killed by the marauding Indians.”⁵

Andrew Jensen, Church Historian, wrote: “In 1854 a number of men organized a company (Florence Land Company) for the purpose of building up a new town on the old site of Winter Quarters which had been left vacant so far as white settlers were concerned since it was vacated by the Latter-day Saints in 1848.”⁶

“In the year 1854, the Florence Land Company was organized to build up a city on the old site of Winter Quarters. The new city was initiated and named Florence, Nebraska. But three silent sentinels still stand to remind the new of the old. A building used by the Saints as a bank, said to be the first one west of the Missouri, is still intact. In the middle of town stands a huge, gnarled apple tree, supposedly planted by Brigham Young. And at the edge of town on the slope of a hill, lies the old cemetery with nearly six hundred simple gravestones standing askew amid the well-kept lawns. A 'peculiar' people had lived and died here in the town of Winter Quarters.”⁷



Little Snake, Omaha Nation.
In 1846 Big Elk of the Omaha Tribe made a treaty not authorized by the US government, allowing a large group of Mormons to settle on Omaha land for two years. He hoped to gain some protection from competing tribes, especially the Sioux. (Wikipedia)

⁴ Brigham H. Roberts, *A Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, Salt Lake City, Utah, Deseret News Press, 1930, III p. 146.

⁵ Andrew Jensen, *Winter Quarters*, Nebraska Settlements, LDS Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, October 15, 1846.

⁶ Andrew Jensen, "Florence, Nebraska," Nebraska Settlements, LDS Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah, p. 1.

⁷ Ernest Widtsoe Shumway, "History of Winter Quarters, Nebraska, 1846-1848," Thesis, Dept. of History, BYU, June, 1953, p. 61. <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=6105&context=etd>



1853 VIEW OF MISSOURI RIVER—Piercy, LDS Church Archives

This plate shows the view from what was left of Winter Quarters looking northeast towards the Mormon Ferry. In his narrative Piercy wrote that a cabin, the last remnant of Winter Quar-

ters, was being burned when he arrived. Note a cabin burning to the right in this plate. The wagons shown climbing the hill on the trail coincide with the view from the Iowa side view.

The above picture is from William E. Hill, *The Mormon Trail: Yesterday and Today*. Logan, Utah: Utah State University Press, 2006. Phineas would have built his cabin on the hill at the left side.

Phineas built his cabin on the north side of the hill at Winter Quarters

PWC Journal: “*Edward M. Webb and myself went to see Brigham to know whare we should camp(.) this (was) the first sight that I had of the leader of the Kingdom of God on the earth(.) he told us to camp along on the outside line wharever we could find a place(.) we went Into the south west corner on the side hill. In a few days I got into work for President Young and we moved over onto the north side of the hill whare the mill was building...*”

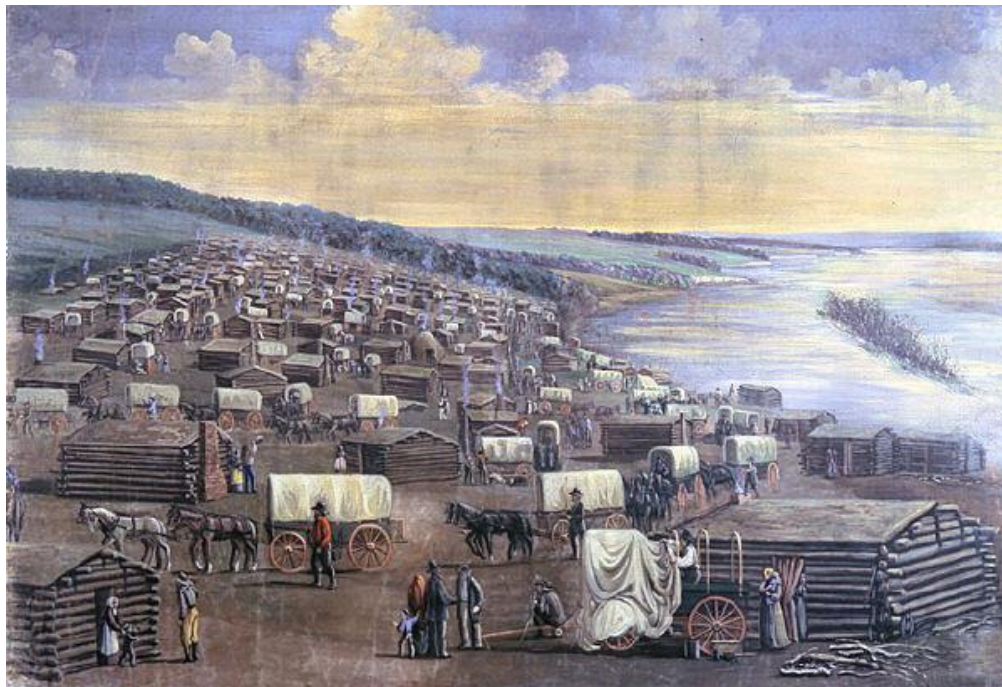
“*...here I dug out a flat place in the side hill to set our waggon box in while I took the running gears to draw logs for a house here(.) I labored hard to build a house. I got most of the logs hauled onto the spot and part of it layed up. it was 14 feet square...we cut out the door and while I was hewing a casing for the door I stuck the corner of the axe into the instep of my foot which laid me up about 3 weeks...*”

“we got into our house with great difficulty the 2d week in December(.) we lived on the ground for I could not get boards for a floor.”

Thomas Bullock said: “[I] went through the City—where, nine weeks ago there was not a foot path, or a Cow track, now may be seen hundreds of houses, and hundreds in different stages of completion—impossible to distinguish the rich from the poor. The Streets are wide and regular and every prospect of a large City being raised up here.”⁸



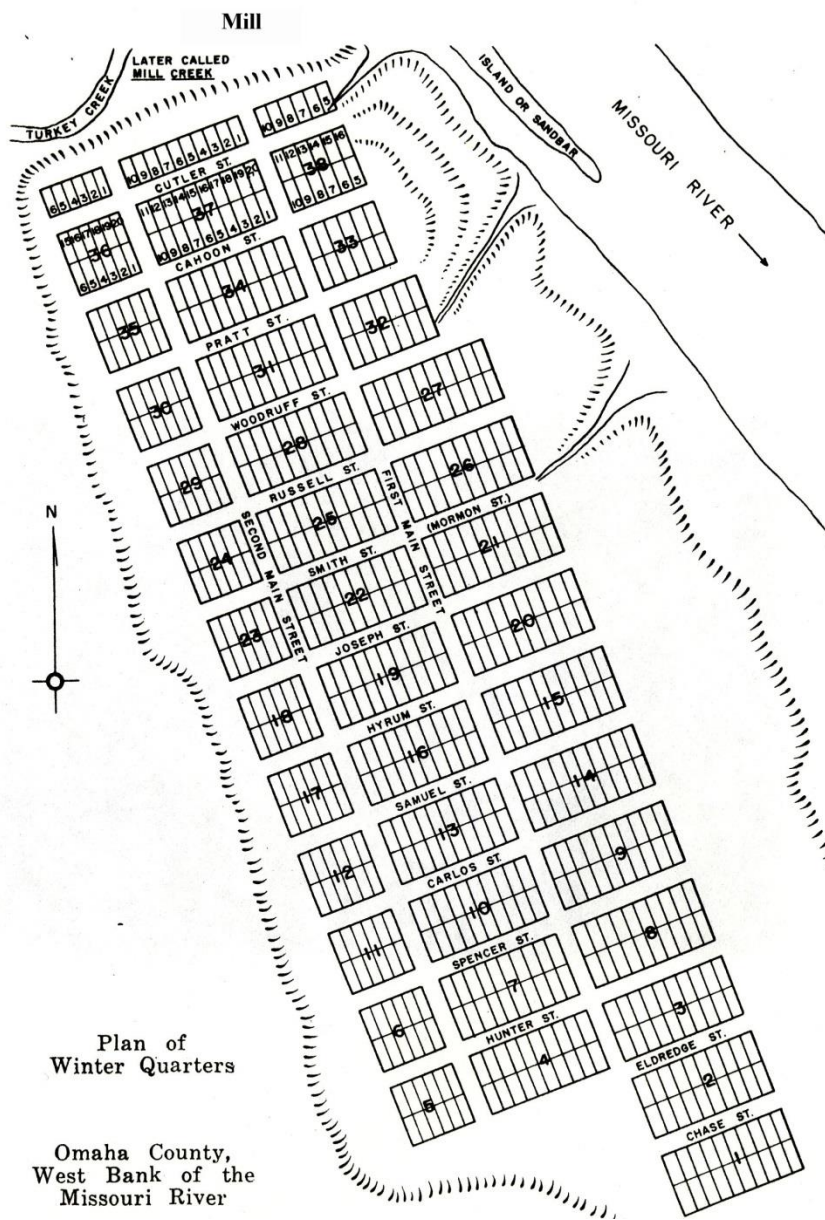
Winter Quarters cabins, lds.org. The settlers found there was no place for their animals. They had to be wintered elsewhere.



C.C.A. Christensen painting of Winter Quarters. Note the wagon in the foreground is being taken apart so it can be used to haul logs, exactly as Phineas described in his written record.

By spring there were over 700 houses built on the side of the hill overlooking the Missouri River. By the next year there were over 1,000. In two years they were all abandoned, as Brigham Young had agreed with the Omaha Tribe in Nebraska.

⁸ Thomas Bullock, as quoted in Richard E. Bennett, *Mormons at the Missouri, 1846-1852: "And Should We Die . . ."* [1987], 80-81).



“No sooner had the people begun to arrive at Winter Quarters than a period of great activity ensued. This was to be a planned city. It was laid out in forty-one blocks and 820 lots. Streets and byways were regularly constructed, and the spacing of buildings properly supervised. Labor forces were organized. The men were divided into groups to build fences, houses, and bridges, to dig wells, split rails, clear land, plow, and plant. There was no place for the idler; indeed, idleness was considered just cause for disfellowship.

“Homes were first to be planned and erected. Each full block was to contain twenty lots. Young proposed that the brethren build their homes on the outside

of these blocks, leaving the inner area for yards and gardens. Five wells to a block were deemed sufficient and were so constructed.⁹ There were two types of dwellings that predominated: the log house and the dugout. Of the two, the log house became the chief type of shelter. These buildings were generally of logs from twelve to eighteen feet long made from oak and cottonwood timber. Many of the roofs were made by splitting oak timber into boards, called shakes, about three feet long and six inches wide, and kept in place by weights and poles. Other roofs were made of (sod held in place with beams).”¹⁰ The Cooks built on the north edge.

⁹ Andrew Jensen (compiler), "Winter Quarters," Nebraska Settlements (Salt Lake City: Historian's Office, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints), October 18, 1846.

¹⁰ Widsøe E. Shumway, "Winter Quarters, Nebraska, 1846-1848," The Nebraska State Historical Society, June, 1954.

Phineas worked on Brigham Young's Mill the winter of 1846-47

PWC Journal: *"I went to work on the grist mill under the directions of Fredrick Kesler he gave me work by the piece(.) I made about 75 cents pr day but I could do no better than to work for what I could get(.) I worked about 40 days and earned about \$30(.) I had my pay in provision mostly."*

In the book *Winter Quarters* by Conrey Bryson, the history of the mill is recorded:

"One of the early needs of the settlement was a flour mill. On September 22, the day before the move from Cutler's Park into Winter Quarters began, the Municipal High Council decided to build a mill and appointed Brigham Young as superintendent, with the assurance that Council members would all assist him. Fred Kessler reported to the group that a mill that would grind one barrel of flour per hour could be built for eight hundred dollars. On the next day, Brigham, with Dr. Willard Richards and Albert P. Rockwood, selected a site on Turkey Creek, not far from the head of Main Street in the early plot of the settlement. By September 29, the Council was ready for bids on the mill. Archibald Gardner contracted to furnish the heavy timbers at \$4.75 per hundred, hewn. William Felshaw agreed to do the framing at \$1.77 ½ per square ten feet, and to counter hew. Augustus Stafford would supply the studs, rafters, and braces at \$1 .35 per hundred, and Ezra Chase would build the dam for \$125. By November 1, it was necessary to move the mill site downstream and to recruit men for building a longer mill race.

"Completing the mill was a matter of great urgency, and Brigham Young's diary is filled with references to visiting the site. That the completion was eagerly awaited is evident from a year-end report where he wrote:

"There had been considerable difficulty to get flour and meal in sufficient quantities to feed the camp· a little grain had been ground at Week's mill (twenty five miles distance, built by the government for the Pottawatomies,) the balance by the mills in Missouri, upwards of 150 miles distant, which made very coarse flour and meal. The inhabitants of Winter Quarters have had to grind wheat and corn by coffee and hand mills, which in many instances only cut the grain, others pounded it with a pestle suspended to a spring pole, and sifted out the finer for bread, the coarse for hominy. Some eat their bread boiled, others boiled their corn in lye to make hominy, while some boiled corn in the ear until it was sufficiently soft to be grated, many pieces of old tin were converted into graters for this purpose. Much anxiety is manifested for the completion of the mill."

"In January, work on the mill must have been very limited. On January 6, the thermometer stood at two degrees below zero. This was but the beginning; it was eight below on the seventh, thirteen below on the tenth, and the Missouri River was packed with heavy ice. By the eighteenth, it was a paralyzing twenty degrees below zero. Nevertheless, some work must have continued, for on February 12 Brigham recorded: "I visited the grist mill. Brethren Weeks and Kesler said they ground two to three quarters of corn, one man walking on the wheel and the other feeding the hopper." Evidently there was no water flow to power the mill. "Brigham Young saw the need for the pioneers to supply themselves with bread flour and cornmeal, and the need for the pioneer men to

find employment so they could support themselves through the winter and earn enough money or goods to get ready for the journey across the plains.”¹¹



A replica of Brigham Young's mill built on the hill at Winter Quarters in 1846-47. Hill, W. E. (1996). *The Mormon Trail: Yesterday and today.*

remain in Florence, site of Winter Quarters. First is the Mormon Mill, the only remaining Mormon structure. Turkey Creek, the stream that ran the mill, has been moved and routed underground. After the Mormons left, the mill was taken over and expanded. Years ago it was dismantled and then moved only a few hundred feet to its present site.

The second reminder is the Mormon cemetery. This memorial stands on top of the hill where many of the Mormons who perished that fateful winter of 1846-47 were buried. The

final farewell to their young child whom they are burying in a shallow grave in the frozen ground. If you stand in the right spot on the right side facing the statue, you will even see a tear on the mother's face. This very moving bronze statue depicts both the suffering endured and the strength shown by the Mormons. None of the specific graves of the early Mormons is marked, but the names of more than three hundred are listed on a bronze plaque. The new Mormon Trail Center is nearby.

The mill was almost complete before Brigham Young found a way to pay the workers. "I had not five dollars in money to start with, but I went to work and built a mill, which I knew we should only want for a few months. . . How did I do that? By faith. I went to Brother Neff, who had just come in the place, and asked for and received \$2600, though he did not know where the money was going. He kept the mill another year, and it died on his hands. I say, God bless him forever, because it was his money that he brought from Pennsylvania that preserved thousands of men, women, and children from starving."¹²

The mill eventually

was used by other settlers in the area after the Mormons had left.

“When the Neff family left Winter Quarters in 1847, John’s son Franklin and his new wife, Elizabeth Musser, stayed to run the mill. They later joined the rest of the family in Utah, and the Winter Quarters mill passed out of Neff family hands.”¹³

Pioneer Company, 1847

During the winter there were few vegetables to be had at any price in Winter Quarters. Living on a diet of flour and corn meal was unhealthy, and many of the saints became ill with what they called “Black Cankor,” or scurvy. Ann Eliza, having recently given birth, fell ill and

¹¹ Conrey Bryson, *Winter Quarters*, Deseret Book Company, 1986, p. 60-61.

¹² Widtsoe, John A., *Discourses of Brigham Young*, Deseret Book, 1966 p. 311.

¹³ Pioneer Flour Mills: John Neff the Builder,” an article written in *Neff Times, A Newsletter to all descendants of John Neff and Mary Barr*, Summer 1998 Volume 4 Issue 2, Reprinted in http://www.eternal-links.net/Family_History/ngf/11/2/mill/Mills.html.

almost died. Her baby had to be weaned at about four months of age, and was cared for by a friend, Ann Snedekar. Ann Eliza recovered but baby Eliza did not, and is buried in the Winter Quarters Cemetery with her sister Charlotte who died seven months later.

At this time Brigham Young was forming a select group of strong, capable men to take with him as he began building Zion somewhere in the mountains, as yet an unknown location. The fact that he asked Phineas W. Cook indicates Young's respect for him.

PWC Journal: *"While Ann Eliza was sick I was chosen a Pioneer for the mountains(.) I went up to President Young and told him the situation that my family was in(.) he told me that it would not do for me to leave her and that I might be released(.) My own health also was vary poor..."*

At the same time, Chauncey Webb, brother of Edward, the missionary who baptized Phineas and Ann Eliza, invited the Cooks to go with him to Missouri to live. He believed staying in Winter Quarters would kill them. Brigham had warned the saints that Missouri was not the answer to their problems in Winter Quarters,¹⁴ and Phineas wanted to be obedient.

PWC Journal: *"I told him I had suffered everything almost that man could live through to get with the church and I was determined to do as I was told... I was determined to do it let the consequence be what it might(.) he then left me to my own way and that was to welter in my poverty and sickness..."*

The loyalty of Phineas W. Cook was never in doubt. Even though he couldn't go with the first group of pioneers, he sent one of his oxen and his only wagon to the mountains to help the cause. It would be the wagon used by Brigham Young.

PWC Journal: *"In a day or two I was visited by Uncle John Young(.) he had bargined with George Grant for my waggon to take him to the valey."*

"I worked for (George D. Grant) all summer with my team, all but one ox which he sent to the mountains with the company(.)"



Brigham Young's wagon at the DUP Museum is actually Phineas W. Cook's wagon

Documentation on Phineas' wagon used by Brigham Young in 1847

Phineas' journal notes "Uncle John Young made a deal with Geo Grant" to use Phineas' wagon. It was taken as Brigham Young's wagon to the valley in 1847. Brigham was sick a few days before he arrived in the valley. He had used Phineas' wagon across the plains, but was in Wilford Woodruff's carriage when he came into the valley and said "This is the Place, drive on."

The wagon was used for several years by the family in Salt Lake Valley as they settled there. Later John W. Young (the same Uncle John Young mentioned in Phineas' journal) drove the wagon to his mission to the Moancopi Indians and later abandoned it in Apache Co. Arizona

¹⁴ Conrey Bryson, *Winter Quarters*, Deseret Book Company, 1986, p. 62.

because it was too old to be used any longer. It was left on the desert 25 miles northeast of St. John's, Arizona.

David Udall King learned of the whereabouts of the wagon in 1880. Because it was in danger of being dismantled and carried away by the Indians, he decided to rescue what seemed to him to be a priceless piece of history. David hired a man to haul it to St. John's. He built a shed on the tithing lot for it and for half a century it was used in the St. John's Pioneer celebrations.

In 1947 a call went out for pioneer relics. The citizens of St. John's informed them they had the wagon brought to Utah by Brigham Young in 1847, and the Committee sent \$10 to have it shipped. Elijah Freeman, one of the early pioneers, hauled it to the railroad station and shipped it to Salt Lake.

For many years it was displayed in the Museum of Relics at the Utah State Capitol Building. Eva Covey Madsen said her grandmother Johanna Cook, 4th wife of Phineas, often took her to the State Capitol Building to see the wagon. "That's the wagon your grandfather built," she said. "The Cook family got sick so Brigham Young used the wagon across the plains."¹⁵

April, 1847 – April, 1848 – Summer Quarters

With the intent of providing for all the saints coming to Winter Quarters, William D. Lee and Isaac Morley were assigned by Brigham Young to set up and run a farm sixteen miles north of the Winter Quarters settlement. They called it Summer Quarters, or Brigham's Farm.¹⁶ As he left for the valley, Brigham asked Phineas to work on that farm with Lee and Morley and also to work for George D. Grant. We know Phineas spent considerable time at the farm because he wrote about several experiences. He became acquainted with Charles Kennedy there, and loaned him a rifle, which Kennedy had a hard time giving back to Phineas. He also became acquainted with Thomas Johnson at the farm, who continually found fault with and thereafter did his best to discredit Phineas in front of the church leaders.

PWC Journal: *"The pioneers left in the month of April(.) after they had gone 2 or 3 days the President returned to give some council. I went up to see him(.) he passt me in a hurry and said as he passt I want you to stay here and help the boys make a farm and do the best you can and I will help you in the name of the Lord(.)"*

"In March 1847, John D. Lee discovered that he was not to leave with the Pioneer company for the mountains but was chosen, along with Isaac Morley and others, to look after Brigham's affairs and to farm at a location sixteen miles away at a place known as "Summer Quarters" or "Brigham's Farm." Here too trouble broke out with his neighbors and his co-workers, for Lee

¹⁵ Notes taken by Janet Porter in a discussion with LaMar Day July 10, 2001. Much of this information is also in the Family History Video produced from his personal knowledge by LaMar, and is offered for sale on the family website.

¹⁶ John D. Lee, Confessions of John D. Lee, 1880, reprinted by Modern Microfilm Company, 566 Center St., Salt Lake City Utah, 84103.)

seemed a contentious soul and would never admit that he was in the wrong. But Lee had been sent by his adopted father, Brigham Young, to farm and to raise grain, corn, and other produce for the sustenance of the Saints. And farm he did with such effect that the emigration in the spring of 1848 was sustained with hundreds of bushels of "bread Corn" shelled, cleaned, and put into sacks or barrels."¹⁷

"Mormon Summer Quarters (was) located between Mill Creek and Moor Creek in Washington County, Nebraska, some 12 miles west of Winter Quarters. It was an area of about 6000 acres that Brigham Young asked to be farmed to provide the immigrants with needed food supplies. In March of 1847, thirty-seven families lead by John D Lee had moved there to farm. The farmers planted potatoes, beans, corn, melons, squashes, buckwheat and turnips. Life was hard here as it took much labor to produce the crops. An epidemic struck in mid-summer and eighteen people died. There were animals (their own and wild ones) that got into the fields. Finally Indians threatened the settlement and were bought off with five hundred bushels of corn. The place, nicknamed Brigham's Farm, was finally abandoned on April 26, 1848 due to persistent problems with the local Indians."¹⁸

Phineas may have helped set up the farm, but the bulk of his time was spent in Winter Quarters itself, helping George D. Grant provide wood for all the cook fires, and mending plows and wagons for the saints. In April of 1848 the Indians burned the farm, and the settlers had to return in the night to the settlement. Fortunately, the produce from the farm had already been taken to Winter Quarters. Phineas was asked to help with their evacuation.

PWC Journal: *"the Indians determined to burn them out at summer quarters or the farm, and the people was sent for to come away. It was a vary stormy time when they was coming in(.) at night I was placed on gard to see that the horses ware safe and that no one came around the presidents carriage whare he was sleeping(.) It rained in torants and he told me to take a lantern and go out to meet them and pilate them in for it was dark as Egyptian darkness(.)"*

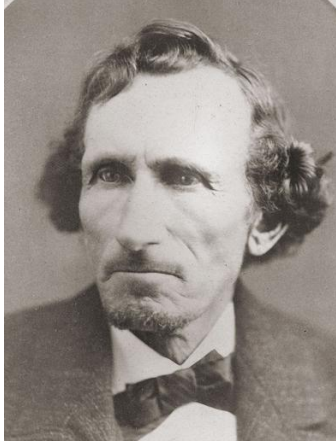
"thare was families on a half a mile and no men but women and children(.) I lit my candle and started to go to them(.) they soon saw the light coming towards them but I did not know it until they spoke to me(.) they had run into a mud hole and the oxen come loose from the waggon and it was so dark they could not find them(.) the rain fell in torants and the children had laid down with no other cover than the open canopy of heaven and the mother sat watching over them(.) I helped them all out of the waggon and took the smallest one in my arms and the women led the rest so we started for town on foot through the mud from 4 to 6 inches deep. I took them home with me and got Ann Eliza up and she got them some food to eat and made them beds on the floor and made fire and dried their clothes and they all got to sleep about midnight(.)"

¹⁷ A. R. Mortensen, *Mormons, Nebraska, and the Way West*, p. 265, <http://files.lib.byu.edu/mormonmigration/articles/MormonsNebraskaAndTheWayWest.pdf>

¹⁸ Robert Givens, "The Life of Charles Kennedy," familysearch.org: Charles Kennedy.

Work for George D. Grant –Summer, 1847 to April, 1848

PWC Journal, March 1847: *“I asked him (Brigham Young) if I should work under the direction of George Grant he said yes. My oxen had wintered through safe and returned to me. after the pioneers had all gone I went up to George Grant and told him I had 2 yoke of oxen and*



George D. Grant was not as refined and dignified as his brother Jedediah, but was hard-working and faithful.

a waggon and all I wanted was a cow(.) I had a good set of tools and all I had was on the alter and myself with it. he said he wanted me to help him and Solomon Angel fix the wagoons for the company that ware to start in a few days(.) I accordingly went to work wooding plows and mending waggons and anything that was wanting to be done.”

PWC Journal, March-September, 1847: *“George told me that Brigham had paid for moving my house up into his yard and it was time for me to move up(.) he had an empty house in the yard and he wanted me to move into it and let Joseph Young have my house which I did(.) I worked for him all summer with my team all but one ox which he sent to the mountains with the company cutting hay geting wood and everything that was necessary until fall(.) after we had got hay enough for Brigham I asked the privelage to get some to winter my oxen on(.) George told me the oxen would be wintered at the farm(.) he wanted me to attend to things while he could go to*

Missouri to buy some wheat which I readyly complied with...”

PWC Journal, October, 1847: *“When it was about time for the pioneers to return George wanted to go out to meet them(.) he left me in care of all the work which was as folows, It took two loads of wood for every day which took me nearly all day to get(.) I could generaly get James Young to go with me to drive one team though he was but a boy and when he had done that his work was finished for the day(.) but I had the wood to unload and a load of corn fiddler to haul from the field a distance of 3/4 mile for the cows and oxen and horses which took me generaly from daylight in the morning to about 8 or 9 o clock at night(.) I would then cut up all the wood that the women could not cut for they generaly cut all the smallest before I could get ready(.) by the time I got done it was generaly 10 or 11 o clock at night.”*

George D. Grant was by this time one of the stalwarts of the church. He was born September 10, 1812 at Windsor, Broom, New York, and in 1833 was baptized with several of his siblings, including Jedediah M. Grant, called in Salt Lake City to be counselor in the First Presidency. Somehow George was always in the middle of almost every church history event until his death in 1876, including jail time for his involvement with the prophet Joseph. He brought the news to Nauvoo citizens of the prophet’s martyrdom,¹⁹ and was sent by Brigham Young to save the suffering Martin and Willie Handcart pioneers. It was his inspiration and bravery that waylaid the US Army as they marched to Utah in 1857 to put down the supposed rebellion of the

¹⁹ “History of Joseph Smith,” LDS Millennial Star, 9 Aug. 1862, 24:502, Latter-day Saints’ Millennial Star. Liverpool. 1840–1970.

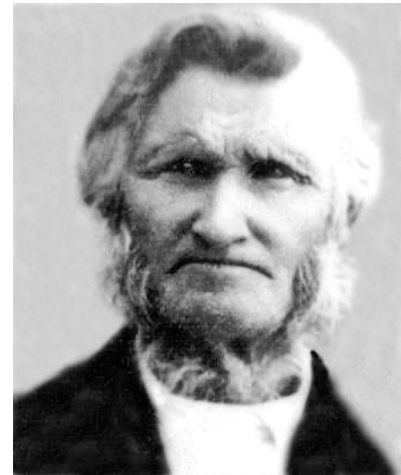
Mormons in Utah.²⁰ He worked to pacify the Indians in Tooele, prompting the settlers to name Grantsville after him.²¹ No one gave more to the cause of the establishment of the church.

However, his faults are legendary and his bad habits caused considerable grief. Phineas was to endure much of it as he worked for almost a year with Grant. The worst time was *“When it was about time for the pioneers to return, George wanted to go out to meet them (and) he left me in care of all the work.”* In spite of all his effort, Phineas was not able to finish that much work with only the help of a boy, and became too ill to work at all.

Solomon Angell

Solomon Angell was born April 26, 1806 at Florence, Oneida, New York. He and his mother and other relatives were converted when a family member loaned them the Book of Mormon. In 1834 they left Rhode Island and Connecticut to come to Kirtland to be with the saints.

Solomon was a carpenter, a mill-wright and cabinet maker, living and working in Missouri. He helped build the temple at Nauvoo and later worked with Phineas W. Cook at Winter Quarters. At the age of 43 Solomon came in Brigham Young’s 1848 company, and lived in Salt Lake City. He also helped build the Salt Lake Temple, for which his brother Truman was the architect. Solomon was in charge of the quarry where the stones were cut.



Solomon Angell
(Courtesy Angell family)

He was a faithful disciple, knew building and milling, which put him often in company with Phineas, and was always willing to be of service. Phineas W. Cook said of him, “in all my trials Soloman stood by me to the last and always took my part which was right and honorable.” He had come to love and respect Solomon Angell. Solomon helped build up some of the isolated places in Utah: Virgin City, Toquerville, Pocketville, Harrisburg and Leeds in Washington County. He died September 20, 1881 and is buried in the Leeds Cemetery.

Phineas had dealings with Solomon’s brother Truman O. Angell, who became the church architect in Salt Lake City. Mother Angell is also mentioned in the journal of Phineas. Phebe Ann Morton Angell was born March 28, 1786 at Utica, Oneida, New York. Her husband James W. Angell chose to stay in Ohio when the family moved west, and they apparently divorced. Phebe was sixty years old when she and her family left Nauvoo and made the trek to Winter Quarters. Before leaving Nauvoo in 1846 she and her daughter Jemima were taken as plural wives of Brigham Young, and in 1848 she traveled with her children in his wagon company. From Phineas’ journal we know she was friends with the Cooks.

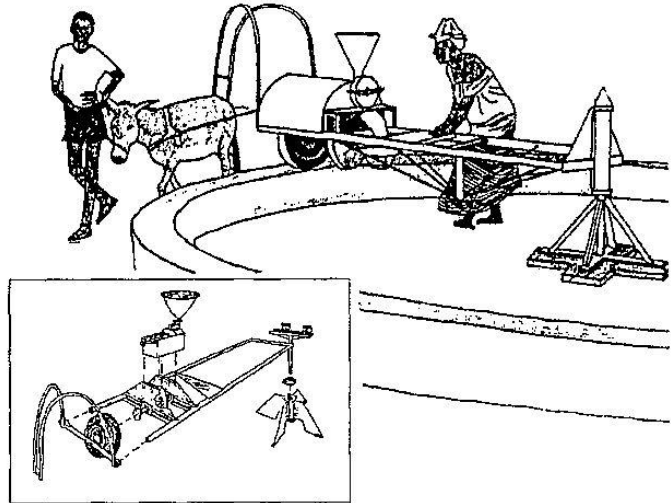
²⁰ Esshom, Frank. *Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah: Comprising Photographs, Genealogies, Biographies.* Salt Lake City: Utah Pioneers Book, 1913.

²¹ Caldwell, Idaho Stake, *Rescuers*, George Davis Grant, <http://caldwellstaketrek.com/trekinfo/Pioneer%20Short%20Stories%20and%20Index/RESCUER%20-%20George%20Davidson%20Grant%20age%2044.pdf>

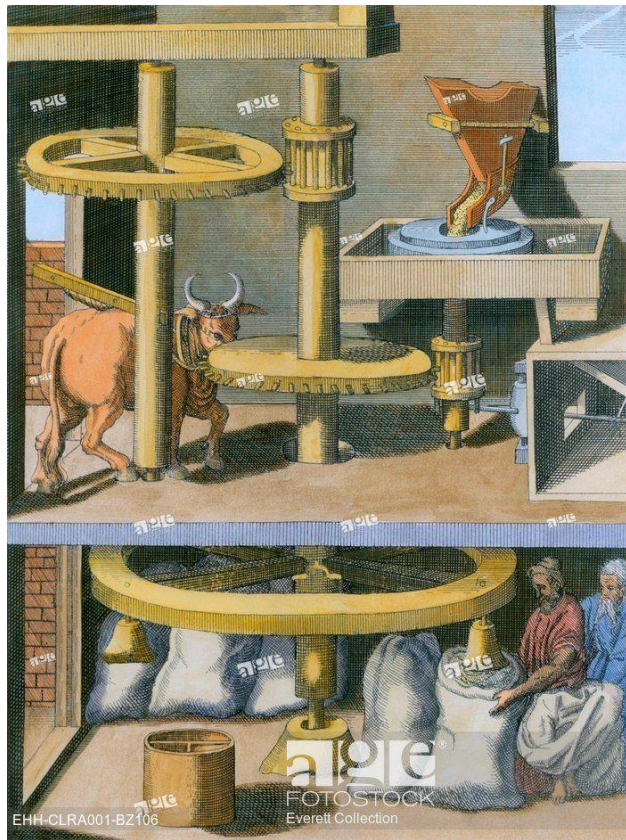
PWC Journal: “We cross the Platt about 1/2 a days below fort Larimee(.) that day Ann Eliza turned over her teapot and scalded her foot which was vary sore till Mother Angel gave her some camphor, which soon healed it and stopt the pain immediately.”

Work on A.P. Rockwood’s grist mill, Winter, 1848

Albert P. Rockwood was a stalwart member of the church, noted for his efforts to protect the prophet Joseph Smith. He served in the first Quorum of Seventy, and went with Brigham Young



Harnessing and Implements for Animal Traction: 9. Less conventional...
 www.nzdl.org
 Fig 9-37: An early version of the animal-powered cereal mill of the type favoured by the GATES animal-covered gear project.



Ox-powered wooden mechanism for milling grain in the 17th century...
 Age Fotostock
 Stock Photo - Ox-powered wooden mechanism for milling grain in the 17th century Europe. Circular path of the ox drives gears attached to the circular stones...

in the first pioneer company in 1847. Sent to the eastern states from Salt Lake City that first year, Albert accomplished his mission and returned to Winter Quarters where he lived for another two years. During that time he built a grist mill run by ox power, which Phineas helped with.

PWC Journal, Winter 1848: “During the winter I worked for A. P. Rockwood on a grist mill made to go on (ox) power he asked me what I should charge him a day I told him \$1. 25 pr day he said I might go to work and he would pay me(.)”

“After I had done working for Rockwood on the ox mill Brother Brigham came out one morning and gave all hands a scolding for burning so much wood...”

An ox-powered grist mill could be quite complicated, but Rockwood’s probably was one of the more simple mills, considering he knew it would soon be abandoned. Two examples are herein given.

Leaving Winter Quarters, May 19, 1848

PWC Journal, February, 1848: *I told (Brigham) I wanted to go with him to the mountains, he said I should have it, and if he went I should go with him(.) he wanted me to help fix up his waggons and get ready for the journey, so the 15th I went at it with Soloman Angel(.) we fixt all the waggons by the time to start(.) we left winter quarters the 19th day of May."*

Charles Van Kennedy

Thomas Bullock, church historian, wrote extensive Journals for the church. Because he was with Brigham Young in the 1848 trek to Utah, he recorded some interesting facts:

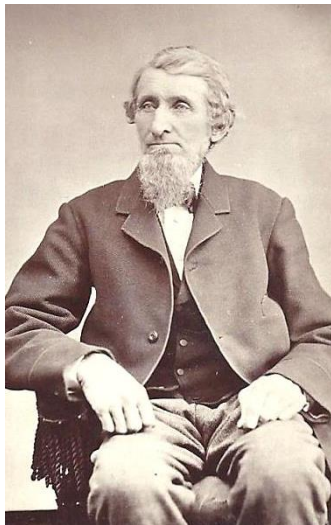
June 8 – "...bro. Charles Kennedy killed an Antelope. secured it to camp"

June 16 – "...bro Charles Kennedy killed an Antelope this day."

June 27 – "...much pleasantry throughout the evening and some singing—lights were shown & drum beat to guide brother Kennedy & another to Camp—they were gone out after two fine Antelopes that he had killed"

July 5 – "...bro Kennedy also reports two Buffalo & a Calf killed & brought home to the Prests."²²

Neither Bullock nor most of the others who knew of Kennedy's skills were aware that the rifle he used belonged to Phineas W. Cook. Phineas had loaned it to Kennedy at Summer Quarters the previous summer, but Kennedy refused to return it unless Phineas paid in cash for the work Kennedy was doing to keep Phineas' cattle. Kennedy had made the same demand to John D. Lee and received a good thrashing as a result, but obviously was undaunted in his demands, even knowing that no one there had any cash and all were trading services by the assignment of Brigham Young. Such selfishness created hard feelings among the people at Winter Quarters, and Phineas was not exempt.



An older Charles Van Kennedy (Janelle Martin)

PWC Journal: *"I had lent Charles Keneda a rifle to hunt with in the summer before at the farm and in order to get my fit out I was obliged to send for it to sell it for that purpose. When Keneda found I had sent for it he sent me word that I could have it but he should keep one of the oxen till he had his pay for wintering them and wrote me a note to that affect (.) I showed the writing to Brigham and he sat down and wrote under it as follows Brother Keneda you will please hold all the oxen till I call for them and oblige Brigham Young(.) he shortly after came after the rifle again and said he wanted to use it on the road to hunt for Brigham's folks so I let him have it again..."*

Eventually Phineas was desperate to sell the gun, still in Kennedy's hands, in Salt Lake City. Phineas finally went to Kennedy's wife, who gave him the gun. A few years later, Kennedy became disaffected with the Church, and moved his family to Missouri where he died at Newport, Barton, Missouri 4 Jan. 1890.

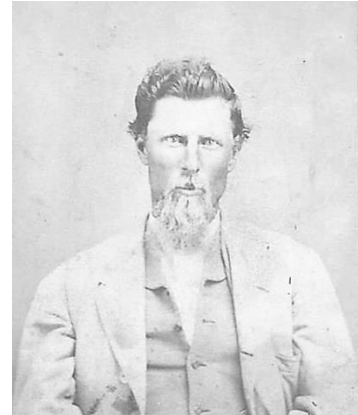
²² Bullock, Thomas, Journals 1843-1849, fd. 1-4.

William Duncan

William Duncan was left an orphan when his father, William A. Duncan died 22 January 1847 at Winter Quarters. The mother, Dolly Duncan, had already died at Winter Quarters 26 November 1846. The four living children were left orphans, and Brigham Young assigned them out to other families.

Phineas and Ann Eliza were asked to take young William in at age 7 and teach him a trade. Heber C. Kimball took in William's brother George and sister Hulda, bringing them to Salt Lake City in September, 1848. Oliver Duncan was sixteen and came to Utah in Brigham Young's 1848 Company with William.

Brigham Young's efforts to keep the family in the church met with limited success. The three boys all left their adoptive families. Hulda was just two years old when her parents died. She was raised with the Kimballs and stayed near them her whole life. She married there, and raised her family in the LDS Church in Salt Lake City. Phineas reported that William finally ran off and was not seen again, but it was probably because he went to California with his brothers. All three brothers went to Tulare County, California, married and had their families there. They all died in Tulare County, William on 10 April 1905, the father of 14 children.



William Duncan in California
(Courtesy Shelley Child)

Winter Quarters today



WINTER QUARTERS CABIN—Reconstruction Today

In 1848 Winter Quarters was abandoned and the land given back to the Indians. Much later, the city of Omaha was built near the original site of Winter Quarters west of the Missouri River.

Find out more:

Mormon Trail Center at Historic Winter Quarters, 3215 State Street Omaha, Nebraska 68112,

Phone 402-453-9372 (Main);
website: HSWinter@ldschurch.org.

Schedule: Open daily from 9:00 a.m.

to 9:00 p.m. Admission is free. Witness glimpses of the great "Mormon Migration" as you walk beside a covered wagon, pull a handcart, climb in the bunks on a steam ship, and imagine a railroad journey. Exhibits also explore the expulsion from Nauvoo, the crossing of Iowa, and temporary settlements in the Middle Missouri Valley, including Winter Quarters, where the center is located. While in the area, visit the Kanesville Tabernacle across the river in Council Bluffs, Iowa.